

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i  
Service of Worship November 16, 2025  
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor

*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:** Christians We Have Met to Worship    Bob Grove

**Lighting of the Candles**

**Ring of the Bell**

**Welcome**                      Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**\*Call to Worship:** (based on Isaiah 12:1-6)              Mace Peng

Leader: The day will come when we will say, "Thank you, O God!"

**People: "You were angry with me, but now you open your heart and you comfort me."**

Leader: Surely God is my salvation. I will trust and not fear.

**People: The LORD is my strength, my might, and my salvation.**

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD who has done marvels; let it be known in all the earth.

**People: We will sing and shout for joy, for great in our midst is the Holy One, our God!**

**All:        Let us worship God!**

**\* Hymn #532:** Come, Labor On (v. 1-4)

**\* Invocation** (based on Psalm 98)    Mace Peng

**We sing our songs to you, O God, the old songs of our childhood and the new songs that rise from your salvation. You have remembered your steadfast love for us. All the ends of the Earth have seen your faithfulness. Let the sea roar and all that fills it. Let the floods clap their hands and the hills sing for joy. Judge the world with righteousness, O God, and the peoples with equity. Amen.**

**Please be seated**

# WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

**Anthem:** Inspired to Do Well Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Time with the Children** Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Scripture:** Isaiah 65:17-25 Mace Peng

For I am about to create new heavens

and a new earth;

the former things shall not be remembered

or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever

in what I am creating;

for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,

and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem,

and delight in my people;

no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,

or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it

an infant that lives but a few days,

or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;

for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,

and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them;

they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit;

they shall not plant and another eat;

for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,

and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labor in vain,

or bear children for calamity;

for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—

and their descendants as well.

Before they call I will answer,

while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,

the lion shall eat straw like the ox;

but the serpent—its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy

on all my holy mountain,

says the LORD

## 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

**Sermon:** An Example to Imitate      Rev. Eric S. Anderson

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

**Pastoral Prayer**      Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**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 #513: O Source of All That Is (v. 1-4)**

**Call to Offering**      Mace Peng

God has called us to work, not just for our daily needs, but so that we can bless others. Some have greater resources than we do, and they should work alongside us. Others have more needs than means, and so we work to share our gifts with them. Whether you share your gift here in the church today, through a gift online, or via an envelope in the mail, let the offering now be received.

**Offertory:** Offertory in D      Bob Grove

**\* 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**      Mace Peng

**Gracious God, accept these gifts, we pray, so that those who need a lift in spirit, or an embrace of heart, or the nourishment of the body may find it. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**\* Hymn #533: Children of God (v. 1-4)**

**Please be seated**

**Announcements**      Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Benediction**      Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Postlude: We Are God's People**      Bob Grove

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

**Permissions**

Christians We Have Met to Worship

Mark Hayes

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Come, Labor On

Text by Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859

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Tune ORA LABORA by Thomas Tertius Noble, 1918

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Inspired to Do Well

Text and Tune by Eric Anderson, 2025

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O Source of All That Is

Text by Johann Heermann, 1630

Trans. by Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

Tune O GOTT, DU FROMMER GOTT, first pub. 1693

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Offertory in D

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Children of God  
Text by John Greenleaf Whittier, 1848  
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We Are God's People  
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## **Important Dates**

**Today, November 9** – Deacons Meeting after worship service.

**Sundays, 8:30 a.m.** – Holy Cross Singers Rehearsal in the Lounge

**Mondays, 11:30 a.m.** -- Pickleball lessons; contact Connie 808-936-7534 or Ruth at rnduponte07@gmail.com to sign up.

**Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m.** – Holy Cross Singers Rehearsal in the Lounge

**Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.** – One Song from Church of the Holy Cross streamed live

**Wednesdays, 5 p.m.** – Bible Study in person, in Pastor's Study or via Zoom.

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Eric S. Anderson
<b>Moderator</b>	Stefan Tanouye
<b>Vice Moderator</b>	Lorraine Davis
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mace Peng
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Bob Grove
<b>Choir Director</b>	Bob Grove
<b>Hand Bell Choir Director</b>	Anna Kennedy
<b>IYAA Choir Director</b>	Stuart Mori
<b>Sunday School Teacher</b>	Gloria Kobayashi
<b>Sunday School Aide</b>	Johanna Narruhn
<b>Chapel Decorations</b>	Moiria Tanaka
<b>Image Artist</b>	Sue Smith
<b>Live Stream Director</b>	Ruth Niino-DuPonte
<b>Sound Engineer &amp; Assistant Director</b>	Ben Yamaki

