CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawai`i
Service of Worship November 1, 2026
Twenty-third 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: For the Bread Which You Have BrokenKayleen Yuda

Lighting of the Candles

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome: Rev. Eric S. Anderson

* **Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37) Anne Sadayasu

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, who acts for good.
People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: God satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.
People: God turns rivers toward the deserts, raising springs of water in thirsty ground.

Leader: Those who were hungry come to live in fruitful land, building a town to live in.
People: They sow fields and plant vineyards and rejoice in the harvest.

All: Let us worship God!

* **Hymn #586:** Come to Tend God's Garden (v. 1 – 3)

* **Invocation** (based on Psalm 43) Anne Sadayasu

Defend us, O God, when we are afflicted by other people. Deliver us from those who are deceitful and unjust. Send your light and your truth. Let them lead me; let me follow to your dwelling place of grace. There before you we will make the music of joy, praising you, our God. Amen.

Please be seated

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem: Kot epwe wasi ai an (God Will Clear My Way) Stuart Mori

Time with the Children Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Scripture: Anne Sadayasu

Micah 3:5-12
Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets
who lead my people astray,
who cry "Peace"
when they have something to eat
but declare war against those
who put nothing into their mouths.
Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,
and darkness to you, without revelation.
The sun shall go down upon the prophets,
and the day shall be black over them;
the seers shall be disgraced
and the diviners put to shame;
they shall all cover their lips,
for there is no answer from God.
But as for me, I am filled with power,
with the spirit of the Lord,
and with justice and might,
to declare to Jacob his transgression
and to Israel his sin.
Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob
and chiefs of the house of Israel,
who abhor justice
and pervert all equity,
who build Zion with blood
and Jerusalem with wrong!
Its rulers give judgment for a bribe;
its priests teach for a price;
its prophets give oracles for money;
yet they lean upon the Lord and say,
"Surely the Lord is with us!
No harm shall come upon us."
Therefore because of you
Zion shall be plowed as a field;

Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,
and the mountain of the temple a wooded height.

Matthew 23:1-12
Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses's seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others, but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others, for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Sermon: The Perils of Crying Peace 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.

Call to Offering Anne Sadayasu

Repeatedly over the centuries, God has called us to care for one another as individuals and families, and also to foster communities which embrace such caring. In our offering, we seek to do so as a congregation and among our neighbors. 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: Song of Devotion 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

Accept these gifts, O God, and guide their use to your purposes. May we your people love our neighbors as ourselves and aid others to do the same in our community and across the world. Amen.

* **Hymn #343:** Jesus Took the Bread (v. 1-4)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Consecrating the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* **Hymn #303:** Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing (v. 1 – 4)

Please be seated

Announcements Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Benediction Rev. Eric S. Anderson

Postlude: See How Great a Flame Aspires Kayleen Yuda

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

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by Robert Lau
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Kot epwe wasi ai an (God Will Clear My Way)
Text and tune by Stuart Mori, 2026
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Jesus Took the Bread

Text by Ruth Duck, 1982
Tune NEW HOPE by Ruth Duck, 1982
Arr. by Randall Sensmeier, 1982
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Song of Devotion
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Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing
Text by Charles Wesley, 1746
Tune DARWALL'S 148th by John Darwall, 1770
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See How Great a Flame Aspires
by Edward Broughton
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Important Dates & Announcements

New Office E-mail Address: Please update our email to office@holycrosshilo.com

After Worship – Board of Trustees, Lounge
Thursday, November 19, 7:00 p.m. – Brazilian Jazz – Kamaaina Concert Series

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – A Song from Church of the Holy Cross (see holycrosshilo.com)
Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. – Bible Study in Pastor's Study or via Zoom (link in *The Weekly Chime*)

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 Anne Sadayasu
Chapel Decorations MaryAnn Katayama
Organist/Pianist Kayleen Yuda
Music Director-Accompanist Bob Grove

Na Kani O Kalani (Bells) 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.

“Kot epwe wasi ai an” (God will clear my way)
by Stuart Mori

Chorus

Kot epwe wasii ai aan! (God will clear my path)
Ika mwo ita esapw tufich (Even when it may seem impossible)
An tipachem mi nu seni nemwuchun ai weweiti. (His wisdom is far beyond the threshold of my understanding)
Epwe emweni ei Anomwu ei peni-efichin (He will guide me, Keep me at His righteous right side)
Non tong pochokun eiten ran (With love and strength each day)
Epwe emweni ei, Kot epwe waasi ai aan. (He will guide me, God will clear my path)

Verse 1

Eurom me wokum ra fokkun tumunu ei (Your rod and your staff have always protected me)
Nemolun nurun Mano usapw nuokus. (In the valley of death, I will not have fear)
Usapw niweiti mwo eoch feiengaw pwun ka nomw rei. (I will not be afraid of any hurt for you are with me)
Ngang Ua fokkun nuku (I truly believe)
pwun Kosapw nikiti ei! (That you will not forsake me)

Verse 2

Ka nimeti nenukei pwe tipisi a mwo (You have cleansed my inner being, thus my sins have been healed)
amwonata neni ei pwe Upwe fokkun sopweoch (prepared my place that I may “end well”)
Uwa nuku pwun nupwen mano epwe kokori ei. (I believe that when death finally calls me)
nge nguni a nenioch pwun ka nonom rei...(but my soul will be in a great place, for you are with me)