

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL

440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i

Service of Worship December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

Loyalty Sunday

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: Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabelle

Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Introit: Come Into His Presence-The Snow Lay on the Ground

Children's Choir

Moment of Concern

Barbara Iwami

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace

Yamaki family

Family Member: Despite the well-known benefits of peace, our conflicts leap to violence all too often. In homes, on streets, in parks, and along the restless borders of the nations, we leave the path of peace to take the weary way of war. Christ Jesus called us to another road.

All Sing:

Let peace take wings and make its flight

To all ends of the earth

Let weeping cease and mourning end

As God's reign proves its worth

In homes and lands and in our souls

When Jesus comes to birth.

TUNE: BROTHER JAMES' AIR

Family Member: In the first candle of Advent, we declare our Hope. In the second candle of Advent, we raise our Hope for Peace. This candle glows for the oppressed. This candle glows for those in fear. This candle glows to pierce the shadows that cloud our vision. This candle glows for Peace.

Unison Prayer: Holy One, inspire Peace within us. Inspire Peace that flows from us. Inspire Peace that raises hearts, and quenches rage. Inspire Peace that overcomes the world. Amen.

* **Hymn #121:** Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting) (v. 1 Spanish, v. 1-4 English)

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Kyrie Eleison

Holy Cross Singers

Time with the Children

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Scripture: Philippians 1:3-11

Anne Sadayasu

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Sermon: What Really Matters

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

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**

* **Hymn #101:** Comfort, Comfort O My People (v. 1-3)

Call to Offering

Anne Sadayasu

Today we dedicate our gifts to God, both those we have brought today or sent this week, but those we intend to give in the year to come. We have thought. We have prayed. We have sought God’s will. We have decided, and so we ask God to bless our choices. 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: Blessed Jesu

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**

Anne Sadayasu

Before you are the fulfillment of promises we have made to you for this year, O God, fulfillment in dollars and cents. Before you as well are the promises we make for the year ahead, promises again of dollars and cents, but also of the heart, the mind, and the will. Bless promise and fulfillment, we pray, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

* **Hymn #154:** Go Tell It on the Mountain (v. 1-3)

Please be seated

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Noel, Nouvelet (Sing We A Glad Noel)

Kayleen Yuda

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

Permissions

Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabelle

Traditional French Carol

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Come Into His Presence-The Snow Lay on the Ground

Traditional Irish Carol

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Toda la Tierra (All Earth is Waiting)

Text by Alberto Taule, 1972

Trans. by Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987

Tune TAULE by Alberto Taule, 1972

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Translation © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing

Harmonization © 1988 Skinner Chavez-Melo

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Kyrie Eleison

Text and music by David Huntsinger

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Comfort, Comfort O My People

Text by Johannes Olearius, 1671

Trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863

Tune PSALM 42, first pub. 1551

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Go Tell It on the Mountain

African-American spiritual

Public Domain

Noel, Nouvelet (Sing We A Glad Noel)

Dale Wood

French Carol

Sacred Music

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Dates to Remember

Today, December 8 -- Council Meeting after worship

Today, December 8 -- Loyalty Sunday

Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 pm – Prayer Service for Peace in Gaza, Israel, and Lebanon

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

Anne Sadayasu

Choir Accompanist

Kanako Okita

Choir Director

Doug Albertson

Organist

Kayleen Yuda

Soloist

Marlise Ahuna

Hand Bell Director

Anna Kennedy

Chapel Decorations

Beverly Dodo

Projected Imagery

Sue Smith

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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.