

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship January 18, 2026
Second 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: Morning Has Broken Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome Rev. Eric S. Anderson

***Call to Worship:** (based on Psalm 29:1-11) Anne Sadayasu

Leader: We have seen the flames upon the mountain, leaping once again.

People: We have known the shaking of the earth, in wilderness and town.

Leader: We have experienced the howling wind stripping leaves and branches from the trees.

People: We have held our breath as the world cries, "Glory!"

Leader: Come now and worship the One enthroned above land and sea and sky.

People: We come to pray for strength and peace from the One who made heaven and earth.

All: Let us worship God!

*** Hymn #281:** Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove (v. 1-3)

*** Invocation:** (based on Acts 10:34-43) Anne Sadayasu

You show no favor to one group of people or another, O God. Those who come to you find you waiting with love and grace. Receive our worship today in celebration of Jesus' life and ministry, who brought the work of the Holy Spirit to the people of his time and to us. Bless us with Christ's presence in this hour and in every hour. Forgive us our sins in his name. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: “Lovely Child, Holy Child” & “Mary Wore Three Links of Chain”
Holy Cross Men’s Trio

Time with the Children

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-7

Anne Sadayasu

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother’s womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, ‘You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’
But I said, ‘I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God.’
And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
he says,
‘It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.’
Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
‘Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.’

John 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

Sermon: The Invitation 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 #522:** I Love to Tell the Story (v. 1-4)

Call to Offering Anne Sadayasu

God gave us Jesus as guide, friend, and Savior. Jesus, in turn, invites us to learn, to believe, and to follow. God's great gift to us urges us to give in turn. 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: A Quiet Prayer

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** Anne Sadayasu

We present these offerings to you, O God, at the invitation of Jesus, who called us to follow him. We follow in many ways, including these gifts with which we pray you will care for our neighbors and friends. Amen.

*** Hymn #286: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (v. 1 -4)**

Please be seated

Announcements Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Sing a New Song of Joy Kayleen Yuda

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

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Lani Smith
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Mary Wore Three Links of Chain
Trad. Spirituals
Arr. by David N. Johnson
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I Love to Tell the Story
Text by Katherine Hankey, 1866
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Franklin Ritter
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Text & Music (SPIRIT) by James K. Manley, 1978
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Sing a New Song of Joy
Hugh S. Livingston
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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.

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. 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.

Pastor Rev. Eric S. Anderson
Moderator Lorraine Davis
Vice Moderator Elwood Kita
Lay Reader Anne Sadayasu
Chapel Decorations Joyce Nakamoto
Organist/Pianist Kayleen Yuda
Choir Director Bob Grove
Hand Bell Choir Director Anna Kennedy
IYAA Choir Director Stuart Mori
Sunday School Teacher Gloria Kobayashi
Sunday School Aide Johanna Narruhn
Image Artist Sue Smith
Live Stream Director Ruth Niino-DuPonte
Sound Engineer & Assistant Director Ben Yamaki
Videographers Eric Tanouye, Mace Peng, Bob
 Smith, Cindy Debus, Woody Kita
Office Manager Mercedes Gonzales

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.



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