

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i  
Service of Worship March 9, 2025  
First 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:** Prelude on Ellers

Kayleen Yuda

**Lighting of the Candles**

**Ringling of the Bell**

**Welcome**

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

\* **Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 91)

Anna Kennedy

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High

**People: Who abide in the shadow of the Almighty**

Leader: will say to our God, "My refuge and my fortress;

**People: my God, in whom I trust**

Leader: God, who commands the angels to guard us, also reminds us that:

**People: Those who love me, I will deliver;**

Leader: I will protect those who know my name.

**People: When they call to me, I will answer them;**

Leader: I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them

**People: Let us worship the God who promises to always be with us.**

\* **Hymn #84** This is the Day (vs. 1-3)

\* **Invocation**

Anna Kennedy

God, our refuge and strength, we gather today, noticing the change in this season as we enter Lent. We know Lent may challenge us. Some of us wonder what these next days will bring. We pray you will walk with us even when it's tough because we yearn to grow in our faith and we long to be made one in Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Please be seated**

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

**Anthem:** Lord of the Dance

Kayleen Yuda

**Time with the Children**

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

**Scripture:** Romans 10:8b-13

Anna Kennedy

But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you

to guard you carefully;

they will lift you up in their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

**Sermon:** Through the Wilderness

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

# WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

**Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

**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 #205: Forty Days and Forty Nights (vs. 1-4)**

**Call to Offering**

Anna Kennedy

Deuteronomy 26:2 declares: "...you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name."

How do we spend our "first fruits"- the best in which we have? Have we kept it for ourselves? Have we dedicated these gifts to God and shared them with our neighbors who lack basic necessities? How is God calling us to share the best we possess?

**Offertory: Cantilena**

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**

Anna Kennedy

Holy God, We share our gratitude for all of our fruits - from our possessions to knowledge and from our time to abilities. May our "best" be something that we do not hoard but that we freely give away. As we embrace this season of fasting and reflection, may we recognize the best of our talents, treasures, and time and share with God and neighbor. Amen.

**\* Hymn #209: O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free (vs. 1-3)**

**Please be seated**

**Announcements**

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

## **Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

**Postlude:** Postlude

Kayleen Yuda

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

## **Permissions**

Prayer of Invocation adapted from Center for Faith and Giving, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2025.

Offertory from *Take Every Test: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Lent C* was written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, Senior Pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois, 2022.

Prelude on Ellers

David H. Hegarty

Edward J. Hopkins

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This is the Day

vs. 1 paraphr by Less Garrett, 1967

vs. 2-3, traditional, alt.

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY

Les Garrett, 1967

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Lord of the Dance

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Forty Days and Forty Nights

George Hunt Smyttan, 1856

Tune: HEINLEIN

attributed to Martin Herbst, 1676

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Cantilena

G Sammartini

George Blake

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O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free  
15th Century Latin Tune  
New Century Hymnal, 1994  
Text: © 1994, Pilgrim Press  
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Postlude  
César Franck  
Public Domain

## **Important Dates**

Today, March 9 – Council Meeting after worship in the lounge

Saturday, March 15 – Service Day—your help is needed

The next service day sponsored by the Board of Trustees will be Saturday, March 15 at 8:30 am. This service day will be dedicated to the Building of Faith with emphasis on windows and screens, appliances and storage areas. Weather permitting, there will be weeding and grounds maintenance that falls outside the purview of our lawn services. Folks that want to make the place sparkle and shine are invited to meet in the back parking lot by the Building of Faith at 8:30 am. We need your time, talent and muscles to make this happen. We hope to see you there.

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

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

## *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 12. I look forward to seeing you at church!

### **Read:**

Mark 10:46-47, 51-52

### **Prompt:**

By Kathy Escobar

From Lenten Sermon Series Guide for *Turning Over Tables*

As much as we admire “objectivity,” the truth is that we all see the world from a particular perspective. Our location (both geographic and social), our background, and our life experiences all shape the way we see the world. Without intentional effort to see beyond our own perspective, it is easy to believe that we have the only way—or at least the only right way—of looking at things.

This challenge is greater for those with identities that tend to have more power in our society: being American, white, male, heterosexual, able-bodied, economically resourced, neurotypical, and married. People without those advantages often learn how to navigate life with a sort of bi-focal vision, seeing the dominant interpretation of things as well as their own. But power is often invisible to those who have it, making it harder to see the unequal systems that benefit us and the biases that keep other stories from being told.

A first step in our journey of understanding power as Jesus did is to make the effort to see through the eyes of people on the margins, the way Jesus did. We can remove the blinders, lift the veil, or tear down the fences that keep us from seeing others’ struggles. We can ask hard questions and learn the history we’d rather forget. We can discover our own blind spots and treat these discoveries as a gift instead of a personal critique, as a catalyzer for growth instead of something to be afraid of.

We can ask for the truth to be revealed to us. The story of Jesus’ encounter with the blind beggar Bartimaeus is different from many other stories of miraculous healings in the gospels. In this story, Jesus does not presume what the man wants, but rather asks, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the man replied, “Rabbi, I want to see.” Do you?

### **Questions:**

- What are some ways you have become aware of blind spots in your life?
- What is the difference between listening to someone’s story as their story and listening to someone’s story to respond or make a connection?
- How can we set aside our own power to see another person’s story from their reality?

## 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**

**Interim Sabbatical Pastor**

**Guest Pastor**

**Moderator**

**Lay Reader**

**Organist**

**Hand Bell Director**

**Chapel Decorations**

**Hymn Leader**

**Sunday School Teacher**

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Anna Kennedy

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Gloria Kobayashi

Johanna Narruhn

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](http://holycrosshilo.com).



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