

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship June 21, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day

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: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

* **Call to Worship** (based on Matthew 10:24-39) Cynthia Debus

Leader: Jesus said, "What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light.

People: What you hear whispered, proclaim from the rooftops.

Leader: Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

People: God's love endures beyond the life we know.

Leader: God knows the life and death of sparrows.

People: We will not fear, because we know we are of more value than many sparrows.

All: Let us worship God!

* **Hymn #24:** The God of Abraham Praise (v. 1 – 4, Eng.)

* **Invocation** (based on Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17) Cynthia Debus

Incline your ear to us, O God, for we need your help and aid. We come to you in devotion. You are our God, and we cry for you all day long. You, O God, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love. Be with us in this time of worship, and hear our thanks and praise. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Sing with the Spirit! Holy Cross Singers

Time with the Children Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Scripture: Cynthia Debus

Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Sermon: Better than the Bible 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. Amen.

* **Hymn #400:** Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (v. 1-3)

Call to Offering Cynthia Debus

We have gathered for worship because Jesus has changed our lives in some way. As we have been blessed, let us turn to blessing others. 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: Presence Divine 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** Cynthia Debus

We thank you, O God, for the presence of Jesus in our lives. May these gifts make your love visible, tangible, and powerful in the lives of others. Amen.

* **Hymn #391:** In the Midst of New Dimensions (v. 1 – 5)

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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Dear Lord and Father Of Mankind

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The God of Abraham Praise

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Tune LEONI, trad. Yigdal melody

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Sing with the Spirit!

Arr. by Jean Anne Shafferman

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Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Text 6th – 8th cent. Latin

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Presence Divine

Contributors: Lani Smith

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In the Midst of New Dimensions

Text by Julian Rush, 1985

Tune NEW DIMENSIONS by Julian Rush, 1985

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Sing a New Song of Joy

Contributors: Hugh S. Livingston

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Important Dates

Today, 11:30 a.m. – Board of Deacons in the Lounge

Saturday, 4:00 p.m. – Service for Janet Fujioka in the Sanctuary

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

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – A Song from Church of the Holy Cross – see website

Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. – Bible Study in person, in Pastor's Study or via Zoom

Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal in the Building of Faith Meeting Room

Pickleball Lessons - Contact Connie 808-936-7534 or
Ruth at rnduponte07@gmail.com to sign up

Pastor Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Moderator Lorraine Davis

Vice Moderator Elwood Kita

Lay Reader Cynthia Debus

Chapel Decorations Ruth Ohata

in memory of Roy & Sachi Ohata

Organist/Pianist Kayleen Yuda

Music Director-Accompanist Bob Grove

Hand Bell Choir Director Evan Montemayor

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

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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

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.



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