



# **Puka'ana Congregational Church**

830 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 21, 2025 | 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# Welcome to Church

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WE'RE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE

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Aloha mai kākou! Welcome to Puka'ana Congregational Church. *Puka'ana* means *Exodus*. Our name reminds us that we are always on the move, journeying with our loving and liberating God who guides us through the wilderness and wonder of life. As a people of all generations, we embrace the beauty and struggle of being human, trusting that God meets us not in perfection but in our honest striving.

Whether you have been part of this 'ohana for generations, are returning after time away, or are visiting for the very first time, know that you are a cherished part of this gathering. We are a worshipping community rooted in the living Word of God and in the teachings of Jesus Christ, grounded in our Hawaiian heritage, shaped by the Spirit's movement, and committed to a faith that is both reverent and progressive. Here, we honor our history, celebrate God's presence in our midst, and lean into the hope of God's promises for the future.



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Our doors, our hearts, and our table are open wide. In this place you will find a community of faith that seeks justice, practices compassion, sings with joy, and strives to follow Jesus with courage and grace. We are so glad you are here—come, share in the blessing, and know that this 'ohana is incomplete without you.

**The Rev. Keoki Kiwaha**  
*Senior Kahu*

**Vicky Dinson**  
*Senior Deacon*

# Our Community Gathers

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## GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

KA WELINA

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

KE KĀHEA I KA HAIPULE

*Kiakona* Shepherd of Israel, shine forth! Awaken your power and come to save us.  
*Anaina* **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**  
*Kiakona* In the longest night, in the ache of waiting, we cry out for your light.  
*Anaina* **Though our tears have been our bread, we trust in your promise of love.**  
*Kiakona* Stir up your strength, O Holy One, and come dwell among us once more.  
*Kākou* **Revive us, and we will call on your name – Emmanuel, God with us, our Light and our Hope.**

## THE ADVENT WREATH

KA LEI O KA HIKINA

*Kahu Kivaha* Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of aloha—love. This circle of light reminds us that God’s aloha is without end. As we light this flame, we remember that love is the heart of Advent and the way of Christ. In a world still longing for healing, we choose to live in aloha, sharing the light that makes all things new.

*Anaina* **We give thanks for the light of Christ that shines in our hearts and in our world. May this flame remind us to live with hope, peace, joy, and aloha.**

*Alaka'i* Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

*Anaina* **With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.**

*Alaka'i* We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

*The People stand.*



## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

KA PULE O KA LĀ

*Kahu Kivaha* The Lord be with you.*Anaina* And also with you.*Kahu Kivaha* O God of promise, who gives signs of hope in uncertain times, awaken us to trust the messengers You send and the plans You redeem. When fear clouds our hearts, remind us that Emmanuel has come—love made flesh among us. Shine Your light into our longest nights, that we may walk in faith and rest in Your steadfast presence. Through Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel.*Kākou* Amen.*The People are seated.*

# To Proclaim the Word of God

## KA 'EUANELIO HEMOLELE

I KĀKAU 'IA AI E SANETA MATAIO 1:18-25

Penei ho'i ka hānau 'ana o Iesū Kristo: I ho'opalau 'ē 'ia kona makuwahine 'o Maria na Iosepa, 'a'ole na'e lāua i pili, a 'ikea 'o ia, ua hāpai na ka 'Uthane Hemolele. Akā, he kanaka pono kāna kāne 'o Iosepa, 'a'ole ia i makemake e hō'ino iā ia ma ke ākea; mana'o iholā ia e kipaku malū iā ia. A i kona no'ono'o 'ana ma ia mau mea, aia ho'i, 'ike 'ia aku ka 'ānela a ka Haku e ia ma ka moe, 'i maila, E Iosepa, e ka mamo a Dāvida, mai maka'u 'oe ke lawe iā Maria i wahine nāu; no ka mea, ua hāpai 'o ia na ka 'Uthane Hemolele. A e hānau mai 'o ia i keiki kāne, a e kapa aku 'oe i kona inoa 'o IESŪ; no ka mea, e ho'ōla ia i kona po'e kānaka mai ko lākou hewa. Ma ia mau mea i kō ai ka mea a ka Haku i 'ōlelo mai ai ma ke kāula, i ka 'i 'ana mai, Aia ho'i, e hāpai ana kekahi wahine pu'upa'a, a e hānau mai ia i keiki kāne, a e kapa 'ia kona inoa 'o 'EMANU'ELA; 'o ke 'ano kēia, 'o ke Akua me kākou. A ala a'ela 'o Iosepa mai ka hiamoe 'ana, hana akula ia e like me kā ka 'ānela a ka Haku i kauoha mai ai iā ia, a lawe maila ia i kāna wahine; 'A'ole na'e i moe aku iā ia, a hiki i ka wā i hānau ai 'o ia i kāna makahiapo kāne, a kapa akula ia i kona inoa 'o IESŪ.

