

**“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**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent



**OPENING HYMN**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their  
watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens  
there shown a holy light. (Refrain)

2. The shepherds feared and trembled,  
when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed the Savior's birth.  
(Refrain)

3. Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.  
(Refrain)

**GREETINGS AND ALOHA**

Liturgist: Vanessa Malamala

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(\* You may stand.)

Leader: Come! Listen! A voice cries out: "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

People: **WE COME, AND WE WAIT IN THE JUST PEACE OF THE COMING MESSIAH.**

Leader: Pay attention! God is removing barriers and leveling the playing field, making a way for all people to witness the glory of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **WE WAIT IN THE JUST PEACE OF THE COMING MESSIAH.**

Leader: We wait, and we work as God's landscapers, filling in valleys and making rough places a plain, bringing justice where conflicts and obstacles once reigned.

PEOPLE: **WE WAIT, AND WE WORK IN THE JUST PEACE OF THE COMING MESSIAH.**

Leader: As we gather, may we prepare our voices to proclaim and our hands to get messy as our lives declare the coming of our Savior and Comforter.

**ALL: COME, LONG EXPECTED JESUS AND SET YOUR PEOPLE FREE.**

**CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY**

Sione and Eseta Malamala

**Reader 1:** In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1).

**Reader 2:** We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

**Congregation:** We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

**Reader 1:** We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

*Light two candles of the Advent wreath.*

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**                      **O Come, O Come Emmanuel (1,3)**                      **UMH 211**

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

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)

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



**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**PRAYER TIME**

Leader: Lord, in your mercy  
ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYERS



**UNISON PRAYER**

While we are waiting, come to us, O God. Reveal your presence in our time of worship. Guide our steps in our speaking and our doing. Flow through our lives, our church, and our world with your steadfast love, unending faithfulness, righteous justice, and mysterious peace. In patient anticipation we pray. 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.)

**First Reading**                      **Isaiah 40:1-11**

**Liturgist**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid, that she has received from  
the Lord's hand double for all her sins.



<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' <sup>6</sup>A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**SECOND READING**                      **2 Peter 3:8-15**

**Liturgist**

<sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in

accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: # 880**  
*THE APOSTLE'S CREED, ECUMENICAL VERSION*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day, he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic<sup>\*\*</sup> church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen, (<sup>\*\*</sup>universal)



**\*GLORIA PATRI UMH 70**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER Pastor**

**OFFERING LUMC Choir**

**\*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.*

*Ho'onani i ka Makua Mau,  
Ke Keiki me ka 'Uhane nō,  
Ke Akua Mau ho'omaika'i pū,  
Kō kēia ao, kō kēlā ao. Āmene.*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**

1. Fairest Lord Jesus,  
ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God and man the Son,  
thee will I cherish,  
thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.  
2. Fair are the meadows,  
fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

**Fairest Lord Jesus**

3. Fair is the sunshine,  
fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.  
4. Beautiful Savior!  
Lord of all the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine.

**Pastor  
UMH 189**



**SERMON SCRIPTURE**

**Mark 1:1-8**

**Pastor**

<sup>1</sup>"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight"',

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

**MESSAGE****Prepare for Good News****Pastor****\*CLOSING HYMN****Good Christian Friends, Rejoice****UMH 224**

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
News, news! Jesus Christ is born  
today! Ox and ass before him bow, and  
he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today,  
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice,  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
News, news! Jesus Christ was born for  
this! He hath opened heaven's door,  
and ye are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this,  
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice,  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
News, news! Jesus Christ was born  
to save! Calls you one and calls you  
all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save,  
Christ was born to save!

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

**WE REMEMBER OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN PRAYERS:**

Jodeen Bryen  
Rhonda Wilkes  
Lotima Filiai  
Doreen Taylor  
Linda & Les Takahashi  
Ariana and Austin  
Patrick Muratta  
Noah Min  
Kelly Hess  
Lotu Carlsen and family  
Monique Peterson  
Viola Cleo Bradshaw  
Rhoda  
Sandy Wong  
Riley Hope Jacobs  
Julie Reed  
Denny White  
Ellen Damaskas  
Grace and Rosie Nava  
Cathy Bradshaw  
Kathy Bowen  
Cordelia Vogel  
Roz Baker  
Laura Fowle  
John and Cindy Yaos  
Sherri Atkinson  
Gavin Kang  
Julie Freeman

Janice Haynes and family  
Fred Kitonga, his sister, and nephew, Lawrence,  
for the loss of Lawrence's wife, Mary.  
The family of Ellen DiGiampaulo in the passing of  
Ellen's dear mother, Beverly  
Warren Carthan & family  
Kevin Oliveti's sister Uheina in Tonga  
The family of Barb Dering  
The family of Janice Markwith  
The family of Frank Emanuel  
The family of Mabel Shimomura  
The family of Lori Ramsey  
The family of Doug Gloege\*  
The Family of Carolyn Ono\*  
Lotu Carlsen and family  
Sione Vaikeli, for the loss of his wife Linda\*  
Chris & Velvet Welland  
Lyn and Judy Ebbesen's family  
Heather Coffey  
Tonga Tuameiapi and family for the loss of his  
sister.  
The Pasikala family  
Terry Mitchell and daughter Lindsay  
Norman Scott  
Edie and John Machonis  
Sandy (Currently incarcerated)  
Clara  
(\*people lost in the fire)

**Prayers for our Community/Country:**

\*For the family, friends, and loved ones of those who lost their lives in the Lahaina  
fires.

\*We pray for continued support for all churches and non-profit organizations working  
to meet our community's physical, psychological, and spiritual needs after a  
devastating tragedy.

\*We offer prayers of gratitude for our firefighters, EMTs, police officers, other first  
responders, and civilians who walked into danger for our safety.

\*We pray for our medical staff who face growing workloads as they deal with multiple  
health crises. Inspire us to demand more staff and better work environments.

\* We pray that our leaders will work diligently to address our community's needs and  
not forget to address the problems of those most in need but frequently ignored.