



EASTER V
04-28-2024

PUKA'ANA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HOW SHALL WE LOVE?

PEHEA
KAKOU
E ALOHA
AI?

KE
HO'OHUA
NEI
KAKOU
WE
BEAR
FRUIT

KAHU KEOKI KIWAHA
PASTOR

Speakers & Events

APRIL 2024

[28] Fifth Sunday of Easter Kahu Keoki Kiwaha

MAY 2024

[04] HIAUCC 'Aha Mokupuni Kahu Sam Masilamoney
[05] Sixth Sunday of Easter Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
[12] Seventh Sunday of Easter Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
[18] WHCHCC HŌ'IKE Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
Puka'ana Congregational Church
[19] PENTECOST SUNDAY Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
[26] TRINITY SUNDAY Kahu Keoki Kiwaha

JUNE 2024

[02] First Sunday after Pentecost Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
[09] Second Sunday after Pentecost Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
[13-15] 202nd 'AHA PAE'ĀINA
Central Union Church of Honolulu
13: SCHCC Annual Meeting
'Aha Makua Opening Worship
14: 'Aha Makua Plenary & Workshops
15: 'Aha Makua Business Session
'Aha Makua Closing Worship
13-16: 'Aha Makua Youth Program
[16] Third Sunday after Pentecost Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
[23] Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Guest Preacher
[30] Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Kahu Keoki Kiwaha

TIME OF GATHERING

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kahu Keoki Kiwaha

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sharon Matsuyama

Kiakona: Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

Anaina: We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.

Kiakona: We are the branches of the Vine – sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

Anaina: We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.

Kiakona: When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

Anaina: We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.

Kiakona: Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

KĀKOU: We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build community with God and one another. Amen.

CELEBRATING HYMNS FOR THE LIVING CHURCH

Kiakona: Congregational hymnals are like family and friends. They are our companions on the Christian journey. They accompany us through the church year, amidst significant events like baptisms and funerals, and in times of great faith and doubt. Hymnals' worn covers are familiar and welcome sights in our pews. Others have exchanged the hymnbooks and its notes for words on a screen. We, the members of Puka'ana Congregational Church, have chosen to carry on the tradition of singing songs out of our hymnals.

The desire to retire a current hymnal is, thus, an important one. We come into God's house this

morning and take this time in worship to give thanks for *Hymns for the Living Church*, as we dedicate a new hymnal to the glory of God.

As the bell is rung, let us offer in silence our thoughts, reflections, and prayers of thanksgiving unto God. *The bell is rung solemnly.*

Kahu: Like our elders who have gone before – and whose vision, faithfulness, and generosity gave us the gift of the *Hymns for the Living Church*, we offer to these hymnals rest – and, yet, we bring them with us as a source of continued guidance and companionship along the way.

KĀKOU: Mahalo ke Akua! Thanks be to God. Amen.

DEDICATING WORSHIP & REJOICE

Kiakona: Family, we come together in a time of new beginning for our church. In our 175th year as a congregation, there are many things for us to celebrate – and the dedication of our new hymnal, *Worship and Rejoice*, is one of them. This is not about us forgetting the past. Instead, this is about us moving forward into the future with appreciation for all that has come before and with hope and optimism for all that has yet to come. This new hymnal, like its predecessor, is our link to our ancestors' endless praise and testimony of the Living God. May *Worship and Rejoice*, like *Hymns for the Living Church*, be our faithful companion on this journey as we sing the same endless praise and testimony for generations to come.

