

“OPEN HEARTS...OPEN MINDS...OPEN DOORS”



LAHAINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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LAHAINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



OPENING HYMN

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH 196

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.



GREETINGS AND ALOHA

Liturgist: Vaosa Tagaloa

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(* You may stand.)

Leader: Christ came to proclaim good news to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, free the prisoner, and comfort those who mourn.

People: WE COME WITH JOY TO WORSHIP CHRIST.

Leader: Who proclaims good news to the poor, binds up the brokenhearted, frees the prisoner, and comforts those who mourn.

PEOPLE: WE COME WITH JOY TO WORSHIP CHRIST.

Leader: Who bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

PEOPLE: WE COME WITH JOY TO WORSHIP CHRIST.

Leader: We will rebuild the ancient ruins; we will restore formerly deserted places; we will renew ruined cities, places deserted in generations past.

ALL: WE COME TO WATCH, WAIT, AND WORSHIP WITH JOY THE COMING JESUS CHRIST, OUR MESSIAH. AMEN.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

The Pasikala Family

Reader 1: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

Reader 2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit is among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and sharing joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Light three candles of the Advent wreath.

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

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

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)

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

We seek you, Lord, as our days get shorter and our nights get longer. We seek the light of your healing love in our world's darkness so that we may see your glory and know that salvation is at hand. Live in and through us during this Advent season so we might be messengers of your grace and instruments of peace. 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 61:1-4, 8-11

Liturgist

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.



⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Liturgist

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the 3.

Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.

²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

***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** church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. (**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 'Whane nō,
Ke Akua Mau ho'omaika'i pū,
Kō kēia ao, kō kēlā ao. Āmene.*

4.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Pastor

HYMN OF PREPARATION

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 enthrone him.
(Refrain)



SERMON SCRIPTURE

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Pastor

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' ²¹ And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' ²² Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³ He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord",

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' ²⁶ John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

5.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"



***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 Tuaimeipi 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.