

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR MAY 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Video of this worship service can be found at:

<https://www.fupchurch.org/> or
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA1yVuDdFJrhYsmJ0TyI8UA/videos>

TOLLING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Michael Springer

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Aloha. For those of you who do not know me, my name is Pastor Chris. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, I want to welcome you to First United Protestant Church of Hilo. I am grateful you have decided to join us for worship today. Today's worship service will explore what it means to be a friend of Jesus, and how that friendship compels us to befriend some of the most unlikely people.

MOTHER'S DAY GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of all creation makes us one in the flesh.

All: Let us join our hearts and voices in praise.

In Jesus Christ, we are made one in spirit.

All: Let us be united in faith and in mission.

Through the mothering love of the Holy Spirit, we are joined into God's one family.

All: Let us be known as Christ's disciples by the love in which we hold one another and all of God's children on earth.

HYMN

"We Gather As Friends" by James Chepponis

See Music Insert

PEACE READING

Our peace reading for today comes from Jen Hatmaker, who is a popular women's Christian author and speaker. She says,

"The world knows about our Jesus. They know about his poverty and love of the underdog. They know he told his followers to care for the poor and to share.

They've heard about his radical economic theories and revolutionary redistribution concepts. They might not understand the nuances of his divinity or the various shades of his theology, but they know he was a friend of the oppressed."

SCRIPTURE READING

Our Scripture reading for today comes from the Gospel of John 15:9-17 (NRSV), where Jesus tells the disciples of the sacrificial and self-giving love that will mark the friendship they share with him...

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Liturgist: Hear the Word, spoken to the people.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"To Be a Friend of Jesus"
Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

GIFT OF MUSIC

"There Was Jesus"
by Casey Beathard, Jonathan Smith, Zach Williams
Solo by Joanne Pocsidio
Accompaniment by Michael Springer

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People
Moment of Silence
Prayer of the Day

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy 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 kingdom
And the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

OFFERTORY

Now is our time of offering. If you have been spiritually nourished by today's worship service, I want to encourage you to prayerfully consider supporting the work and ministry of the church through a tithe or donation. **Last week we received a total of \$368.04 to support the work and ministry of the church.** Please visit our website to see the multiple ways you can give to the church during this time such as through our Facebook Page, PayPal, ChurchTrac, or by simply writing a check to the church. Let us join in a prayer of dedication for all that we will receive.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Generous God, we give thanks and appreciation for the blessings we have received. Help us to be good stewards of your church, mindful of where we and are good our best needed. Use all that has been shared for the purposes of building your kingdom here on earth, a kingdom of love, peace, and justice for all. Amen.

DOXOLOGY HMYN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God, above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

LOVING RESPONSE

"O Kou Aloha No"

The Queen's Prayer

***O kou a-lo-ha no, A i-a i ka La-ni
A o kou oiai'o, He he-mo-le-le ho'i. Amene.***
[Translation: Your love is in heaven and your truth so perfect.]

POSTLUDE

*“Easter Exultation”
A Tribute to Kenneth W. Staton
by Michael Springer*



Today's postlude, “Easter Exultation” is based on the Easter hymn tune, “Victory” commonly sung to the text, “The Strife is O’er, The Battle Done.” It was composed by our organist, Michael Springer, and the dedication reads, “In loving memory of Kenneth W. Staton, a true friend and mentor.” Ken Staton, who recently passed away, was the choir director at FUPC from 1974-1981. Under his leadership, the FUPC Chancel Choir sang special anthems every Sunday from September through May. He helped FUPC establish the singer scholarship program by hiring music majors from the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Music Department to help fill out the voicing of our choir. Our organist was hired in 1976 as a singer scholar and in 1978, Ken recommend FUPC hire

Michael as our organist. With Ken's vision, FUPC, with its excellent acoustics, pipe organ, and piano, became known in the community as a perfect and much desired venue for musical events. A hui hou, Maestro Staton.