

**“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 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent



**OPENING HYMN**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful (1-3)**

**UMH 234**

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

(Refrain)

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
(Refrain)



**GREETINGS AND ALOHA**

**Liturgist: Vaosa Tagaloa**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(\* You may stand.)

**Leader:** Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

**People:** GOD HAS LOOKED WITH FAVOR ON THIS WHO SERVE OUR LORD.

**Leader:** God's mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

**PEOPLE:** GOD HAS SHOWN STRENGTH WITH GOD'S ARM. GOD HAS SCATTERED THE PROUD IN THE THOUGHTS OF THEIR HEARTS.

**Leader:** God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

**PEOPLE:** GOD HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS, AND SENT THE RICH AWAY EMPTY.

**Leader:** Come, for God is doing a new thing!

**ALL: COME, LET US WORSHIP OUR REDEEMER.**

**CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY**

**Malamala/Tagaloa Family**

**Reader 1:** When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God’s plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, “Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’” (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

**Reader 2:** We, like Mary, hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, “How can this be? I am only...” Yet, like Mary, the “onlys” that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God’s love transforms us into bearers of good news.

**Congregation:** We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

**Reader 1:** We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

*Light four candles of the Advent wreath.*

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

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

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and  
cheer our spirits by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and  
death’s dark shadows put to flight.  
(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



2.

## UNISON PRAYER

In the rush of preparation for holiday celebration, we come to this place to feed our souls. We need the peace, hope, love and joy that this season represents. We need to listen again with wonder at the magnificent words of Mary as she proclaims her faithful participation in God’s most miraculous gift. Open our hearts today, Lord, to receive the words and the blessings, to receive spiritual nourishment and then to share with others as you have shared with us. In Jesus’ Name, 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**

**Luke 1:46-55**

**Liturgist**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,  
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in  
God my Savior,<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the  
lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all  
generations will call me blessed;



<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.’

**SECOND READING**

**Romans 16:25-27**

**Liturgist**

<sup>25</sup> Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup> but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

**\*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 'Uhane no,  
Ke Akua Mau ho'omaika'i pi,  
Kō ke'ia ao, kō kēlā ao. Āmene.*

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

UMH 229

1. Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little  
knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift  
are winging angels singing, noels ringing,  
tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a  
gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the  
babe was born for you.



4.



SERMON SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38

Pastor

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'<sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'<sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>36</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

5.

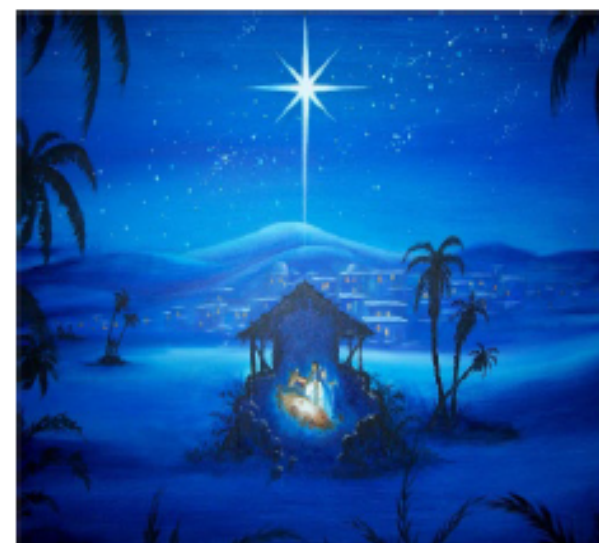
ANTHEM

Silent Night (Sing Along)

Brad Hurte

1. Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!



MESSAGE

When The Soul Found It's Worth

Pastor

5.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

**UMH 238**

1. Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?  
(Refrain)

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
(Refrain)

4. See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise.  
(Refrain)



**\*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.