

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship January 26, 2025
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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: They'll Know We Are Christian By Our Love Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringing of the Bell

Introit: Dona Nobis Pacem Bell Choir

Welcome Rev. Eric S. Anderson

* **Call to Worship:** (based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-31) Bob Smith

Leader: Human bodies are one. They have many parts, but they are one body.

People: **Christ also has a single body, and we have been baptized into it, one and all.**

Leader: We can deny our place in Christ's body, but that does not make it true.

People: **We can deny another's place in Christ's body, but that does not make it so.**

Leader: You are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

People: **We bring different skills, different callings, and different hearts, but one and all we are part of the body of Christ.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* **Hymn #273:** Praise with Joy the World's Creator (v. 1-4)

* **Invocation** (based on Psalm 19) Bob Smith

Your law, O God, is perfect, but our understanding of it is not. Your commandments are clear, but our humanity obscures their meaning. We do not always detect our own errors. Teach us of our hidden faults. May your presence and guidance lead us

to righteousness, enlightenment, and rejoicing, O God, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Simple Gifts

Kayleen Yuda

Time with the Children

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Bob Smith

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Sermon: Fulfilled

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

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

* **Hymn #395:** In Christ There Is No East or West (v. 1-4)

Call to Offering

Bob Smith

God's gifts to us are beyond counting. The gift of Jesus stands with the gifts of life, of wisdom, of love. We can never repay God's gifts, but we can share, and we do share. 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.

Please be seated

Offertory: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

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**

Bob Smith

Holy One, accept the gifts of your grateful people. Receive with them our love, our faith, and our joy in you. Amen.

Please be seated

Litany of Sabbatical Release but Not Good-Bye

Rev. Jonathan: Our Church family is constantly changing. People come and people go. People step into new roles as God calls and people step out of roles as God's still speaking voice calls them away. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones come to the end of their earthly lives and leave this existence. Life changes. Time never stands still. It is important and pono that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and of beginnings, of seasons, of changes. And today, it is time to share a time of sabbatical release as Rev. Eric's ministry enters a new phase as he starts his 3-month sabbatical.

Moderator: On January 3, 2016, this Church of the Holy Cross called Rev. Eric Anderson to serve as your pastor and teacher. In our agreement with Rev. Eric, we pledged to grant him 3 months of sabbatical after three years of ministry. Now after eight years including the difficulties of ministry during the Covid-19 lockdowns, Rev. Eric is ready to start his sabbatical on February 1, 2025.

Rev. Eric: I mahalo Church of the Holy Cross, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these years. As I leave my role as your pastor for the next three months, I carry with me all that I have learned. I have been blessed to be your pastor and teacher and look forward to being recharged and energized when I return.

People: We receive your thankfulness and accept that you are now called to temporarily leave your role as pastor and teacher. You have blessed us with your God's called leadership.

Moderator: Do you, members and friends of Church of the Holy Cross temporarily release Rev. Eric from the duties and vows he accepted when he became our pastor and teacher?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Moderator: Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds and develops after his sabbatical?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Moderator: Do you, Rev. Eric, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you for the next three months?

Rev. Eric: I do, with the help of God.

Moderator: Do you offer encouragement for the continued ministry here and with Rev. Diane as she serves here for the next three months?

Rev. Eric: I do, with the help of God.

All: Praise God, in the highest!

Rev. Jonathan: May God walk before us in this time of change. May God walk upon our left; may God walk upon our right. May God follow behind us to catch when we fall. May God be in our tears and in our laughter. May God be in our hopes and in our dreams. May God be with Rev. Eric on his sabbatical as he writes and as he watches birds. And may God be with Church of the Holy Cross and may we be church with Rev. Diane for the next three months. God is with us, let us go in peace! Amen, amen, and amen.

* **Hymn #584:** I Am the Light of the World (v. 1-4)

Please be seated

Announcements

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: To God Be the Glory

Kayleen Yuda

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

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Mark Hayes
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In Christ There Is No East or West
Text by John Oxenham, 1908
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Tune ST. PETER by Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836
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Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
Helen H. Lemmel
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Text by Jim Strathdee, 1969
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To God Be the Glory
William H Doane
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Please Send Pledge Cards

A final reminder from the Every Member Canvass Committee to please send in your 2025 pledge cards if you have not done so. This will help us in planning for our year's program.

To date we have received 32 pledges for 77% of our goal.

Thank you to all who have already sent in pledges.

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
Moderator
Lay Reader
Chapel Decorations
Organist
Hand Bell Director
Projected Imagery
Web Master
Videographers

Rev. Eric S. Anderson
Stefan Tanouye
Bob Smith
Carolyn Lum-Bellem
Kayleen Yuda
Anna Kennedy
Sue Smith
Ruth Niino-DuPonte
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.

Praise with Joy the World's Creator

273

The Iona Community, 1985; alt.