## **Videographers**

Eric Tanouye, Mace Peng, Bob Smith,  
Cindy Debus, Woody Kita

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).



If you wish to donate to  
the church electronically,  
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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**

## **Church of the Holy Cross Office Hours**

Monday through Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Thursday: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Friday: Closed

## Come, Labor On

532

*Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859, rev. 1863; alt.**Matt. 9:37-38; 20:1-7*

1 Come, la-bor on. Who dares stay i - dle on the har - vest plain  
 2 Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;  
 3 Come, la-bor on. A - way with gloom-y doubts and faith-less fear!  
 4 Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west-ern sky,

while all a - round us waves the gold-en grain? And to each ser - vant  
 to young and old the gos - pel glad-ness bear. Re - deem the time; its  
 No one so weak but may do ser - vice here; Though fee - ble a - gents,  
 till the long shad-ows o'er the path-way lie, And a glad sound comes

does the Sav-ior say, "Go work to - day."  
 hours too swift-ly fly. The night draws nigh.  
 may we all ful - fill God's righ - - - teous will.  
 with the set-ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

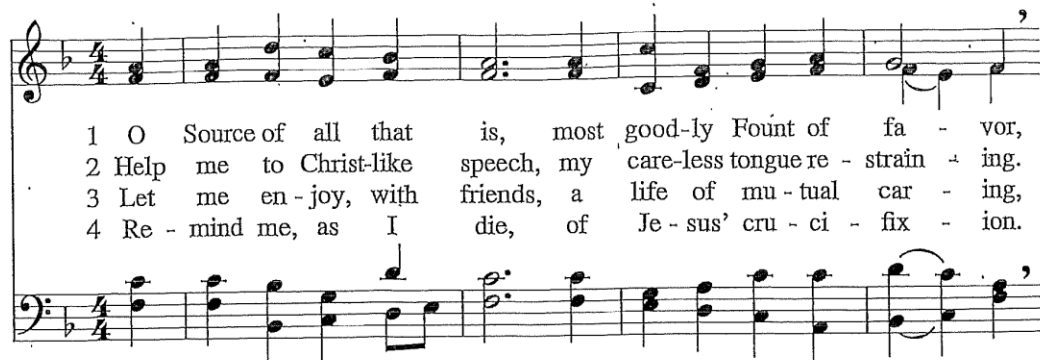
*Jane Laurie Borthwick, along with her sister, Sarah, was a member of the Scottish Free Church and translated many German hymns. English-born Thomas Tertius Noble was organist-choirmaster at St. Thomas' Church, New York City, for thirty-five years.*

