



Calvary by the Sea Lutheran Church

“Sharing the Blessing of God’s Grace with Aloha”

5339 Kalanianaʻole Hwy. • Honolulu, HI 96821 • 808.377.5477 • www.CalvarybytheSea.org

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Christmas Day

December 25, 2015

10:00 am

God calls us to be a welcoming people! Welcome to people new to faith, to Christians of every flavor, and to long time Lutherans. Welcome to all with no church home, who need strength, want to follow, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new guests and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, ability and gift, to gay and straight, to old and young, to believers and questioners, and questioning believers. This is a place where we live past the labels, where we are welcome to celebrate and grieve, rejoice and recover. This is a place where our lives are made new. Welcome to worship God on this day!

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

We gather at the ocean's edge on this Christmas morning in *Hawai'i nei* to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. We celebrate this day with music, laughter, and delight; with the sharing of a lei—and perhaps a surprise hula! We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim and share this aloha to all the ends of the earth.

SOUNDING OF THE PŪ

Please gather as the sounding of the conch shell calls us to worship.

RINGING OF THE BELL

During the *Ringing of the Bell* please center your thoughts on *Makua*—God the Creator, *Keiki Kane*—Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and *'Uhane Hemolele*—the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

GATHERING, *Ernest Harada, Kess O'Halloran, Don Conover*

“What Child is This?”

Kess O'Halloran and Don Conover

“We May Not Have Snow”

Ernest Harada and Don Conover

“*Keiki and Grace: Amazing Grace, Some Children See Him*”

Kess, Ernest and Don

GREETING, *Kahu Tim*

KAHU: Today Christ is born:

ALL: Alleluia, alleluia!

KAHU: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SIN, *Kahu Tim*

KAHU: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
the Word made flesh,
the Lord and giver of life.

ALL: Amen.

KAHU: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another by singing stanzas 3 and 4 of “O Little Town of Bethlehem.”

Silence is kept for reflection.

**ALL: How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

KAHU: In the Word who has come to dwell with us,
God has given us grace upon grace:
forgiveness that is stronger than our sins,

love that can heal every broken heart.

Hear this word of God's pardon and peace:

*in the name of + Jesus our Savior,
you are free from all your sins.*

Rise, shine, for your light has come. **Amen.**

GLORIA *standing* “Angels We Have Heard on High” (*stanzas 1 and 3*)

ALL: **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY *standing*

ALL: **All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your
light into our world has brightened weary hearts with
peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to
proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

GREETING OF GUESTS *seated*

SHARING OF ALOHA *standing*

KAHU: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62: 6–12

The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until he reestablishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord, a City Not Forsaken.

ONE: ⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest
⁷and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
⁹but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who garner it shall drink it
in my holy courts.
¹⁰Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
¹¹The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,

"See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."
¹²They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

SECOND READING

Titus 4: 4–7

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

ONE: ⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, Ernest and Don

“Grateful”

by John Bucchino, © 1966 John Bucchino.

I've got a roof over my head, I've got a warm place to sleep. Some nights I lie awake counting gifts instead of counting sheep. I've got a heart that can hold love, I've got a mind that can think. There may be times when I lose the light and let my spirits sink. But I can't stay depressed when I remember how I'm blessed.

Grateful, grateful, truly grateful I am. Grateful, grateful, truly blessed and duly grateful.

In a city of strangers I've got a fam'ly of friends. No matter what rocks and brambles fill the way, I know that they will stay until the end. I feel a hand holding my hand. It's not a hand you can see. But on the road to the

promised land, this hand will shepherd me. Through delight and despair, holding tight and always there.

Grateful, grateful, truly grateful I am. Grateful, grateful, truly blessed and duly grateful.

It's not that I don't want a lot, or hope for more, or dream of more. But giving thanks for what I've got makes me so much happier than keepin' score. In a world that can bring pain I will still take each chance. For I believe that whatever the terrain our feet can learn to dance. Whatever stone life may sling, we can moan or we can sing:

Grateful, grateful, truly grateful I am. Grateful, grateful, truly blessed and duly grateful. I'm truly blessed, and duly grateful.