Kahu: To you, O God, we offer our thanks and praise for your creative power which is the source of every good gift. We take delight in the special gift of these hymnals. We thank you for the members of this congregation whose vision, faithfulness, and generosity of resources have helped to make this new hymnal available for our use. We thank you for

all those who worked to create this collection of songs for your wider church: composers, poets, and artists; editors, publishers, and committee members. Thank you for the guidance of your Spirit in the many decisions required through long years of dedicated service. Thank you for the gift of music that stirs our hearts, instructs our minds, strengthens our spirits, and sets our bodies in motion. We thank you for old songs that keep us connected with the saints and traditions of our past, and for new songs that create a legacy for future generations. We thank you for the gifts of music and song through which creation has offered you praise and thanksgiving, confession and lament, prayers and petitions. May this new hymnal, *Worship and Rejoice*, inspire our own songs in times of joy and sorrow. Enable us to sing in one voice as your gathered people, and to join in harmony with all who worship you. By your grace, may the words and melodies shape our faith for years to come, and in ways that forever give glory to you, O God. **Amen.**

+HYMN

SHOUT TO THE LORD

GH #94

+INVOKING PRAYER

Kahu Keoki Kiwaha

Kahu: Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 15:1-8 NRSV

¹ 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been

cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 22:25-31 MSG

Alaka'i: Here in this great gathering for worship I have discovered this praise-life. And I'll do what I promised right here in front of the God-worshippers. Down-and-outers sit at God's table and eat their fill. Everyone on the hunt for God is here, praising him. "Live it up, from head to toe. Don't ever quit!"

Anaina: **From the four corners of the earth people are coming to their senses, are running back to God. Long-lost families are falling on their faces before him. God has taken charge; from now on he has the last word.**

Alaka'i: All the power-mongers are before him – worshipping!
All the poor and powerless, too – worshipping! Along with those who never got it together – worshipping!

KĀKOU: Our children and their children will get in on this as the word is passed along from parent to child. Babies not yet conceive will hear the good news – that God does what he says.

+GLORIA PATRI GLORY BE TO THE FATHER (GREATOREX)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, amen.**

SERMON

Kahu Keoki Kiwaha

Some branches bear fruit. Some do not. The ones that do are pruned, cared for, and nurtured. The ones that do not are removed, thrown away, and *puhi* (burned).

We are productive people. Productivity is the standard by which we live and measure success. It is built into our lives everywhere. Productivity is the basis of our economic system. Those who produce are rewarded and get more. Those who do not produce are thrown out. Within our school system, the students who do well and produce are recognized and supported while those who do not produce get lost in the system. Careers and promotions are based on productivity. Productivity at some level is at the core of the debates around poverty, welfare, healthcare, and the elderly. “They” do not produce and our care of and for them often reflects what we think of that.

We have been convinced that productivity is the goal and only the fittest survive. That may even describe how we live our spiritual lives. How many of us have been told, in some form or fashion, or come to believe that pruned branches go to heaven and removed branches go to hell? Pruned branches produced so they are rewarded while non-productive branches are punished.

We have come to believe that bearing fruit simply means appeasing God. There is, however, a deeper issue. Productivity does not create deep abiding and intimate relationships. It creates transactions. In our Gospel reading for today, Jesus is not talking about or demanding productivity. He wants and offers connectivity, relationship, and intimacy. He desires and offers community.

Fruit or the lack thereof is a manifestation of our inner being and health. It describes and reveals whether we are living connected or disconnected lives. Being connected naturally leads to us bearing fruit. You can see that in long-term friendships, marriages, community loyalty. We do not choose whether or not we produce fruit. We do, however, choose where we abide and how we stay connected.

You know how that is. Sometimes we lose touch with a particular person. We no longer know where he or she is, what she is doing, or what is happening in her life. One day we run into him or her. It's

a bit awkward. No one is sure what to say. There's not much to talk about. There was no deep abiding presence, the connection is lost, and it seems as if what was has been thrown away. Other people we run into after five or ten years and the conversation immediately picks up where we left off those many years ago. Even though we were apart we never left each other. There was and remains a connection and mutual abiding that time, distance, and the circumstances of life cannot sever.

“What fruit am I producing?” “How much?” “Is it an acceptable quality?” Those are good questions if we understand and ask them diagnostically, as questions not about the quantity of our lives but the quality of our lives. That's what Jesus is after. That is the deeper question he is asking. It is the invitation to join the conversation, jump into the game, to participate, and to live fully. That only happens when the life, the love, and the goodness and holiness of Christ flow in us. We become an extension of and manifest his life, love, and holiness.

