

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Service of Worship December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Please note that audio and video of this service are being live streamed on the Internet and will be recorded. The right rear section of the sanctuary will not be captured by any cameras. Please be aware that in other sections you may be visible at times.

Prelude: Come, Thou Long—Expected Jesus

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moment of Concert

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope

Mori Family

Family Member: In perilous times, God called forth prophets. They spoke against the evils of their day. They raised their voice against oppressors and their deeds. They called for a new day and better ways. To those who suffered came a different word: that on the acceptable day of God, the reign of tyranny would cease.

All Sing:

**Within us plant the seeds of hope
To sprout into a tree,
To know the promises of God
So difficult to see
And labor in the groves of life
To bring its fruit to be.**

TUNE: BROTHER JAMES' AIR

Family: With this first Advent candle, we kindle a flame for hope. This candle glows for the oppressed. This candle glows for the refugees. This candle glows for the lost. This candle glows for the people Jesus came to save.

Unison Prayer

Holy One, all too frequently our hope flickers like a candle in the wind. We barely feel its warmth. Feed our hope for justice with justice. Feed our hope for healing with healing. Feed our hope for love with love, in the name of the One who came to meet all hopes, Jesus Christ. Amen.

* **Hymn #112:** Keep Awake, Be Always Read (v. 1-2)

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem

IYAA

Time with the Children

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Reflection: Why I Give to the Church

Bob Smith

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

John Narruhn

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Luke 21:25-36

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Please join me in the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.

Amen

Call to Offering

John Narruhn

In God we obtain joy beyond our imagining. How could we ever repay such a gift? We cannot. What we can do is share our joy, our aid, and our resources with others so that they may also rejoice. Whether you share your gift here in the church today, through a gift online, or via an envelope in the mail, let the offering now be received.

Offertory: O, Come Emmanuel

Kayleen Yuda

*** Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost – Amen**

*** Offertory Prayer**

John Narruhn

We present these gifts in thanks, O God, and we present them in hope. May they help to fulfill the promise of universal light and joy in this world of yours. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*** Hymn #345: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (v. 1-4)**

Please be seated

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Consecrating the Bread and Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*** Hymn #609: Now Is the Time Approaching (v. 1-3)**

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: O Blessed Emmanuel

Kayleen Yuda

*** Please stand if you are able.**

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Come, Thou Long—Expected Jesus

Peter Niedmann

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Keep Awake, Be Always Ready

Text by Arthur G. Clyde, 1993

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Tune WACHET AUF by Philipp Nicolai, 1599

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O, Come, Emmanuel

Wilbur Held 1959

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Concordia Publishing

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Text 4th century; trans. by Gerard Moultrie, 1864

Tune PICARDY 17th century French carol

Harmony by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

Public Domain

Now Is the Time Approaching

Text by Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859

Tune WEBB by George J. Webb, 1837

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O Blessed Emmanuel

Johann Sebastian Bach

Van Denman Thompson

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Dates to Remember

Today, December 1— Trustees Meeting after worship

This week at the Church of the Holy Cross

- **Bible Study with Pastor Eric:**
Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m. via Zoom
Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. -Pastor's study
- **One Song:** Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. online
- **Hand Bell Choir Practice:** Fridays, 10:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room
- **Community Sing:** 2nd Fridays, 6:00 pm in sanctuary

Other Faith Groups that meet at Church of the Holy Cross

- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei** – Sanctuary, 12 noon
Rev. Bensis Henry
- **Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa** – Sanctuary, 2:00 p.m.
Rev. Sitau Ofoia, Jr.
- **The Bedesta Church** – Sanctuary, 4 p.m.
Rev. Edmes Edwin

Pastor

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator

Stefan Tanouye

Lay Reader

John Narruhn

Choir Accompanist

Kanako Okita

Choir Director

Doug Albertson

Organist

Kayleen Yuda

Soloist

Marlise Ahuna

Hand Bell Director

Anna Kennedy

Chapel Decorations

Hats Kamimura

Projected Imagery

Sue Smith

Web Master

Ruth Niino-DuPonte

Videographers

Eric Tanouye, Eli Yamaki

Ruth Niino-DuPonte, Bob Smith

We welcome you to worship this day. Church of the Holy Cross seeks to help its members, friends, and visitors follow the guidance of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, encouraging all people to love one another according to the teachings of Jesus. We live and teach the faith, speak good news, minister to people near and far, and work with other households of faith and helping agencies to improve our community and our world. To learn more visit our website at holycrosshilo.com.



If you wish to donate to the church electronically, please scan this QR code.