Tune: ORA LABORA 4.10.10.4.  
*Thomas Tertius Noble, 1918*

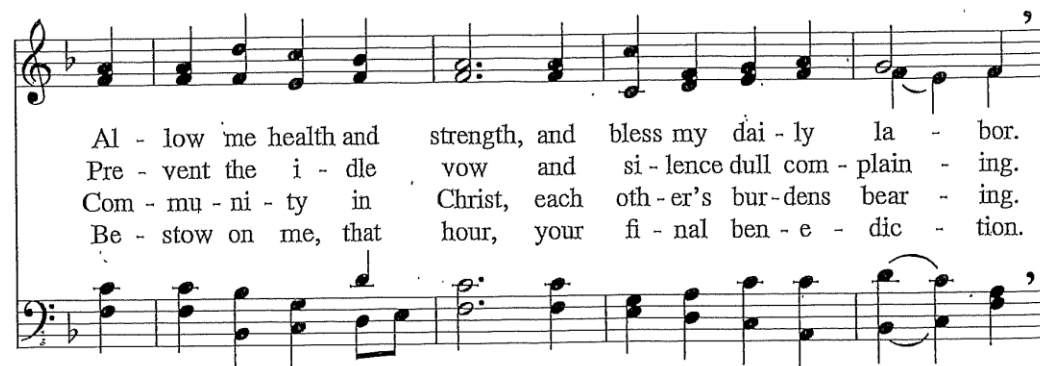
## O Source of All That Is

Johann Heermann, 1630

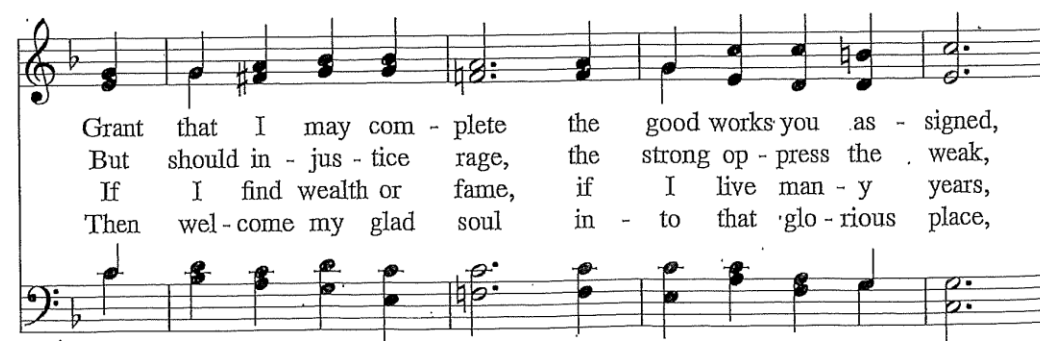
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



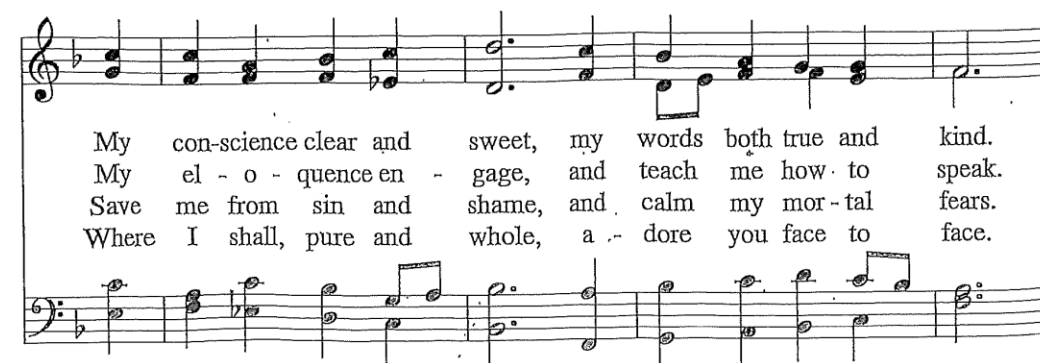
1 O Source of all that is, most good-ly Fount of fa - vor,  
 2 Help me to Christ-like speech, my care-less tongue re - strain - ing.  
 3 Let me en - joy, with friends, a life of mu - tual car - ing,  
 4 Re - mind me, as I die, of Je - sus' cru - ci - fix - ion.



Al - low me health and strength, and bless my dai - ly la - bor.  
 Pre - vent the i - dle vow and si - lence dull com - plain - ing.  
 Com - mu - ni - ty in Christ, each oth - er's bur - dens bear - ing.  
 Be - stow on me, that hour, your fi - nal ben - e - dic - tion.



Grant that I may com - plete the good works you as - signed,  
 But should in - jus - tice rage, the strong op - press the weak,  
 If I find wealth or fame, if I live man - y years,  
 Then wel - come my glad soul in - to that glo - rious place,



My con - science clear and sweet, my words both true and kind.  
 My el - o - quence en - gage, and teach me how to speak.  
 Save me from sin and shame, and calm my mor - tal fears.  
 Where I shall, pure and whole, a - dore you face to face.