It is a relationship of union even as a branch is united to the vine. We live our lives as one. This is not just about relationship with Jesus; it affects and is the basis for our relationships with one another. Love for Jesus, one another, and ourselves become one love. We soon discover we are living one life and the fruit of that life and love is abundant, overflowing, and glorifying of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN

KE ALOHA A KE AKUA

NH #186

PASTORAL PRAYER

Boyd Matsuyama

THE LORD'S PRAYER

E ko mākou Makua i loko o ka lani,
E ho'āno 'ia kou inoa. E hiki mai Kou aupuni;
E mālama 'ia Kou makemake ma ka honua nei
E like me 'ia i mālama 'ia ma ka lani lā.
E hā'awi mai iā mākou i kēia lā i 'ai na mākou no nēia lā.
E kala mai ho'i iā mākou i kā mākou lawehala'ana,

me mākou e kala nei i ka po'e i lawehala i kā mākou.
Mai ho'oku'u 'oe iā mākou i ka ho'owalewale 'ia mai.
Akā, e ho'opakele nō na'e iā mākou i ka 'ino.
No ka mea, Nou ke aupuni, a me ka mana,
A me ka ho'onani 'ia a mau loa aku. 'Āmene.

RESPONSE

HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD

Hear our prayer, O Lord; hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

OFFERTORY

OFFERING INVITATION

Sharon Matsuyama

Kiakona: I know it's time for us to each make an offering as part of our worship. And yes, I believe you want to be generous with your finances. But today I am reminded that some of the most important stories of sharing in the Bible don't involve money. As we make our offering, let us also commit ourselves to give in other ways: to give friendship, to give knowledge, to share the amazing news of what Jesus is up to in this community of faith and in each of our lives, because I am convinced that God will use every offering we make, and every offering we make will bring us closer to God.

+DOXOLOGY

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. 'Āmene.

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

Kahu Keoki Kiwaha

Kahu: Gracious God, as we offer our gifts today, we reflect on the wisdom in the words from John's gospel. In this imagery, we recognize our role as branches, connected to you, the source of our strength and vitality. Help us stay rooted in your love, producing

fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

+RESPONSE

WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

**We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be,
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.
Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus:

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Chorus

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.

Chorus

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.

Chorus

INVITATION

Kahu Keoki Kiwaha

Kahu: We welcome all to the table, as God welcomes us. For this is the table, not of the church, but of God. And, it is God who says, "All are invited and all are welcome." This is a table we did not set, but to which God invites us to sit. This is a meal we did not prepare, but God invites us to eat and to share.

The world has many reasons why we are not worthy to sit at this table – our appearance, our economic circumstances, where we come from, what language we speak, how we vote, who we love, what we did or did not do in the past, and the list goes on.

But Jesus tells us to come as we are for this reason alone: **He loves us.** It is Christ's desire that we come to this table to meet him here, to be in community with him and one another, to break bread, and to share the cup of salvation.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

KĀKOU: **God we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Kahu: In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Kahu Keoki Kiwaha

Kahu: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, broke it, and, 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, poured wine into it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; for this represents a new covenant – one confirmed in my love. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

In remembrance of these acts, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, together with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**KĀKOU: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

SHARING OF THE MEAL

Kahu: As we come to the table, we remember that these are the gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and was raised for you; and, feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving. Come, for all things are ready.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Creative God, thank you for revealing your love to us
in bread and juice. We recognize your presence in ourselves
and all around us, and we ask that you continue
to reveal your love for all Creation through our lives.
Make us your people and use us to reveal the inbreaking of
your kingdom here and now: a world of justice and peace.
Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

+HYMN

MAJESTY

GH #43

+BENEDICTION

Kahu Jonathan Roach

+FELLOWSHIP SONG

GOD BE WITH YOU

**God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsel's guide uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet,
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**