

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



LAHAINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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PASTOR: Pastor John Crewe

LAHAINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, December 3rd, 2023
First Sunday of Advent



***OPENING HYMN O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing (1-4)**

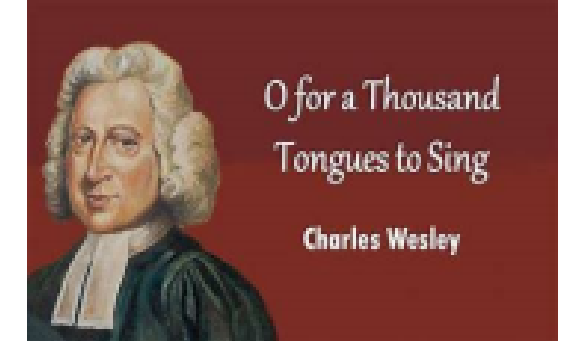
UMH 57

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

4. He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free; his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.



GREETINGS AND ALOHA

Liturgist: Vaosa Tagaloa

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather again at the end of the year to wait for the Christ child anew.

PEOPLE: WE WAIT IN HOPE OF THE COMING MESSIAH.

Leader: We wait and remember the astounding things God has done to save God's people.

PEOPLE: WE WAIT IN HOPE OF THE COMING MESSIAH.

Leader: We wait and pay attention for signs of God's justice and mercy turning the world upside down.

PEOPLE: WE WAIT IN HOPE OF THE COMING MESSIAH.

Leader: We wait and remember that the life that was the light of all people has come into the world, and darkness will not overcome it.

ALL: LET US WORSHIP TODAY, AND WAIT WITH HOPE IN THE COMING OF OUR MESSIAH, JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

The Olivetti Family

Reader 1: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come” (Mark 13:35).

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise O Come, O Come Emmanuel (1,2) UMH 211**

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

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)

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



PASTORAL GREETING

Pastor John Crewe

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Pastor John Crewe

2.

PRAYER TIME

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



UNISON PRAYER

God of love and mercy, we thank you for your presence in our lives. You have formed us in your image and continue transforming us as we grow in faith. When much seems dark and foreboding around us, you bring the light of truth. Break through the darkness in our lives and let the light of your love flood in so that we may become more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. 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.)

BAPTISMAL COVENANT (Jace Michael Valencia)

(See Insert)

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening,

3.

or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ⁶⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ⁶⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

MESSAGE

Faithful Exilee

Pastor

HYMN OF PREPARATION Low How a Rosebud E'er Blooming UMH 216

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As those of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night

3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels in glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death now saves us,
And share our every load

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to us a Savior
When half-spent was the night.



CHOIR OFFERING

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER

*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*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ, our Lord, invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

(Pause/Silence)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray.

**Free us for joyful obedience
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love for us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God

**IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS
AND PRAISE.**

It is right and a good and joyful thing, Always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away and our love failed, your love for us remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.
BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be light to the nations. You scattered the proud on the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation.

You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own son came among us as a servant to be the Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church. Delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, again he gave you thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."



And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and Thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN; CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and juice.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Jesus said, the body of Christ, given for you. **AMEN.**
The blood of Christ, given for you. **AMEN.**

SENDING FORTH / BENEEDICTION

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.)



The Baptismal Covenant I

Pastor: Church Ohana: Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Pastor: I present Jace Michael Valencia for baptism

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

The pastor addresses parents or other sponsors of candidates not able to answer for themselves:

Pastor: On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

I Do.

Pastor: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I Do.

Pastor: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I Do.

Pastor: Will you nurture Jace in Christ's holy Church so that, by your teaching and example, he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons

With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround him with a community of love and forgiveness so that he may grow in his trust of God and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for him that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.



Apostle's Creed in Question and Answer Format

Pastor addresses to all: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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.]

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.
[*universal]**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Pastor addresses the entire congregation.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah, you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood, you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

****Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

Pastor: In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

****Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit to bless this gift of water and Jace who receives it, to wash away his sin and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life that, being raised with Christ, he may share in his final victory.

****All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.**

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

The pastor addresses all candidates:

Pastor: I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Pastor: May the Holy Spirit work within Jace so that, being born through water and the Spirit, he may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Pastor: Now, it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ, Jace Michael Valencia

The congregation responds: Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as members of the family of Christ.