*Po'e Helubelu*    Ka 'Euanelio o ka Haku.  
*Anaina*        E ho'onani iā 'Oe, e Kristo ke Ali'i.

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Po'e Helubelu*    The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Anaina*        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

KA PULE O KA MĀLAMALAMA

*Kahu Kiwaha*    Speak to us, O God, in our waiting, watching, hoping, and rejoicing. By your holy Word, walk with us through these Advent days until the day of your coming. **Amen.**

## **THE SERMON**

KAHU KEOKI KIWAHA

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

KE KUMU MANA'O'I'O O NĀ LUNA'ŌLELO

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

## **PRAISE MEDITATION**

*Your Name (Christmas)*

**BALOCHE/PACKIAM**

Verse I      Humbly to the earth You came  
Born unto this world to stay  
God with us Emmanuel  
Now we adore Your Name

Chorus      Your Name is a strong and mighty tower  
Your Name is a shelter like no other  
Your Name let the nations sing it louder  
Cause nothing has the Power to save  
But Your Name

Verse II      Jesus in Your Name we pray  
Come and fill our hearts today  
Lord give us strength to live for You  
And glorify Your Name  
*Chorus x2*

# **To Pray for One Another** \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE PRAYER BOOK**

**KA PUKE MAU PULE**

*It has been the custom of this church for generations for the People to offer prayer requests at this time in our worship service – which are then recorded into our Prayer Book. All are welcome to make prayer requests here or have them added to the Prayer Book after service.*

## **THE PRAYER HYMN**

*Ke Aloha A Ke Akua*

**NH #186**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

NA PULE A KA LEHULEHU

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

KA PULE A KA HAKU

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.

### THE RESPONSE

WHISPER A PRAYER

E pu-le i ke ka-ka-hi-a-ka, e pu-le i ke 'a-wa-ke-a,  
E pu-le i ke a-hi-a-hi, no ko-na ho'o-mai-ka'i  
God answers prayers in the morning, God answers prayers at noon  
God answers prayers in the evening, so keep you heart in tune

## To Respond with Generosity

*We give our lūlū in generous and faithful response to the love, promise, and generosity of God. You are welcome to place your gifts in the offering bowl at the entrance or at the altar. If you prefer to give electronically, you may visit us at [pukaanachurch.org/giving](http://pukaanachurch.org/giving), or scan the QR Code which will take you to our giving form.*



### THE OFFERING INVITATION

KE KAHEA I KA LŪLŪ

*Kiakona* In gratitude for God's steadfast love made known in Emmanuel, let us bring our gifts—signs of our faith, our hope, and our commitment to God's work of love and justice in the world.

*The People stand.*

## THE DOXOLOGY

*Ho‘onani I Ka Makua Mau*

OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

## THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

KA PULE LŪLŪ

*Kahu Kivaha* O God of abundance, receive these gifts and the hearts that give them;  
bless and multiply them for the healing of the world and the building of  
Your beloved community. **Amen.**

## THE RESPONSE

THANK YOU LORD

E Ke Akua, ho‘opākele ‘Oe ia‘u; ‘O ‘Oe ka Ho‘ola o ke ao nei,  
E Ke Akua aloha e, no Kou ola nui, mahalo nō.  
Thank you Lord for saving my soul, thank you Lord for making me whole  
Thank you Lord for giving to me Thy great salvation so rich and free.

*The People are seated.*

# To Break Bread at Christ’s Table——

## THE CALL TO THE TABLE

KE KAHEA I KA ‘AHA‘AINA

*Kahu Kivaha* We welcome all to the table as the Lord welcomes us. For this is the table,  
not of the Church, but of the Lord. This is a table we did not set, but to  
which we are invited to sit. This is a meal we did not prepare, but to which  
we are invited to eat and to share. It is Christ’s desire that we meet him  
here, to be in community with him and one another, to break bread, and  
to share the cup of salvation.