GOSPEL *standing, read responsively*

Luke 2: 8–20

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

KAHU: ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This was be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

ALL: "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

Kahu: ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all

they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

KAHU: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON, *Kahu Tim*

“How Shall We Thank Thee?”

SERMON HYMN 290

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

APOSTLES’ CREED *standing*

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *standing*

KAHU: Rejoicing with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for new communities of faith and for long-established congregations; for pastors and mission developers, missionaries

and teachers, bishops and associates in ministry, those in diaconal ministry;

ALL: and for all the baptized and for this congregation, Calvary by the Sea. Hear our prayer, *Aloha ke Akua.*
(God is love; love is God)

KAHU: For plants, animals, and people adapting to changing environments; for those affected by storms or droughts; for farmers, ranchers, seafood harvesters,

ALL: and all whose labor brings food to our tables. Hear our prayer, *Aloha ke Akua.*

KAHU: For the people of every nation; for leaders and decision makers; for those who protect the dignity and safety of others;

ALL: and for peacemakers, especially those within our own homes, and those whose efforts are met with resistance and fear. Hear our prayer, *Aloha ke Akua.*

KAHU: For those who face prejudice, abuse, or neglect; for those who experience depression; for those yearning for light within dark spaces in their lives; for those who grieve;

ALL: and for all who are sick. Hear our prayer, *Aloha ke Akua.*

KAHU: For this assembly; for those who help us to recognize and respond to the needs of our community;

ALL: and for those who lead us in reaching out in love and service to our neighbors. Hear our prayer, *Aloha ke Akua.*

W.H.A.L.E., a time of thanks for answered prayer and prayer requests.

KAHU: With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died

ALL: and those whose lives have borne witness to your love revealed to us in Christ. Hear our prayer, *Aloha ke Akua.*

KAHU: Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.

ALL: Amen.

Anyone desiring individual prayer and intercessions please contact Kahu Tim or members of the Stephen Ministry team at the conclusion of the worship service.

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS, Ernest, Kess and Don “Gesù Bambino”
(The Infant Jesus)

DOXOLOGY *standing* “Ho‘onani i ka Makua Mau”

Ho‘onani i ka Makua mau. Ke keiki me ka ‘Uhane nō.
Ke Akua mau ho‘omaika‘i pū. Kō kēia ao kō kēlā ao. Amene.

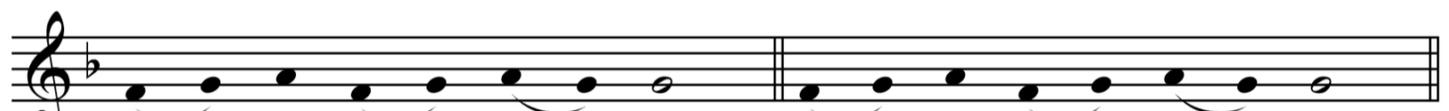
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OFFERING PRAYER *standing*

KAHU: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WE ARE FED

GREAT THANKSGIVING *standing*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS *standing*

The Sanctus is sung following, “...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na in the

highest. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

KAHU: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” In a similar manner, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

THE LORD'S PRAYER *singing*

**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.**

At Calvary by the Sea all those who have a relationship with Jesus Christ and those who are seeking such a relationship are invited to experience the real presence of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You are invited to follow the direction of the Kahu and come forward to encircle the altar area. There are kneelers for those who prefer to kneel. Dip the bread in either the red wine or the white grape juice and then eat the element.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *standing*

KAHU: We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our live proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT

SENDING SONG *standing*

“Mele Kalikimaka”

Me-le Ka - li - ki - ma - ka is the thing to say on a bright Ha -
6 wai - ian Christ-mas day. That's the is - land greet-ing that we
11 send to you from the land where palm trees sway.
17 Here we know that Christ-mas will be green and bright. The sun will shine by
22 day and all the stars at night. Me-le Ka - li - ki - ma - ka is Ha -
27 wai - i's way to say "Mer-ry Christ-mas" to you.

BENEDICTION AND SENDING, *Kahu Tim*

KAHU: May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.

ALL: Amen.