1 Praise with joy the world's Cre - a - tor, God of jus - tice,
 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hun - gry, frees the cap - tive,
 3 Praise the Spir - it sent a - mong us, lib - er - a - ting
 4 Praise the Mak - er, Christ, and Spir - it, one God in Com -

love, and peace, Source and end of hu - man knowl - edge,
 finds the lost, Heals the sick, up - sets re - li - gion,
 truth from pride, Forg - ing bonds where race or gen - der,
 mu - ni - ty, Call - ing Christ - ians to em - bod - y

grace be - stow - ing with - out cease. Cel - e - brate the
 fear - less both of fate and cost. Cel - e - brate Christ's
 age or na - tion dare di - vide. Cel - e - brate the
 one - ness and di - ver - si - ty. Thus the world shall

Ma - ker's glo - ry, power to res - cue and re - lease.
 con - stant pres - ence— Friend and Strang - er, Guest and Host.
 Spir - it's trea - sure— fool - ish - ness none dare de - ride.
 yet be - lieve when shown Christ's vi - brant un - i - ty.

The Iona Community works and worships in a tenth-century abbey on the remote island of Iona, Scotland. Their output of hymns and songs includes this one written for the anniversary gathering of the World Student Christian Federation in Edinburgh in 1985.

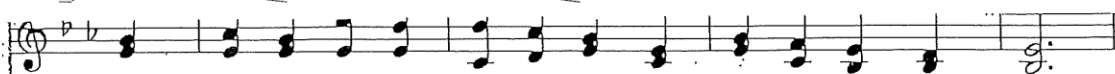
Tune: LAUDA ANIMA (PRAISE MY SOUL)
 8.7.8.7.8.7.

John Goss, 1869

In Christ There Is No East or West

*1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-22**John Oxenham, 1908; alt.
St. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987*

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery-where their high com - mu - nion find;
 3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;
 4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;



But one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
 God's ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 For men and wom - en live in God, and all are kin to me.
 One joy - ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through-out the whole wide earth.



CC1 #1595695

Believed to date from the time of Charlemagne (768-814), this hymn was, before Vatican II (1962-1965), the last and indispensable song during the Maundy Thursday foot-washing service. Benedictine priest Paul Benoit composed many organ works.

Tune: CHRISTIAN LOVE C.M.
 Paul Benoit, 1961
 Alternate tune: ST. FLAVIAN

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

F Unison Introduction

Refrain

B \flat C F

"I am the light of the world!"

B \flat C F Gm Dm C

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

Last time, end

F Gm7 C B \flat F B \flat F

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

F B \flat /D C F

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 7 To find the lost and lone-ly one, 7 to
 3 7 To free the pris-oner from all chains, 7 to
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, 7 to

0011 #1595695

This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee's music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles.

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Ir.
 Jim Strathdee, 1969

JUSTICE AND PEACE

Gm Dm C

star in the sky is gone, When the
 heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To
 make the pow - er - ful care, To re -
 dance at a ba - by's new birth, 7 To

F Bb C F

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the
 feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To
 build the na - tions with strength of good will, to
 make mu - sic in an old per - son's heart, and

Dm Bb Gm7 C Return to $\frac{5}{8}$

work of Christ-mas is be - gun:
 feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!
 see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!
 sing to the col - ors of the earth!

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 26, 2025

Luke 4:14-21

Take Heart

The first inauguration of a United States president took place on April 30, 1789, with George Washington assuming the role of a fledgling nation's commander in chief. His second inauguration was on March 4. It wouldn't be until 1937 that the inauguration date would change to what we are familiar with today — Jan. 20.

On this day, the elected leader delivers an inauguration speech, casting a four-year vision for the country. The speech is a pivotal and defining moment for both leader and the people. (No pressure at all on the speech writers.)

Here in Luke's Gospel, we have Jesus' defining moment — the divine inauguration speech — as he unrolls the scroll in his hometown synagogue and lays out God's vision for humankind, as echoed in the words of the prophet Isaiah.

Bring good news to the poor. Proclaim release to the captives. Recover the sight of the blind. Set the oppressed free.

Retired Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire once said that if we ever wanted to know what being a follower of Jesus was about, all we had to do was listen to Jesus' inaugural speech. For in it we learn that God's vision comes with action points that we are all being asked to carry out.

When was the last time, though, we preached the good news?

No, not from a pulpit but in the sharing of stories of God's redemption and restoration with friends and neighbors. And remember, preaching the good news doesn't need words. The best sermon illustration is the life we live.

How have we proclaimed release to captives?

That is, when have we spoken a word of hope, providing someone a glimmer of freedom from whatever was imprisoning them?

When have we recovered the sight of the blind, pointing out the beautiful God moments that are all around? Or, set the oppressed free by finding the courage to speak for someone long silenced?

Two thousand years ago, Jesus inaugurated his ministry outlining a call to action — and it is still one of the most promising, hopeful, inspiring — and timely — inaugural speeches today.

May we once again share the vision for a new day dawning in our communities as we remember what Jesus' ministry was about. May we ask ourselves this day: What is my role to play in shaping the destiny of God's kingdom?

Loving God, empower us to builders of Your Kingdom, where the good news is heard, sight is restored, and captives are freed. Help us remember that just as the Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus, so it is with us this day and always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE