

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i  
Service of Worship December 28, 2025  
First Sunday after Christmas Day

Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor  
Rev. Linda Petrucelli, Guest 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:** O Come, All Ye Faithful      Kayleen Yuda

**Lighting of the Candles**

**Ringling of the Bell**

**Welcome**                      Rev. Linda Petrucelli

**\* Call to Worship: (based on Palm 148)** Stefan Tanouye

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens and the heights!

**People: Praise God, all you angels, and all the heavenly host!**

Leader: Praise the LORD, sun and moon; praise God, shining stars!

**People: Praise God, highest heavens; praise the LORD, all the waters!**

Leader: Let them praise the LORD, who commanded their creation.

**People: Let us praise the LORD, who has created a home for all who live.**

**All:      Let us worship God!**

**\* Hymn #129:** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (v. 1-3)

**\* Invocation:** (based on Hebrews 2:10-18)      Stefan Tanouye

**We thank you, O God, because in Jesus you have chosen to call us 'ohana and embrace us as kin. As we live through joy and woe, so have you. You have shared our flesh and blood and suffered for our sake. Merciful and faithful companion, bless us with your presence in this time of worship, and hear our grateful praise. Amen.**

**Please be seated**

# WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

**Anthem:** Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella Kayleen Yuda

**Time with the Children** Rev. Linda Petrucelli

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:13-23 Stefan Tanouye

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,  
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,  
because of all that the LORD has done for us,  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
For he said, 'Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely';  
and he became their savior  
in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**Sermon:** Detours                  Rev. Linda Petrucelli

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

**Pastoral Prayer**                  Rev. Linda Petrucelli

**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 #148:** What Child Is This (v. 1-3)

**Call to Offering**                  Stefan Tanouye

We are blessed to appreciate and celebrate the gift of Jesus, whose love is greater than we can ever know. In this moment, let us celebrate with a gift that will help others experience God's love, whether it comes through a prayer, a meal, a shelter, or a friend. 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:** Infant Holy Infant Lowly 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**                  Stefan Tanouye

**Accept these gifts, O God, from the love we bear for you. You dared to take on human life with all its dangers; in these gifts we pray that you will receive some of humanity's joys. Receive them, we pray, in Jesus' name, Amen.**

## **Rite of Confirmation**

**Pastor:** We invite to come forward those who wish to affirm their baptism by being confirmed.

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found support and nurture in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim

in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

### **Questions of the Candidates**

**Pastor:** Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Candidates:** I do.

**Pastor:** Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

**Candidates:** I do.

**Pastor:** Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**Candidates:** I do.

**Pastor:** Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

**Candidates:** I promise, with the help of God.

**Pastor:** Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

**Candidates:** I promise, with the help of God.

**Pastor:** Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

**All: I believe in God**

**Pastor:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

**Pastor:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

### **Prayer of the Candidates**

**Pastor and Candidates:** O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life.

## **Prayer of the Congregation**

**Pastor and Congregation:** Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **Act of Confirmation**

### **Prayer of Confirmation**

### **Question about Participation**

**Pastor:** Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

**Confirmands:** I promise, with the help of God.

## **Greeting of Christian Love**

**\* Hymn #51: O Sing a Song of Bethlehem (v. 1 -4)**

**Please be seated**

**Announcements**            Rev. Linda Petrucelli

**Benediction**                Rev. Linda Petrucelli

**Postlude:** Joy to the World    Kayleen Yuda

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

## **Permissions**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

John Francis Wade, John Innes

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Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Text German and Latin, 14<sup>th</sup> cent.

Trans. by John Mason Neale, 1855

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Tune IN DULCI JUBILO 14<sup>th</sup> cent. German melody

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Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella  
Traditional French carol  
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What Child Is This  
Text by William C. Dix, 1865  
Tune GREENSLEEVES 16<sup>th</sup> cent. English melody  
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O Sing a Song of Bethlehem  
Text by Louis F. Benson, 1899  
Tune KINGSFOLD trad. English melody  
Harm. by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906  
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Joy to the World  
Franklin Ritter  
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### **Important Announcements**

**The Giving Tree** – Please assist our local community by donating canned goods, packaged food and toiletries to our Giving Tree in the sanctuary. Donations will go to Hope Services to help those in need and will be accepted through the end of the year

**Chapel Decorations for 2026** – Please contact Cindy Debus at 808-895-4011 if you are able to grace our Sunday services with a donated floral arrangement for the chancel area.

## **Important Dates**

**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.

**Pastor**

**Guest Pastor**

**Moderator**

**Vice Moderator**

**Lay Reader**

**Organist/Pianist**

**Choir Director**

**Hand Bell Choir Director**

**IYAA Choir Director**

**Sunday School Teacher**

**Sunday School Aide**

**Image Artist**

**Live Stream Director**

**Sound Engineer & Assistant Director**

**Videographers**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Rev. Linda Petrucelli

Stefan Tanouye

Lorraine Davis

Stefan Tanouye

Kayleen Yuda

Bob Grove

Anna Kennedy

Stuart Mori

Gloria Kobayashi

Johanna Narruhn

Sue Smith

Ruth Niino-DuPonte

Ben Yamaki

Eric Tanouye, Mace Peng, Bob Smith,

Cindy Debus, Woody Kita

Cindy Debus

**Chapel Decorations**

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, 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

## **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