

Welcome to **Iao United Church of Christ** in Wailuku, Maui



*“We are a people of God,
living and sharing the love of Christ
and reflecting that love
in words and actions.”*

Theme for 2020: “Beyond 125 Years”

Sunday – June 28, 2020

4th Sunday After Pentecost

UCC Open and Affirming Sunday –

God is still speaking,

Prelude

Played and Sung by Karyn Sarring, Choir Director/Pianist



“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”

(NCH #500; Tune: “Jacob’s Ladder 8.8.8.5. African-American Spiritual; New Century Hymnal, Copyright ©1995 The Pilgrim Press)

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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Selected Liturgy from “The Abingdon Worship Annual – 2020. Worship Planning Resources; Abingdon Press/Nashville. Copyright ©2020 by Abingdon Press

Centering Words

(Genesis 22, Matthew 10, Romans 6)

“Our hearts are weighed down by our attachments in this life. As we enter a time of worship, may we exhale our worries and inhale the Spirit of God that surrounds us. May we find here a space for release and reflection—a space to empty our souls and create a refuge for Sabbath rest.”

The Tibetan Bowl Centers Us As We Are Called to Worship (*Psalm 13, Romans 6*)

Rong: We come today, representing all the majesty of creation.

People of God: Diverse and beautiful, blessed and beloved, all made in the image of the Creator of all things.

Rong: We come today, called to this time and this place by an infinite God...

People of God: ...who hears our cries and responds with love and mercy.

Rong: We come today, people of many colors and orientations to pray.

People of God: We come today, knowing you will listen and answer our needs.

Rong: We come today, to deliver our joined prayers of hope.

People of God: We come today, a people mourning still our losses, still recovering from the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic and the pandemic of institutionalized racism that has plagued our world for too many centuries.

Rong: We come today, knowing you care for us.

ALL: We come today, knowing that even when others reject us, your arms are open to offer comfort. We come.

Pastor Tino: Please join us in singing our opening hymn three times, “*Welcome to this House*” found in the Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal #7

Opening Hymn:

“Welcome to This House” (3x)



Sing! Prayer and Praise Hymnal #7

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Words (verses 2): The Praise Song Advisory Team, Copyright ©2009 Local Church Ministries, UCC. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- 1. Welcome to this house, open and affirming. In God’s Son we are all one. Hand in hand we stand. Welcome to this house, caring and accepting. In God’s Son we are all one. Welcome to this house of God.**
- 2. Welcome to this house, there is room for ev‘ry one. All will sing, praises we bring. Let us all be one. Welcome to this house, where God gives the call to serve. All will sing, praises we bring. Welcome to this house of God.**
- 3. Welcome to this house, blessed by Word and Harmony. Child of God, born from above, know that Christ is love. Welcome to this house, filled with peace and charity. Child of God, born from above, welcome to this house of God.**

Opening Prayer (in unison)

(KFR, 2020)

Together we defy the darkness by being the Light.

We make violence tremble by being peacemakers.

When chaos and trauma cause distress, we counter by reaching for love and remembering joy. This day, when people are going hungry, give us bread to share. This day, when people are angry and hurtful, give us forgiveness to offer.

When there is so much temptation to be selfish and careless, this day give us the strength to be kind and intentional.

Remind us that we are all born holy and deserve love and tenderness. In the many names of Love, may it be so. Amen,

We Confess Together (in unison)

(Romans 6)

God, your child Jesus taught us to welcome each other, but welcome often seems too little in this world. Welcome, without affirmation, becomes an empty promise, devoid of the lesson that to truly welcome each other means to see the face of God in each other. We commit to affirm ALL of God's Children. Welcoming them and Affirming them as God's beloved creations. You taught us that whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will see a prophet's reward; that whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous. We know that until we are all free, none of us can be free. And we commit to co-creating that world of welcome and affirmation until all people can access that promise. Amen,

God's Assurance To Us

(Matthew 10, Romans 6)

Pastor Tino:

God's grace releases creation from the haze of separation—the division separating us from God and our neighbors from ourselves. In the spirit of God's freedom, let us delight in the refreshing winds of God's grace, renewing us all.

*All the readings on the following slides are from the
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

The First Reading

Romans 6:12-23

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. *(continued...)*

The First Reading, cont'd. *Romans 6:12-23*

I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So, what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gospel Reading *Matthew 10:40-42*

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The Message

“The Welcome Wagon”

Rev. Floren “Tino” Cordova,
Pastor



Lao United Church of Christ
All are Welcome
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
(808) 244-7353
Established 1895
"God is Still Speaking"

Hymn of Response: *“Come to the Waters”*

Sing! Prayer & Praise Hymnal #3 Words and Music: S. Strachan, Copyright ©2007. All rights reserved. Used by Permission.



**Refrain: Come, Jesus is calling to you. “Reach out, take my hand. You’ll not fall.
Come, come, I am waiting for you. O’er waters of life, hear my call.”**

**1. “Reach out in faith, cross the waters to me.
Your hand in mine, that’s the way it should be.
Stretch out in faith, take my hand if you will.
Waters be calm! Wind be still.”**

**2. “Walk out in faith, take the risk if you can.
I bring you peace, come along, take my hand.
Step out in faith, I will carry you on.
You may be weak; I am strong.”**

Prayers of the People

To close, you are invited to join in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples in the words, language and culture that you feel most comfortable.

All forms are acceptable to God's hearing.

The Lord's Prayer

Our (Father, Mother, Creator, Parent), which are in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy dominion (kingdom) come, Thy will be done – on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day, our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the dominion (kingdom), the power, and the glory – forever and ever Amen,



Closing Hymn:

“The Peace of the Earth” (3x)



Chalice Praise Hymnal #189

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**The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too;**

**The peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.**

**Deep peace falling over you.
God’s peace growing in you.**

Closing

(Psalm 13, Matthew 10, Genesis 22, Romans 6)

Pastor Tino: God's steadfast love is etched into our souls.

People of God: May we carry it with us always.

Whether welcoming the stranger,

whether risking all we have,

whether facing the cross,

whether wrestling with God's call,

whether freeing ourselves from the past,

God is our constant companion on this journey, because

“We are people of God, living and sharing the

love of Christ and reflecting that love

in words and actions.”



Happy Birthday!

Daniel Kamidoi – June 28th

Makelyn Johannes – June 29th

Shawn Yinmed – June 30th

Anela Awai-Stewart – July 3rd

Courtney Akitake – July 3rd

Dorothy Lester – July 4th

Postlude



Played and Sung by Karyn Sarring, Choir Director/Pianist

“God Calls You Good”

(By Paul M. Vasile, Copyright @2017, LovedIntoBeing Music, fr. *Songs for the Other Holy Publication*, by the Hymn Society)



We continue to pray for each other.
As we journey together, let us BE
the “deployed” people of God.





UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

“Never place a period, where
God has placed a comma,”



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*We hope that you have had a wonderful virtual worship experience
with us. We look forward to being with you again soon,*