## THE HYMN

EMMANUEL

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.



## CONFESSION & RECONCILIATION

KA HANA PENIKENIA

*Kahu Kivaha* Christ our Sovereign calls us into a kingdom rooted not in domination or fear, but in mercy, truth, and reconciliation. And yet we confess that we often follow other voices—voices that scatter instead of gather, voices that diminish instead of heal. We turn to Christ not in shame, but in hope, trusting that the One who reigns from a cross understands our struggles and invites us into new life. Let us lay down what burdens us and return to the One who makes us whole. Come, let us offer our confessions unto God in silence.

*The altar bell is rung slowly to mark the time as we pray silently.*

Let us pray as one.

*Kakou* **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 Kivaha* Beloved, hear the good news: *in the name of + Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.* Christ meets us with grace deeper than our failures and love stronger than our fears. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and set free to live with courage and compassion. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

KA HO'OMAIKA'I NUI

*Kahu Kivaha* God be with you.

*Anaina* **And also with you.**

*Kahu Kivaha* Lift up your hearts.

*Anaina* **We lift them up to God.**

*Kahu Kivaha* Let us give thanks to God Most High.

*Anaina* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Kahu Kivaha* Holy God, we give you thanks and praise, for you have made us strong with the strength that comes from you alone.

In Christ, the image of the invisible God, all things hold together—things in heaven and on earth, things seen and unseen. Through him you have reconciled all creation and drawn us into the realm of mercy, justice, and peace.

Therefore, with all your people in heaven and on earth, with the kūpuna who surround us, and with all creation that sings your glory, we join our voices and proclaim:

## THE SANCTUS

+GRAYSON W. BROWN

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Hea-ven and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

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

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

NA 'ŌLELO HO'OKUMU

*Kahu Kivaha* Holy One, in Jesus Christ you have reconciled all things—those on earth and those in heaven—binding the broken pieces of creation together in a harmony we can scarcely imagine. We remember with gratitude the life he lived among us: healing the sick, lifting the lowly, breaking down barriers of oppression, and proclaiming a reign rooted in mercy, justice, and transformative love. We remember how he welcomed the forgotten,

confronted the powers that scattered your people, and revealed your fullness in every act of compassion. And we remember that, in the face of betrayal and violence, he chose forgiveness over retaliation and love over fear.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it saying: “This is my body, given for you.”

After supper he took the cup, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this in remembrance of me.” As we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim not only his death and resurrection, but the reconciling peace he pours into the world—a peace by which all things hold together.

And so, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

***Kākou* Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## **THE CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

KA PULE HO’OLA’A

*Kahu Kivaha* Pour out your Holy Spirit upon this bread and this cup, and upon us gathered here, that we may be strengthened with the courage of Christ, renewed in compassion, and joined to your reconciling work in the world.

***Kākou* Amen.**

## **THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

KE KOMO I KA ‘AHA’AINA

*Kahu Kivaha* Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

***Kākou* Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof; but just say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

*Kahu Kivaha* Nā makana o Ke Akua, na ka po’e o Ke Akua. The gifts of God for all God’s people. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and was raised for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and be thankful.

*The bread and juice (called “elements”) are now distributed to the People by the servers. In the custom of this church, please hold onto your elements until all have been served so that we may partake of the elements together.*

## THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

KA PULE MAHOPE O KA 'AHA'AINA

Gracious God, you have fed us with the life of Christ and united us in his peace. Send us out to live as people of his reign—courageous, compassionate, and rooted in hope. Amen.

*The People stand.*

# To Go Forth and Serve

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## THE HYMN OF SENDING

*Ko Kākou Akua Kokua Mau*

NH #8

## THE BENEDICTION

KA PULE HO'OKU'U

*Kahu Kivaha* Go forth in the power of Christ, whose reign is compassion, courage, and peace. May his justice steady your steps and his love guide your living, today and always. **Amen.**

## THE RESPONSE

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.

