

*The First Chinese Church of Christ
In Hawai'i*



*First Chinese Church of Christ
Honolulu, Hawaii*

*Loving God, loving people,
and sharing the Good News*

The Rev. Dr. Choo Lak Yeow, Intentional Interim Pastor

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The First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawai'i

United Church of Christ

April 16, 2023 – 10:30 AM Service

Second Sunday of Easter

GATHERING IN THE WORD

Prelude

Esther Yuan, Organist

Chorale: In Death's Strong Grasp The Savior Lay J. S. Bach

Welcome

Puanani Soong

Good morning and welcome to the First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawaii, on April 16, 2023. We welcome those who are joining us in person and those from all corners of the globe. Do we have any visitors this morning? Please stand and introduce yourselves . . . if not, let us bow our heads in prayer.

Opening Prayer

God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.

* The congregation may rise in body or spirit.

Gathering Songs

Praise Team

1. *There Is Joy In the Lord* (Cheri Keaggy)

2. *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

John Newton (Chris Tomlin & Louie)

*Opening Hymn

Congregation

O Worship the King

#10 Red Hymnal

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Choo Lak Yeow

Lord's Prayer

Pastor Choo Lak Yeow

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Puanani Soong

1 Peter 1: 3 – 6 [NIV]

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or

fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

This is the Word of our Lord, may He bless our reading.

Message

Pastor Choo Lak Yeow

"There is wonderful joy ahead"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Call to Offering

Puanani Soong

Receiving our Tithes and Offerings

Loving God, encourage us to give and not to count the cost, but only to see the value of the difference we can make.

Offertory Music

Praise Team

Step By Step

David "Beaker" Strasser

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Offertory Prayer

Puanani Soong

Dedication

Loving God, you loved us so much you gave us your Son, Jesus Christ. May these gifts be the evidence of how much we love you. May they be the indication that we want to be more loving. Amen.

SENDING IN THE WORD

Announcements

Puanani Soong

Closing Song

Blessed Be Your Name

Praise Team
Matt & Beth Redman

***Closing Hymn**

Make Me a Blessing

#452 Red Hymnal

Congregation

Benediction

Pastor Choo Lak Yeow

Postlude

March

Esther Yuan, Organist
Charles M. Widor

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mahalo for the altar flowers from Lois Mui.

There is a Board Meeting today at noon in the MPR.

The next FCCC On Target for Christ archery event will be Sat. May 13 from 10am - 1pm in the preschool playground. Please invite your family and friends.

What do the Colors of the Archery Life Bow mean?!

BLACK LIMBS

The black limbs represent sin. The definition of sin is actually an archery term. It means to "miss the mark". Everyone misses the mark or sins throughout their life. Sin separates us from God and it has a serious penalty. Separation - Romans 3:23-24 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus". Penalty - Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

RED RISER

The red riser represents another type of Riser - the one who rose on the third day - Jesus. The riser is the most important part of a bow. All the strength and forgiveness in a bow is anchored to the riser. In life the same is true about Jesus, He freely offers his strength and forgiveness to us. Jesus shed his blood on the cross to pay for our sin. Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

WHITE GRIP

The white grip and white limb pockets represent purity. You are made pure once you recognize you are separated from God and you ask for the forgiveness that Jesus offers. This is how you "Receive the Riser". The Blood of Jesus will make you "White as Snow" 1 John 3:5 "But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Him there is no sin."

BLUE LIMBS

The blue limbs represent water baptism, which is an outward expression of an inward heart change. Once you "Receive the Riser" you are invited to live for Jesus and die to your old sinful self. We are buried in the likeness of His death and raised in newness of life. Romans 6:4 "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we may to live a new life."

GREEN CAM

The green cam represents growing in your faith. Energy is stored in the cam on a bow. When the string is released there is a compounding effect that takes place to propel the arrow. As we open our heart and mind to growing in our faith, we experience a compounding effect as well. That is the power that Jesus brings to our life through the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 3:18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

STRING

The string represents the Word of God and the Holy Spirit intertwined in our life. We learn to live out the instruction from the bible as it is given to us by the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust

in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

GOLD

The gold wheel represents the streets of heaven lined with gold. John 14: 2-3 “My Father’s house has many rooms, if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

~Message and Bow Purchase is from “On Target for Christ” Making Christ the Center of our Lives.

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