

Pastoral Prayer

June 15, 2025

God of truth, love, hope, and joy, be with us.

Bombs and rockets fall to earth to kill and destroy in Iran, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Russia. Bullets kill and maim in Ethiopia, Sudan, Myanmar, and other grieving nations of the world. Is this consistent with your wisdom, O God? Is war the shoot that rises from truth, love, hope, and joy?

Guide us in the true wisdom of your grace.

We celebrate these last few days of the 203rd 'Aha Pae'aina. Those who attended still wonder at the loving hospitality of the UCC churches of Kauai. Give comfort to the weary limbs, O God, and fill their hearts with satisfaction at doing your work so well. As the people and the churches of the Hawai'i Conference move forward to live by your guidance, grant us strength, courage, and your constant presence that we show your love aright.

Here at Church of the Holy Cross, we are grateful for your care for us. You have brought our congregation through storm and eruption, through war and unrest, through racism and injustice. We cannot say that none of these will return. We do not read the future. We pray in confidence that whatever comes of joy or grief you will be with us. You will hold our hearts in your hands, and when we take our leaps of faith, we will find, by your grace, that we can fly.

Thank you, O God, for your mercies.

Amen.