

**"OPEN HEARTS...OPEN MINDS...OPEN DOORS"**



**LAHAINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**MINISTERS:** Members and Friends of our Congregation

**PASTOR:** Pastor John Crewe



**LAHAINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Christmas Day, 2023**



**INTRO MUSIC**

Rosalyn Baker (organ), Brad Hurte (trumpet)

**SACRED HULA**

O Holy Night

Jan Kitaguchi

**OPENING HYMN**

O Little Town Little of Bethlehem

UMH 230

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together,  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth!

3. How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
still the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

**GREETINGS AND ALOHA**

Liturgist: Vaosa Tagaloa

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(\* You may stand.)

Leader: Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

People: **WE WAIT IN THE LOVE OF THE COMING MESSIAH THAT TRANSFORMS US.**

Leader: The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker, Joy Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us.

PEOPLE: **WE WAIT IN THE LOVE OF THE COMING MESSIAH THAT TRANSFORMS US.**

Leader: With Mary, we long for the coming of the Child who will transform the world, bringing justice where injustice reigns, fullness where hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world calls lowly.

PEOPLE: **WE WAIT IN THE LOVE OF THE COMING MESSIAH THAT TRANSFORMS US.**



Leader: So let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God, our Savior!

**ALL: WE COME TO WAIT AND TO DECLARE THE COMING OF THE LOVE THAT TRANSFORMS US! AMEN.**

**CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY**

Hemaloto Family

Reader 1: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared,

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader 2: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

**Congregation: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.**

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen. *Light all five candles of the Advent wreath.*

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE O Come, O Come Emmanuel (1-4, 6) UMH 211**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and cause us in her ways to go. (Refrain)

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)

2.

4. O come, thou root of Jesse's tree,  
an ensign of thy people be;  
Before thee rulers silent fall;  
All peoples on thy mercy call.  
(Refrain)

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Pastor

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**HYMN**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

UMH 218

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King." The  
world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they  
come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

3. And ye, beneath life's crushing  
load, whose forms are bending  
low, who toil along the climbing  
way with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden  
hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening  
on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the  
earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the  
song which now the angels sing.

**UNISON PRAYER**

Emmanuel, God-with-us, today, most of all, on Christmas Morning, your light lifts our hearts, our spirits, and our voices. We give you thanks for your birth long ago and for your presence with us today and always. Your hope is more trustworthy than our promises. Your peace is deeper than our prayers. Your joy teaches us to sing even when we want to cry. Your love is wider than the chorus of the galaxies, and yet your Star shines on us now in this church which has become a manger. Amen.

**PRAYER RESPONSE "Queen Liliuokalani's Prayer"**

O kou aloha no. Aia i ka lani. A'o Kou' oia i'o. He hemolele ho'i. Amene  
(Your loving mercy is in heaven, and your truth so perfect. Amen.)

3.



**First Reading****Isaiah 9:2-7****Liturgist**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.



<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>6</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warrior and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>8</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**HYMN****What Child Is This****UMH 219**

1. What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems  
sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners  
here the silent Word is pleading.  
(Refrain)

Refrain:  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels  
sing; haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and  
myrrh, come, peasant, king, to  
own him; the King of kings  
salvation brings, let loving hearts  
enthron him. (Refrain)

**SECOND READING****Titus 2:11-14****Liturgist**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**CHRISTMAS PLAY****LUMC Children's Ministry****4.****\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:****# 887***Affirmation from Romans 8:35*

Liturgist: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness of peril or sword?

All: No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI****UMH 70****\*THE LORD'S PRAYER****Pastor****OFFERING****LUMC Choir****\*DOXOLOGY****UMH 95**

*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.*

*Ho'onani i ka Makua Mau,  
Ke Keiki me ka 'Uhane no,  
Ke Akua Mau ho'omaika'i pu,  
Ko keia ao, ko kela ao. Amene.*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER****Pastor****SERMON SCRIPTURE****Luke 2:1-20****Pastor**

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**5.**



<sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors'

<sup>16</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**ANTHEM** **Away in a Manger** **Brad Hurte**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his  
sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down  
where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask  
thee to stay close by me forever,  
and love me, I pray; bless all the  
dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with  
thee there.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby  
awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no  
crying he makes; I love thee, Lord  
Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is  
nigh.



**MESSAGE** **What Child Is This?** **Pastor**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** **Joy to the World** **UMH 246**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature  
sing.

3. No more let sins and sorrows  
grow, nor thorns infest the  
ground; he comes to make his  
blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth  
and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**\*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION** **Pastor**

**HALLELUJAH CHORUS** **LUMC Choir**

**\*CIRCLE OF OHANA "HAWAII ALOHA" (Rev. Lorenzo Lyons)**

E Hawai'i e ku'u one hanau e, Ku'u ho-me kulaiwi nei. Oli no au i na pono lani  
ou,  
E Hawai'i, aloha e. E hau'oli na 'opio o Hawai'i nei. 'Oli e! 'Oli e! Mai na  
aheahe makani e pa mai nei. Mau ke aloha, no Hawai'i.

(O Hawai'i, O sands of my birth, My native home. I rejoice in the blessings of  
heaven, O Hawai'i, aloha. Happy youth of Hawai'i, Rejoice! Rejoice! Gentle  
breezes blow. Love always for Hawai'i.