*Amid the fighting of the Thirty Years' War, Lutheran pastor Johann Heermann wrote this hymn of faith. The chorale tune is one of several sometimes referred to as O Gott, du frommer Gott through association with this text.*

Tune: O GOTT, DU FROMMER GOTT  
 (DARMSTADT) 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.  
 Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693



## Children of God

Eph. 4:31-5:2

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1848; alt.

1 Chil - dren of God, lift hearts to one an - oth - er;  
 2 For God whom Je - sus loved has tru - ly spo - ken:  
 3 Fol - low with rev - erent steps the great ex - am - ple  
 4 Then shall all shack - les fall; the storm-y clan - gor

where pit - y dwells, the peace of God is there;  
 the ho - lier wor - ship which Christ deigns to bless  
 of Christ whose ho - ly work was do - ing good;  
 of wild war mu - sic o'er the earth shall cease;

To wor - ship right - ly is to love each oth - er,  
 Re - stores the lost, and binds the spir - it bro - ken,  
 So shall the wide earth seem a ho - ly tem - ple,  
 Love shall tread out the bale-ful fire of an - ger,

each smile a hymn, each kind - ly deed a prayer.  
 and feeds the wid - ow and the par - ent - less.  
 each lov - ing life a psalm of grat - i - tude.  
 and in its ash - es plant the tree of peace.

*Of Puritan ancestry and Quaker parentage, the American poet and journalist John Greenleaf Whittier was a strong supporter of the abolition of slavery. This hymn is comprised of the final stanzas of "Worship," a poem expressing his views on the life of faith.*

Tune: WELWYN 11.10.11.10.  
 Alfred Scott-Gatty, 1900

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 16, 2025

Isaiah 65:17-25

### Infinite Possibilities

Imagine a world where everyone gets along. A place where the Lord says nothing shall be hurt or destroyed, where even the wolf and the lamb eat together peacefully.

This is the vision of a peaceable kingdom that the prophet Isaiah brings to us today. It is a world where only happiness and rejoicing exists. There is no pain nor sorrow.

My friends, such a world is possible because our God is one who holds infinite possibilities. It is only our own limited capacities for love and redemption that keep us captive to finite probabilities.

What if this day, though, we could lay aside our disbelief and enter the God possibilities? What if we could finally believe the world can change for the better, starting with our own hearts realizing that nothing is ever hopeless.

Take for instance the miraculous story of the wolf of Gubbio, which is found in the 14th-century short story collection, *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*. The story tells of saint's encounter with the good people of Gubbio, Italy, who are being terrorized by a heartless and vicious wolf. The wolf not only steals their food but also their children.

Francis finds the wolf, but before the animal can attack, the saint makes the sign of the cross over its head. The wolf bows down and leans into Francis, who then asks the wolf why the residents of Gubbio are angry with him. The wolf says he is simply hungry.

Francis then makes a deal with the townsfolk to feed the wolf, who he has now named "Brother Wolf."

In return, Brother Wolf promises not to do any harm. For years, wolf and people live in peace, with Brother Wolf roaming the village streets and entering homes without incident. When Brother Wolf dies, Gubbio grieves deeply. The feared enemy had become a dear friend, and all it took was for someone to listen to the one who was misunderstood. All it took was for someone to take note of the struggle beneath the façade of strength to make peace in Gubbio possible.

While just a legend, the story is a moving tale that not only tugs at our heartstrings but invokes a vision of God's hope for us all — to live in harmony with one another.

What if we stopped fearing the wolves in our lives and seek to understand the "enemy" we tend to mistrust and hate all too quickly? Perhaps if we did, we would come to tame not only the wolf roaming about, but the wolf within.

*Limitless God, your love knows no boundaries. It is far-reaching and healing. Help us to see beyond the limitations that our fears and disbelief nurture. Fill our minds with wisdom from above and help us to take a step towards a more peaceable world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



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