

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent

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: The Penitent Heart Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

*** Call to Worship:** Anne Sadayasu

Leader: The call of the Holy One has brought us together.

People: We have been called to pray and to praise.

Leader: We are called to worship and to holy wonder.

People: May the light of Love burn brightly in us.

Leader: May it transfigure and transform our hearts and minds.

People: May it become a beacon of hope for others.

* Hymn # #18: Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer (vs. 1-3)

*** Invocation** Anne Sadayasu

God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal. Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for Your alive Word of Love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world. Amen.

God my Savior.
Though my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will receive me.
Teach me your way, LORD;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.
Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.
I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Luke 9:37-43

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God

Sermon: Out of the Cloud

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

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 #183:** Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain (vs. 1-3)

Call to Offering

Anne Sadayasu

The Lord is our light and salvation, we have no one to fear. From that place of abundant grace and light we come before God with deep gratitude. And in that spirit, we come forward with our gifts of open hearts, asking that they be blessed and used to spread light and love to all the corners of the world.

Offertory: Father, We Praise Thee 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

O Spirit of Life, shine on us again and again that we may become the blessing you intend. Keep awakening us to Your holy mystery and Your sacred call. Bless these gifts we bring so that Your energy of love may be shared with others and offer the light of a new beginning. By this, and more than we can name, continue to transfigure us and the world. Amen.

* **Hymn #182:** We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding (vs. 1-3)

Announcements

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

May the Holy radiance of transfiguration continually light the wick of your life.

May it be a light that bears joy and hope and love.

May the voice of Jesus enter not only your ears but also your heart.

And may that voice shape your voice for the good of the world.
Blessings on you all! Amen and Amen.

Postlude: Praise Him! Praise Him! Kayleen Yuda

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

Permissions:

Worship elements from ***On the Mountain to Pray: Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday Year C*** was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The Penitent Heart

Franklin Ritter

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Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

William Williams, 1745

Vs. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771

Vs. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772

Tune: CWM RHONDDA

John Hughes, 1907

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Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple

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Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991

Tune: SILVER SPRING

Carl F. Schalk, 1991

Alternate tune: IRBY

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Father We Praise Thee

Benton Price

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We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988
Text © 1988, Hope Publishing Company
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Praise Him! Praise Him!
Robert Hughes
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Special Announcement

Easter lily sign up for Easter Sunday chapel decorations is located in the breezeway and are available for \$12.99 per plant. Please issue checks to Cynthia Debus; last day to order is Sunday, March 23rd.

Important Dates

Today, March 16 – Council Meeting after worship in the lounge

Mondays, 11:30 a.m. –Pickleball lessons; contact Connie 808-936-7534 or Ruth 808-938-3858 to sign up.

Wednesdays, 5-6:30 p.m. - Lenten Conversation Series in the Meeting Room

Wednesdays, 12 noon –Pickleball lessons; contact Connie 808-936-7534 or Ruth 808-938-3858 to sign up.

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

Lenten Conversation Series

We invite you to a Lenten Conversation Series to take place each week in Lent beginning March 12, 5-6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. Each week you will find a prompt such as an article or video along with some reflection questions. When we gather we will use the prompt and questions as the starting part for a rich conversation with the goal of offering insight into our personal and communal lives together. Below is the prompt and questions for March 19. I look forward to seeing you at church!

March 19

Watch:

Video segments from Spiritual Teacher and Healer Thomas Hübl

Understanding your Call:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_TOg6hmGUs

Unlocking Empathy:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1245914039984287>

Questions:

- What do you absolutely know from the deepest places of your being?
- What does it mean to you to hear Thomas talk about numbness? How does it show up for you?
- Society tells us to keep going and keep producing. What happens when you slow down? How does slowing down invite something new?
- When have you experienced new awareness because you slowed down (either intentionally or unintentionally)?

