

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship July 26, 2026
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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: Of All the Spirits Gifts to Me Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringin of the Bell

Welcome: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

***Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 105:1-11, 45) Nina Buchanan

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name and speak of God among the people.

People: We will sing to God, raise praises, and describe God's wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in God's holy name, and let your hearts rejoice.

People: We seek the LORD's strength and presence at all times.

Leader: This is the LORD our God, whose judgements extend over the earth.

People: God honors the covenants of ages past, the word that has commanded generations.

All: Let us worship God!

*** Hymn #540:** We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed (v. 1 – 4)

*** Invocation** (based on 1 Kings 3:5-12) Nina Buchanan

Solomon might have asked you, O God, for power and riches. Instead, he asked for wisdom and judgement. We too ask for wisdom. We too ask for truth. May we be able to discern between good and evil, right and wrong, timely and untimely. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Spirit in the Sky

Katie Bradshaw

Time with the Children

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Scripture:

Nina Buchanan

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Sermon: It's Bigger Than You Think 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 #487:** Surely No One Can Be Safer (v. 1-4)

Call to Offering Nina Buchanan

We have received the gift of life, which is everything. We have received the gift of God's love, which is more than everything. Let us share that love with others of God's image. 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 Sound of the Bells 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** Nina Buchanan

O God who has given everything, receive and accept these offerings of your people. May they, by your power, extend our love magnified by yours to our neighbors and all the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*** Hymn #551:** Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior (v. 1 – 4)

Please be seated

Announcements Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Jubilant Ringing Kayleen Yuda

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

Permissions:

Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me

Type: Words and Music

Contributors: Robert C Lau

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We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed

Text by Mary Bryan Matney, 1990

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Tune NEW BEGINNINGS by Sally Ann Morris, 1990

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Spirit in the Sky

Contributors: Norman Greenbaum

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Surely No One Can Be Safer

Text by Lina Sandell, 1855

Trans. New Century Hymnal, 1994

Tune TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA Swedish folk melody

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A Sound Of Bells

Type: Music

Contributors: Carl Simone

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Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Text by Fanny Crosby, 1868

Tune PASS ME NOT by William H. Doane, 1870

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Jubilant Ringing

Type: Words and Music

Contributors: Phil Lehenbauer

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Important Dates

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

Sunday, August 16 – All Church Picnic

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 Jen Tanouye

Chapel Decorations Sally & Froilan Queja

Organist/Pianist Kayleen Yuda

Music Director-Accompanist Bob Grove

Guest Vocalist Katie Bradshaw

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
Office Manager Kahealani Mahone-Brooks

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.



If you wish to donate to the church electronically, please scan this QR code.