

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Service of Worship February 23, 2025  
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Diane Weible, Sabbatical Interim 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:** Message of Love                      Kayleen Yuda

**Lighting of the Candles**

**Ringling of the Bell**

**Welcome**    Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

**\* I'd like to invite those who are able, to please stand and join me in the Call to Worship:**                      Nina Buchanan

Leader: Where do we find you, Holy One, and how do we follow? Find me at your table,

**People: We'll share your food**

Leader: Find me in your resources,

**People: We'll share your riches**

Leader: Find me in your power,

**People: We'll share your mercy**

Leader: Find me in your pain,

**People: We'll share your forgiveness**

Leader: Find me in your generosity,

**People: We'll share all, and expect nothing in return**

**\* Hymn #84 (NCH): This Is the Day (vs. 1-3)**

**\* Invocation**    Nina Buchanan

**Holy One, you are deep within our world,  
calling us to join you in creating  
abundant life for all.**

**Open our hearts to recognize you  
Free us to trust your call and follow;  
Enable us to repent, and forgive,**

**and join in your work to make “all things new”.**  
**In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen**

### **WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD**

**Anthem:** The Lord’s Prayer                      Marlise Ahuna

**Time with the Children**                      Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

**Scripture:** Genesis 45:3-11, 15              Nina Buchanan

Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Luke 6:27-38

‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.’

**Sermon:** Really, God?                      Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

### **WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED**

**Pastoral Prayer**                      Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

**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 #23:** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (vs. 1-2)

**Call to Offering**

Nina Buchanan

Jesus reminds us that God works by a different economy. He tells us, "If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High." Friends, by this, joy is given space to rise. May we discover it growing in us as we bring our gifts to God.

**Offertory:** Grant Us Thy Peace

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**

Nina Buchanan

Generous God, thank you for pressing Your holy love into the lap of our lives. Bless these gifts we bring that they may be multiplied into a good larger than we can imagine. Also, bless us, that we might live our lives in gratitude, sharing freely without expectation of return. Through this way of Jesus, stretch our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of Your Holy grace. Amen.

\* **Hymn #576:** For the Healing of the Nations (vs. 1, 2, 4)

**Announcements**

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

Pastor: May you be blessed with the courage to interrupt revenge with love.

**People: May you be strengthened with a gratitude that freely shares with others.**

Pastor: May you discover again and again the merciful embrace of the Holy One.

**People: And may the love of God, empower you to help change the world with forgiveness.**

Pastor: Blessings on us all! Amen and Amen!

**Postlude:** Trumpet Air

Kayleen Yuda

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Message of Love

Louise E. Stairs

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This Is the Day

Les Garrett, 1967 (vs. 1)

Traditional, alt (vs. 2-3)

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY

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The Lord's Prayer

Public Domain

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick William Faber, 1854

Tune: IN BABILONE

Dutch Melody

Arr. Julius Rontgen

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Grant Us Thy Peace

Contributors: Franklin Ritter, Robert Schumann

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For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Henry Purcell, c. 1680

Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

Text: © 1968 Hope Publishing Company

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Trumpet Air

Henry Purcell

Arr. Lani Smith

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### 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**

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Eric S. Anderson
<b>Sabbatical Interim Pastor</b>	Rev. Dr. Diane Weible
<b>Moderator</b>	Stefan Tanouye
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Nina Buchanan
<b>Organist</b>	Kayleen Yuda
<b>Hand Bell Director</b>	Anna Kennedy
<b>Chapel Decorations</b>	Theone Albano & Jill Suzuki
<b>Hymn Leader</b>	Chandra Oshima
<b>Sunday School Aide</b>	Johanna Narruhn
<b>Projected Imagery</b>	Sue Smith
<b>Web Master</b>	Ruth Niino-DuPonte
<b>Videographers</b>	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](http://holycrosshilo.com).



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# This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.  
St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison

*E♭* *B♭7*

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our  
2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus  
3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

*E♭*

God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be  
rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be  
Spir - it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be

*A♭* *E♭* *A♭*

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be  
glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be  
glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joyce and be

*E♭* *E♭/B♭ B♭7* *E♭*

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.  
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.  
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Irr.  
Les Garrett, 1967

## There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.*

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.  
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;  
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.  
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

CCW #1595695

*Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.*

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Dutch melody  
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906  
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

# For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with  
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your  
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing  
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,  
 earth be banded; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,  
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of  
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through  
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon  
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.  
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.  
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

*Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.*

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
 Henry Purcell, c. 1680  
 Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 23, 2025

Luke 6:27-38

### Love Your Enemies

In her book, "The Hiding Place," Corrie ten Boom shares how during World War II, at the age of 50, she joined the Dutch resistance, working with her older sister, Betsie, in helping to hide their Jewish neighbors from the Nazis behind a sliding panel in a bedroom of their family home in Holland.

In 1944, though, the family was caught and arrested by the Gestapo. The sisters were subsequently sent to a concentration camp. Despite the brutal conditions, Betsie and Corrie clung to Jesus' command of loving one another, even the very people who were holding them captive.

Corrie, though, recalled how one especially trying day her sister spoke words of faith and encouragement to her, reminding her that, "if people can be taught to hate, they can be taught to love."

"We must find a way, you and I, no matter how long it takes," said Betsie said to the younger Corrie.

Corrie did find way. After the war was over, she committed the remainder of her days modeling what is perhaps one of the hardest things Jesus asks of us here in Luke's gospel: *Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.*

Corrie ten Boom illustrated radical love by forgiving the guards in the concentration camp. She continued to write and give lectures about the healing power of God's love extended to those who hurt us, and how that love was the only thing capable of healing a broken world.

Decades have passed since ten Boom wrote "The Hiding Place," and hate still seems to be winning over love. We read the news headlines and hear the broadcasts of retaliation and retribution rather than redemption and forgiveness. The few times the media does share such a story of love winning over hate, we find it hard to imagine — let alone imagine us being the ones displaying such love. It seems impossible. Unfathomable.

But we must find a way to love our enemies, bless those who curse us and pray for those who mistreat us. No matter how long it takes, the world, which has mastered how to hate, needs to be taught love. It's a lesson that begins at home.

*Merciful God, You who are our hiding place in times of trouble, we boldly ask for the strength to do the impossible this day — love our enemies and forgive those who have hurt us. All things are possible with You, O God. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

