



December 6, 2020
The Second Sunday of Advent

WELCOME BACK!

REMINDERS:

- Please wear your masks.
- Every other pew is being used to maintain social distancing. Only families of the same household can sit close to each other. Only two non-family members can sit on each pew (one on each end)
- No procession or recession by priest.
- No service booklet except for the priest, acolyte and/or appointed response person.
- The Offering collection plate will not be passed around during the service. It is in the back of church. Please try to place your offering there before the service or at the end if you missed it.
- Communion will be bread only. It will be given closer to the pews. Single file down the aisle and exit to the left or right to walk back to your seat.
- No contact during the peace (just turn and acknowledge each other with a bow, wave, etc.)
- No coffee hour after the service.
- If you are feeling sick or feverish, please stay home.

IMPORTANT: No singing or responses out loud. The congregation will prayerfully listen during the service and silently respond in their heads and hearts. One person will be appointed to say the people's responses for the congregation.

READINGS FOR TODAY:

The Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Prayers of the People - Form II

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;
for our Bishop(s) Bishop Curry & Bishop Fitzpatrick; for this gathering; and for all
ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;
and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the
oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those on our prayer list.

For the healing and care of: Celine Niau Nelson, Jan Motoshige, Sumie Mizushima, Amy Fiandach, Steve Kai, Blaise Napu'unoa, Jonathan Lee, Mildred Ogai, Rei Hamano, Aki Shitagi, David Lee, Lori Maunalanga, & Janine LeGrande.

For the birthdays of: Joshua Lee, Rev. Alex Geston and Stephen Hamano

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence



Weekly Announcements

*Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, 1801 Tenth Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816
(808)735-5944, goodsamhawaii@yahoo.com*

Good Samaritan is an open and inclusive community, all are welcome.

December 6, 2020

The Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Good Samaritan Church!

We want to thank you for being with us today. Your presence is a gift to our community, and your prayers enhance our worship. We look forward to your return!

Please also hold the following people in your prayers

***Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:* St. Luke's, Honolulu. The Rev. Ray Woo (Vicar) & Mrs. Vivien Woo.**

Announcements (new)

Kadomatsu Day - Saturday, December 26th

Please let Deb know if you will be joining us on that day. We need a headcount for ordering bentos. We will be cutting bamboo early in the morning in Kaneohe then bringing it back for cutting and decorating. Pre-order flyers can be emailed out or given

out. Flyers in are in the back of the church. A kadomatsu and bento lunch will be provided for volunteers.

Church Front Door Repaired

The church front door was repaired and re-painted a few weeks ago. The door was misaligned with the latch and the doorknob was overdue for a change. Gavin installed the new doorknob and we hired a handyman that replaced the wood trimming, created a new latch hole, and repainted the door.

Read new updates on Jan Motoshige on the last few pages of this bulletin.

Announcements (repeat)

Veggie/Fruit bags:

Our next door neighbor, Michelle Gorham, delivers pre-packed packages of veggies (items vary) from the Farm to Family program with the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center. Basically the extras are divided between our church and another one. Usually Deb gets them late Monday night so they are ready then or on Tuesday morning. They have been delivered by Deb or picked up. If you would like to get a bag for someone, let Deb know and it will be set aside for pick up or delivery. Michelle will sadly be moving to Switzerland next week but will have the program coordinator deliver bags for the last few weeks of December.

Rock Wall Repair Needed:

The rock wall next to the church is in need of repair. Is there anyone that has done masonry work or have recommendations? We need to get it fixed before the problem gets worse.

City and County Grant Received:

We were fortunate to recently receive \$8,720.58 from a grant through the City and County during their 2nd round of applications. Last Spring we also got the Payroll Protection Program grant.

Bishop's Committee Meeting:

We will try to schedule a zoom meeting soon. If you have church related items you want the committee to discuss, please let Deb know.

A Reminder on Phishing Scams: Online scams are here to stay and we need to remain vigilant. The Diocesan Support Center continues to receive messages about questionable emails from the Bishop, and also from their own clergy. It's always good to double-check if you are not sure after taking some precautionary steps. Here are a few reminders to help identify whether an email is legit:

- Check the return email address. If the address doesn't match the name of the sender, that's a red flag. (Some emails may use similar addresses to legit ones - check closely.)
- Look for grammatical or spelling errors in the text of the email.
- Never open attachments from unknown sources, especially those with an ".exe" extension that could launch an unwelcome virus or malware onto your device
- Check the address at the bottom of the email. If it says "Pastor Tom" and Tom never goes by "Pastor," it's fake.

Finally, if the email appears safe and the sender is asking for money, goods or personal data, contact the person directly to verify.

Two By Two Crafts - Gail and Ariel Lee have many other craft products available online. You can check out their website at <https://twobytwocrafts.com> if you're interested!

Piano Lessons: Anyone interested in learning to play the piano? See Ben for his business card, he'd love to receive referrals!

Feel free to take the readings and announcements home with you today.

