

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai'i
Service of Worship August 16, 2026
Twelfth 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: Little Fugue in F Kayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringin of the Bell

Welcome: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

*** Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 133) Stefan Tanouye

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.

People: So the Psalmist wrote, and so we have found when our families live in love.

Leader: The Scriptures are full of times when kindred lived in conflict.

People: To our sorrow, we have seen the same in our families, too.

Leader: Let us find the way to the blessings of families united in love.

People: We worship the God who calls us together and bathes us in the waters of community.

All: Let us worship God!

*** Hymn #179:** We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness (v. 1 – 3)

*** Invocation** (based on Psalm 67) Stefan Tanouye

We pray that all the peoples praise you, O God, that the world resounds with songs of joy that ring musically in your ears. You have given us the increase of earth and the beauty of creation, and these alone inspire our praise – but bless us also in this time of worship that we might join and amplify the song of a world united in harmony. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Embrace My Way and Cross

Holy Cross Singers

Time with the Children

Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Scripture:

Stefan Tanouye

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Sermon: Great Gathering

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 #398: Shadow and Substance (v. 1-3)**

Call to Offering Stefan Tanouye

How do we make this a holy place where people may rejoice in a house of prayer? By maintaining justice, by doing what is right, and by welcoming all who seek God's blessings with warmth and with love. In our offerings we pool our resources so that we can extend God's love together. 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: Rondeau 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** Stefan Tanouye

Accept these gifts we pray, O God. You have given us everything of which we're aware and even more. Help us to share these blessings with those around us, and to welcome them into this house of prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*** Hymn #388: Help Us Accept Each Other (v. 1 – 4)**

Please be seated

Announcements Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: Double Chorus Kayleen Yuda

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

Permissions:

Little Fugue in F

Contributors: George P Telemann, Kevin Norris

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We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

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Embrace My Way and Cross

Rob Glover

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Shadow and Substance

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Rondeau

Jacques Champion de Chambonnières, Stanley E Saxton

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Help Us Accept Each Other

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Double Chorus

Contributors: Roger C Wilson

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Important Dates

After Worship – Church Picnic

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

Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. – Bible Study – Pastor's Study

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 Stefan Tanouye

Chapel Decorations

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
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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.