

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship March 30, 2025
Fourth 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: Refresh My Heart, O God Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

*** Call to Worship** (Psalm 34) Nalyn Ang

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times

People: **God's praise shall continually be in my mouth!**

Leader: My soul makes its boast in the Lord.

People: **Let the humble hear and be glad.**

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me,

People: **And let us exalt God's name together.**

*** Hymn #417:** This Is a Day of New Beginnings

*** Invocation** Nalyn Ang

In poverty and in plenty, we look to you, O God, the source of all good things. You have accepted us even when we cannot accept ourselves and have loved us when we are most unlovable. Help us in this hour to let go of all that separates us from you. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Lead Kindly Light

Nina Buchanan

Peter Braun

Kayleen Yuda

Time with the Children

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Nalyn Ang

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat

and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

Sermon: New Creation

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 #202: O God, How We Have Wandered**

Call to Offering

Nalyn Ang

As stewards of all God has entrusted to our care we bring our offerings with a deep concern that they accomplish God's will in the world. We hold one another accountable in our mutual service, and struggle together to discern more clearly the mission to which God calls us. Let us rededicate ourselves this morning with these offerings of love and gratitude.

Offertory: Breathe on Me, Breath of God 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**

Nalyn Ang

How grateful we are, O God, that you have claimed us and provided for us. In thanksgiving for your compassion, and in recognition of needs among your children that you call us to address, we bring our best in these offerings. Make us useful in your service. Amen.

***Hymn #476:** My Life Flows on in Endless Song

Announcements

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

Postlude: Trumpet Tune and Air Kayleen Yuda

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

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Refresh My Heart, O God

Robert J. Powell

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This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Brian Wren, 1978

Tune: BEGINNINGS

Carlton R. Young, 1987

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Lead Kindly Light

John Henry Newman

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O God, How We Have Wandered

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Tune PASSION CHORALE by Hans Leo Hassler & J. S. Bach

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Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Nancy Folkerts

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My Life Flows on in Endless Song
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Martin Ellis
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Important Dates

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

Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m. Bible Study in person and via Zoom in the Pastor's Study:

- Philippians 3:4b-14
- John 12:1-8

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.

Pastor	Rev. Eric S. Anderson
Interim Sabbatical Pastor	Rev. Dr. Diane Weible
Moderator	Stefan Tanouye
Lay Reader	Nalyn Ang
Organist/Pianist	Kayleen Yuda
Duet	Nina Buchanan & Peter Braun
Hand Bell Director	Anna Kennedy
Chapel Decorations	Setsuko Takemoto
Hymn Leader	Chandra Oshima
Sunday School Teacher	Gloria Kobayashi
Sunday School Aide	Johanna Narruhn
Projected Imagery	Sue Smith

Web Master
Videographers

Ruth Niino-DuPonte
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.

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, Wednesdays from 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 April 2. I look forward to seeing you!

April 2

Read: 2 Corinthians 6:1

We are going to do this as an exercise together but if you want to do it yourself prior to our gathering, the process is outlined below.

Lectio Divina

Companions as we are in this work with you, we beg you, please don't squander one bit of this marvelous life God has given us. (6:11-13) Dear, dear Corinthians, I can't tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide open spacious life. We didn't fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives are not small, but you are living them in a small way. I am speaking as plainly as I can with great affection. Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively.

Lectio Divina Process

- First, read or listen to the verse (lectio). Ask whether there is a word or phrase that jumps out at you, grabs your attention.
- Second, reflect on it (meditation). Ruminates on the passage a bit. What is God saying to you?
- Third, respond (oratio). Out loud is okay; so, too, is journaling or prayer. If you are so moved, share your thoughts out loud.
- Fourth, rest (contemplatio). Sit quietly for a few minutes, just letting your thoughts and meditation sink in.