KAHU: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength.

ALL: Amen.

KAHU: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world.

ALL: Amen.

KAHU: And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father,
the + Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

ALL: Amen.

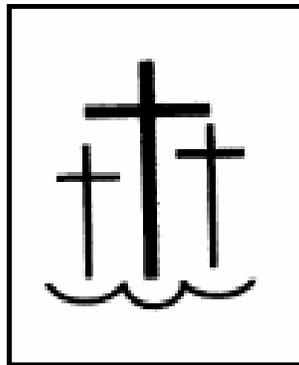
KAHU: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

GOING FORTH, *Ernest, Kess, Don*

“Grown-up Christmas List”

“Pine Cones and Holly Berries”



Calvary by the Sea welcomes to the service this morning **Ernest Harada, Don Conover,** and **Kess O'Halloran**—our guest musicians and worship leaders. Don and Ernest are long-time Calvary friends and contributors to the musical life of Hawai'i. Today is the first visit of Kess O'Halloran to Calvary.

Ernest Harada was born in Hawai'i. After graduating from Mid-Pacific Institute, he went on to New York, London and Paris to complete his education. Now retired and living in Honolulu, Ernest made his living as a professional actor/performer.

He has appeared on the Broadway stage: (original cast of Stephen Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures*-1976), in films: *Rosemary's Baby* with Mia Farrow, Ruth Gordon and Jessica Tandy-1968; *Volunteers* with Tom Hanks and John Candy-1985; *Death Becomes Her* with Goldie Hawn, Meryl Streep and Bruce Willis-1992) and on TV (*Charlie's Angels, Rosanne, Murphy Brown, Magnum P. I., among others*).

Ernest is founder of the Asian-American Pacific Artist's Association of Los Angeles, and served five terms as its President. He is also a founding member of L.A.'s East-West Players.

Originally from Western New York state, **Don Conover** is a Life Member of the American Choral Director's Association and retired in 2012 after serving 35 years as Minister of Music at Church of the Crossroads, United Church of Christ. He is in the sixth year entertaining Sunday evenings with his "*Vintage Piano Bar*" at the Hawai'i Yacht Club in Waikiki.

A member of the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Don is a House Organist at the historic Hawai'i Theatre where he performed in Carol Channing's one-woman show and with Ballet Hawai'i's "Three Phantoms in Concert". Other appearances have included "*It's Delightful, It's Delovely, It's December*" at Hawai'i Public Radio's Atherton Performing Arts Studio with actress and cabaret artist, Shari Lynn.

Conover served three seasons as Interim Music Director of The Honolulu Chorale which honored him earlier this year as the first recipient of the Joe McAlister Award "For outstanding contributions to the Chorale and Musical Community."

A native of Connecticut, **Kess O'Halloran** studied classical and jazz voice at the Performing Arts Division of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and theater at Smith College, with additional vocal, acting and film studies at Shoreline in Washington State. She began her professional musical theater career when cast in the Little Flags

Theater production *Ah, Women!* under the direction of Obie award winner Maxine Klein.

Kess trained with nationally-renowned improvisation coach Gary Austin, founder of the Groundling Theater (Los Angeles), and at Artistic New Directions (New York), whose faculty included Michael Gellman and Scott Watson (the Second City). Since arriving in Honolulu from Seattle, Kess has made numerous appearances with Don Conover and Ernest Harada at the Hawai'i Yacht Club, Waikīkī Elks Club, Medici's and La Mariana (with Ron Miyashiro).

Today, December 25, 2015

MINISTERS: All Members of Calvary by the Sea

KAHU: Tim Mason

WORSHIP AND THE ARTS: Tom Poole

ORGANIST AND PIANIST: Ina Young

GUEST MUSICIANS: Ernest Harada, Kess O'Halloran, Don Conover

INSTRUMENTALISTS: Marc Adelberger, Charlie Holdaway, Bruce Kau, Amie Lawyer, Jon Osorio, Tim Sprowls

READER, USHERS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS AND ALTAR CARE: All Tribes

WORSHIP PRODUCTION SUPPORT: Fletcher Young, Erin Day

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