*The service has ended. Go in peace to love and serve God and God's people.*

# Our Calendar

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## DECEMBER 2025

21	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
24	Christmas Eve Service: 5:30 PM	Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
25	CHRISTMAS DAY	
28	First Sunday after Christmas	Kahu Keoki Kiwaha

## JANUARY 2026

04	Second Sunday after Christmas	Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
06-09	Pū‘ā Foundation 30th Anniversary Gala Mana Gathering at ‘Aulani: A Disney Resort	
11	First Sunday after the Epiphany Common Council Meeting	Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
17	Kaleohano-Wentworth Reunion Meeting: 9:30AM	
18	Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
21	SCHCC Executive Zoom Meeting: 7PM	
24	SCHCC Board of Directors Meeting: 9AM	
25	Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Kahu Keoki Kiwaha
26	HIAUCC Executive Zoom Meeting: 7PM	

# Who We Are

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## A PEOPLE OF EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME

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This is God's house of prayer, refuge, and belonging for all people. We believe that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We acknowledge that there are too many exclusive spaces in this world – including some churches. We are not one of them. All are invited and all are welcome, to experience the love and presence of God and community just as they are.

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our heritage is rooted in the faith of Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia who inspired the Congregationalist missionaries to bring Christianity to Hawaii in 1820. Today, we are the **United Church of Christ**. Our mission is to follow Jesus by loving God and neighbor, working for justice, and building a peaceful, inclusive world. Our theology centers on God's love and grace, revealed through Jesus Christ. The UCC values both the Bible and human reason, encouraging people to explore faith with openness and honesty. We believe in a Still Speaking God, meaning God continues to guide us today through the Holy Spirit, community, and conscience.

## A PEOPLE WITH A MISSION

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Sent forth by the Spirit, we follow Jesus into the world – loving God and neighbor through our **service**, our **witness**, and our **faithful stewardship of creation**.

## A PEOPLE WITH A VISION

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We envision Puka'ana Congregational Church to be a house of prayer, refuge, and belonging for all people where lives are transformed by the gospel, disciples of Jesus are nurtured and equipped, all are drawn into loving, faithful relationship with God through Christ and compassionate action in the world; and, rooted in our kuleana to malama aina, our commitment to the faithful stewardship of the land, waters, and historic spaces entrusted to our care is lived out as an expression of our love for God, creation, and future generations.

## A PEOPLE WHO ALOHA 'ĀINA

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We are in the ahupua'a of Keālia, in the moku of Kona, on the mokupuni of Hawai'i, in the pae'āina of Papahānaumokuākea. Hawai'i is an indigenous space whose original people are Kānaka 'Ōiwi. We recognize that generations of Hawaiian ancestral knowledge and lifeways have shaped and continue to care for this 'āina so that we can enjoy the gifts of this special place. We affirm our commitment to just and faithful stewardship of this 'āina upon which we continue to live out our faith in worship, fellowship, and service. We join in the work towards authentic reconciliation and healing.



# What to Expect at Worship

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## WORSHIP LIFE AT PUKAANA

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Our worship life is expressed in our Sunday Services, in services commemorating “holy” days sacred to the story of Christianity and to the Hawaiian congregational churches, and in services celebrated together with the wider UCC family. We follow a liturgical pattern – calls to worship, invoking prayers, readings, sermons, reciting the creeds, prayers of the people, tithes and offerings, holy communion, and, of course, the singing of hymns and praise songs.

## WEEKLY COMMUNION

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We celebrate Communion weekly in our church. Communion serves as a tangible reminder of the redemption, reconciliation, and restoration available to us all through Jesus Christ. We are moved by Christ’s leading to break bread together and share the cup “as often” as possible – creating as many opportunities to invite and welcome all to come to the table just as they are. We invite all with extravagant welcome to join us at Christ’s table.

## LANGUAGES

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As a historic, Hawaiian, congregational church, our services are conducted in both English and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. Our church welcomes people of all languages and dialects to share in our services in ways they are comfortable.

## MUSIC STYLE

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Our congregation loves to sing. We sing hymns that have been passed through the generations in English and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. We also enjoy singing contemporary praise and worship songs and other appropriate secular songs.

## BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

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Bible translations are a matter of personal preference. Whatever translation, or version, speaks to your heart and to your life is welcome. In our Worship Aid, the readings are provided in Ka Baibala Hemolele and the New Revised Standard Version.

## WHAT TO WEAR TO CHURCH

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When you come to Puka‘ana you will see a mixture of clothing styles. Some are more formal, but most dress casually especially on those warm summer days. You are welcome here no matter what you wear, so wear whatever you feel comfortable in!

**If this is your first time to our church, you will be greeted warmly by our folks. If you have any questions, concerns, or need help, you are welcome to ask us at any time.**



PUKA'ANA  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH **UCC**  
FOUNDED 1849

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