Pastor	Rev. Eric S. Anderson
Interim Sabbatical Pastor	Rev. Dr. Diane Weible
Guest Pastor	Rev. Jonathan Roach, PhD
Moderator	Stefan Tanouye
Lay Reader	Anne Sadayasu
Organist/Pianist	Kayleen Yuda
Soloist	Nina Buchanan
Hand Bell Director	Anna Kennedy
Chapel Decorations	Cynthia Debus
Hymn Leader	Chandra Oshima
Sunday School Teacher	Gloria Kobayashi
Sunday School Aide	Johanna Narruhn
Projected Imagery	Sue Smith
Web Master	Ruth Niino-DuPonte
Videographers	Eric Tanouye, Eli Yamaki, Mace Peng 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.

GOD

18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es.

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1907

Alternate setting: ZION

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

183

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991; alt.

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36;
John 19:30; Matt. 27:50-54; Mark 15:37-39

Unison

1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain, where, with Pe - ter, James, and John,
2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com-pan - ions saw?
3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis - ci - ples heard?
4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain where we see you glo - ri - fied,
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as - cend - ed Christ,

We are daz-zled by your glo - ry, light as blind-ing as the sun.
Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there fills us with the self - same awe.
Once a - gain the voice from heav - en says of the In - car - nate Word:
Where you shout-ed, "It is fin - ished!" where for all the world you died.
Can - not help but tell the sto - ry, all that you have sac - ri - ficed;

There pre-pare us for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.
Clothed in flesh like ours you go matched to meet our dead - liest foe.
"Lis - ten, lis - ten, ev - ery-one, this is my be - lov - ed One!"
Hear the stunned cen - tu - ri - on: "This was God's be - lov - ed One!"
Say with Pe - ter, James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed One!"

Both text and tune were commissioned by St. Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Maryland, to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary. The hymnwriter, Jaroslav Vajda, tells of being "as much at a loss for words contemplating the glory of the transfigured Christ as were the disciples."

Tune: SILVER SPRING 8.7.8.7.7.7.
Carl F. Schalk, 1991
Alternate tune: IRBY

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
 flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
 faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

CCL # 1511095

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 16, 2025

Luke 13:31-35

Strong and Tender

With each step toward the cross, Jesus' reveals sides to him that are rarely seen. Like his feisty side here in Luke's Gospel. After being warned by some Pharisees to leave because Herod wants him dead, Jesus replies, "Go tell that fox . . . I will keep driving out demons. I must press on."

Strong words, indeed. Yet soon after those words are uttered, Jesus laments over Jerusalem. It is in this lamenting we see a feminine side, as he expresses a tenderness in wanting to take the Holy City's children and protect them under his wing like a mothering hen.

Anyone who has raised chickens — or perhaps knows of someone who joined the backyard flock craze a few years ago — knows how sweet it is to gaze upon balls of yellow fluff peeping underneath their mother's wing. It tugs at the most hardened of hearts.

There once was an old farmer who admitted that there were many nights where he would sit in the barn and watch a hen and her chicks, noting that he could stare at the endearing scene forever.

Yes, we know Jesus as the Good Shepherd. We know him as the Prince of Peace, Counselor, Friend, Teacher and Healer. Yet how many times does the image of Jesus as Mothering Hen come to mind?

Take a moment now and hold that side of Jesus in your mind. Envision yourself being protected from the harsh world underneath the mothering wings of Jesus. How does that make you feel? Warm? Loved? Secure?

It was that image that held Karolina Sandell-Berg in her time of grief. When she was 26, Sweden's prolific poet and hymn writer, witnessed her father, a Lutheran pastor, being swept over the side of a ship during storm. There was nothing she could do to save him.

So distraught, she did what she knew best. She wrote a hymn focusing on the protective wings that shield us in times of danger and sorrow. "Thy Holy Wings, O Savior" (1865), set to a Swedish folk tune, soon became a beloved hymn often sung as a children's lullaby.

This Lent, let us spend more time getting to know Jesus' soft, mothering side. Find a day this week and light a candle, read Luke's Gospel lesson for today again, and search for Sandell-Berg's hymn on Apple music or Spotify. If you don't have access to these, ask a friend to help you find "Thy Holy Wings, O Savior." Then let its words and melody lull you into a place of healing and serenity.

Lord God, may the words to this hymn be our prayer for today: Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me, and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee. O be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place, and let my every moment be lived within thy grace. Amen.



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

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