

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Service of Worship February 1, 2026  
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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:** Psalm of Glory

Kayleen Yuda

**Lighting of the Candles**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

\* **Call to Worship:** (based on 1 Corinthians 1:18-31)

Christian Albano

Leader: Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar or debater?

**People: Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

Leader: Some ask for signs. Others desire wisdom.

**People: We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to some and foolishness to others.**

Leader: God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

**People: Let those who boast, boast in the LORD!**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\* **Hymn #180:** Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit (v. 1-3)

\* **Invocation:** (based on Psalm 15)

Christian Albano

**Who may abide in your tent, O God? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who live without blame, who do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart. Lead us to such a life through this time of worship, and in all the hours we spend beyond these walls. By your grace, O God, may we never be moved. Amen.**

**Please be seated**

# WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

**Anthem:** I Will Lift My Hands

IYAA

**Time with the Children**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Scripture:** Micah 6:1-8

Christian Albano

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

'O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.'

'With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Sermon:** Mountaintop Wisdom

## **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**

**Call to Offering**

Christian Albano

"Blessed are the merciful," said Jesus. Blessed are those who care for their neighbors, for their families, and for the strangers across the sea. May we be blessed in this moment, as we make our offerings of mercy for those near and far. 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:** 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**

Christian Albano

**Merciful and holy one, you have blessed us in our sorrow and trouble, and you have blessed us in our joy and success. Bless those who benefit from the gifts we present to you now, that they may know the blessings of righteousness, comfort, and richness of spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\* Hymn #343: Jesus Took the Bread (v. 1-4)**

**Please be seated**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Consecrating the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\* Hymn #436: God of Grace and God of Glory (v. 1 -5)**

**Please be seated**

**Announcements**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Benediction**

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Postlude: Voluntary**

Kayleen Yuda

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

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Psalm of Glory

Stanley E. Saxton

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### **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.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month** – J's Mini Mart sales

## **Important Announcement**

Just before Christmas Pastor Eric read the photo storybook *The 'Apapane's Christmas Pageant'*. The book is now available for anyone to order. The pricing of \$35.00 includes a gift to support the ministries of the Church of the Holy Cross, so thank you for your order and donations!

We will order books as requests arrive. Please send your requests to Pastor Eric at [esanderson.ucc@gmail.com](mailto:esanderson.ucc@gmail.com). Let us know how many books you would like and we will order them and let you know when they have arrived.

Mahalo for your support for Church of the Holy Cross.

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Eric S. Anderson
<b>Moderator</b>	Lorraine Davis
<b>Vice Moderator</b>	Elwood Kita
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Christian Albano
<b>Chapel Decorations</b>	Ruth Ohata
<b>Organist/Pianist</b>	Kayleen Yuda
<b>Music Director-Accompanist</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>Image Artist</b>	Sue Smith
<b>Live Stream Director</b>	Ruth Niino-DuPonte
<b>Sound Engineer &amp; Assistant Director</b>	Ben Yamaki
<b>Videographers</b>	Eric Tanouye, Mace Peng, Bob Smith, Cindy Debus, Woody Kita
<b>Office Manager</b>	Mercedes Gonzales

## 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**

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.