

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i  
Service of Worship March 1, 2026  
Second Sunday in Lent

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:** For The Bread Which You Have Broken      Kayleen Yuda

**Lighting of the Candles**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome**      Rev. Eric S. Anderson

\* **Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 121)      Gloria Kobayashi

Leader: Lift up your eyes to the hills: from where will your help come?

**People: Our help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: God will not let you lose your footing. God does not sleep when you need care.

**People: The One who holds the world does not slumber or sleep.**

Leader: May the LORD keep you from all evil. May the LORD keep your life.

**People: May the LORD keep your going out and your coming in forevermore.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\* **Hymn #427:** God Made from One Blood (v. 1-4)

\* **Invocation** (based on Genesis 12:1-4)      Gloria Kobayashi

**Abraham set out from the places he knew and journeyed to a new home at your invitation, O God. He trusted you. He counted on you. May we accept the invitations you extend to us, and receive the blessing of your confident companionship. Bless us in this time of worship, O God, and may all the families of the earth be blessed through us. Amen.**

**Please be seated**

# WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

**Anthem:** IYAA

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

**Scripture** Gloria Kobayashi

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever

believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Sermon:** Not Only

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**

**Call to Offering** Gloria Kobayashi

The gift of God's grace is expansive and overwhelming. It is an invitation to each of us to likewise share with great love and mercy. 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:** Sancta Maria

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**

Gloria Kobayashi

**Your love is greater than the universe you made, O God, and your grace is beyond our comprehension. We cannot match your love or grace with these gifts, but we offer them in thanksgiving, in celebration, and in sharing with your people. Amen.**

**\* Hymn #345: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (v. 1-3)**

**Please be seated**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

**Consecrating the Bread and Cup**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

\* **Hymn #24:** The God of Abraham Praise (v. 1-4)

**Announcements** Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Benediction** Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Postlude:** Psalm XIX Kayleen Yuda

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

### **Permissions:**

For The Bread Which You Have Broken

Contributors: Robert Lau

Tune: CTC, Bethany Lorenz Publishing Company,  
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God Made from One Blood

Text by Thomas H. Troeger, 1988

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Tune ST. DENIO, trad. Welsh Ballad

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Sancta Maria

Contributors: Oliver Ditson & Meyerbeer

Arranged by: William H Clarke Co., Boston

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Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Text 4<sup>th</sup> century; trans. by Gerard Moultrie, 1864

Tune PICARDY 17<sup>th</sup> century French carol

Harmony by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

Public Domain

The God of Abraham Praise

Text by Moses Maimonides, 12<sup>th</sup> cent.

Trans. by Max Landsberg & Newton Mann, 1884

Tune LEONI, trad. Yigdal melody

Public Domain

Psalm XIX

Type: Music; First Line: Psalm XIX 97-5989

Contributors: Benedetto Marcello Arranged by: Walter E. Buszin

Concordia Publishing House

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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.

**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; Lenten "Wisdom in the Scriptures" Bible Study for 5 weeks beginning February 25 at 6:30 pm. See The Weekly Chime for the Zoom link (same link for both 5 pm and 6:30 pm sessions).

### **Help Needed**

Help is needed with the altar decorations for Easter Sunday service. The pick-up of the lilies and placing them on the altar is generally done on the day before the Sunday morning service. If you are able to help out please contact Cindy Debus at 808-895-4011. Easter Lilies are \$13.50. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board next to J's cafe.

**Last day to sign-up is Sunday March 15;** you may take your lily home after the Easter Service. Checks, cash or VENMO (@Cynthia-Debus) to Cynthia Debus.

Thank you for your willingness to assist with our Easter decorations.

**Pastor** Rev. Eric S. Anderson

**Moderator** Lorraine Davis

**Vice Moderator** Elwood Kita

**Lay Reader** Gloria Kobayashi

**Chapel Decorations** Irene Okada

**Organist/Pianist** Kayleen Yuda

**Music Director-Accompanist** 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

## **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).



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