Thank You to Our Worship Team! December 6, 2020	
Supply Clergy:	Rev. Imelda Padasdao
Music:	Ben Trusnovec
Altar Guild:	Melissa Morinishi
Acolytes:	Gavin Nishihira
Lector:	Gavin Nishihira
Alms Bearer:	Youth
Counters:	Chris Omuro & Pat Lum

<i>Looking Ahead</i> NEXT WEEK SUNDAY – DECEMBER 13, 2020	
Supply Clergy:	Rev. Imelda Padasdao
Music:	Ben Trusnovec
Altar Guild:	Deb Nishihira
Acolytes:	Gavin Nishihira
Lector:	Gavin Nishihira
Alms Bearer:	Youth
Counters:	Jessica Lum & Melissa Morinishi

The following are the latest two updates on Jan from her daughter Joni. Deb would like to send Jan a booklet of well-wishes from Good Samaritan. If you would like to type a short message and send it to Deb via email at dnishihira@gmail.com or write something down on a piece of paper, please do and give it to Deb. It will then be pasted into a booklet and given to Joni to give to Jan.

Update on Jan Motoshige - Hospitalization

Journal Entry by Joni Kohama — November 30, 2020

As of today, Mom remains under observation and in-treatment at Kuakini Hospital.

Since admittance last Friday, Mom has undergone many tests and has been seen by many specialists to identify the cause of her pain and rapid progression of weakness.

At this time, Mom is being treated for Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) - a rare disorder in which your body's immune system attacks your nerves. With some improvement on day 3 of a 4-day GBS treatment and based on the way her pain and weakness is manifesting, her doctors have concluded that her pain and rapid progressive weakness are due primarily to the onset of GBS, and, most likely, an unexpected, additional, delayed side effect of the drug used for her chemotherapy.

Assuming Mom continues to respond positively to the GBS treatment, the doctors believe that she can be discharged to a skilled nursing facility sometime this week (maybe Wednesday or Thursday). At the skilled nursing facility, she will receive occupational and physical therapy on a daily basis and the professional medical support will also be key in helping her while her broken foot is healing in its cast. Since GBS progresses differently in each person, they are unable to predict how long Mom will be at the skilled nursing facility. It could be weeks - it could be months.

Regarding Mom's breast cancer – While Mom is at the skilled nursing facility, she will not be able to undergo surgery, which means, unfortunately, her mastectomy or lumpectomy will be delayed. This is not ideal as Mom's type of cancer (Triple Negative Breast Cancer) is aggressive. Her neurologist and oncologist are working to figure out what can be done so that the progress achieved by the chemotherapy (i.e. the shrinking of 1 of the 2 tumors) will not be lost due to the delay of the surgery.

In general, Mom remains positive. Due to her cognitive impairment, she does get overwhelmed and confused at times but calms down when we remind her what is going on. She is grateful for the kind nurses and care she is receiving while at Kuakini Hospital and seems to understand why she cannot come home yet. We receive updates from Mom's doctors every day and her nurses are always accessible and understanding.

Due to COVID, the hospital limits the number of visitors per day as well as caps the length of time for each visit. The hospital also does not accept any deliveries of flowers,

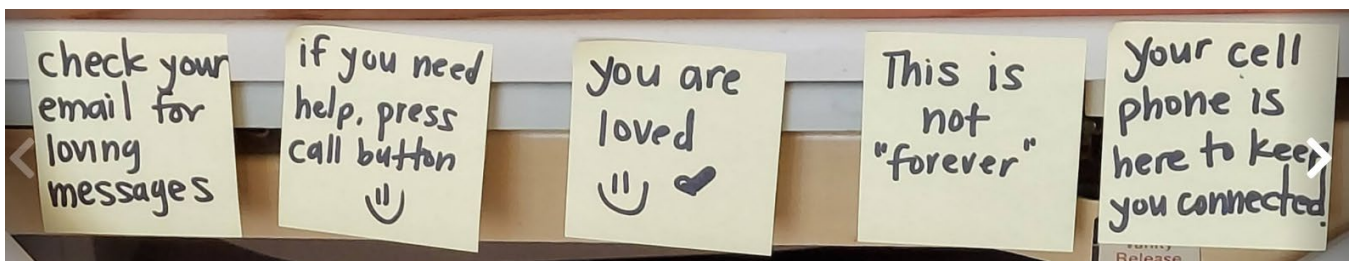
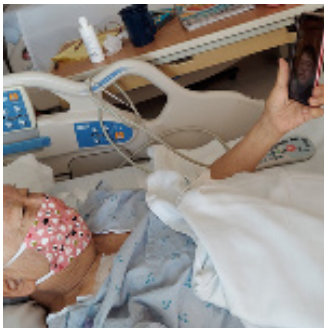
plants or balloons. Additionally, the skilled nursing facility that she will be transferred to will have COVID guidelines that will not allow visitors.

Mom now has her cell phone with her in the hospital so if you would like to send her a message directly, please feel free to email her at moto1990@me.com. You are welcome to cc me and I will make sure she sees your message. She does not often reply to text messages.

If you have her cell number, feel free to call her. She also sometimes knows how to answer FaceTime calls. She is trying to keep her phone charged. Just a reminder that Mom's memory may be impaired and what she says is not always true. She often forgets about COVID and sometimes can't remember why her foot is in a cast. She may ask you the same question multiple times. Feel free to contact me if what she says to you is concerning. I appreciate any information that helps me keep an eye on her mental/emotional health. My email is joni@gigaisland.com and I can also be reached via phone/text at 265-0945.

We appreciate all of your care and concern.
Mahalo!
Joni

Update on Jan Motoshige - A Good Solution for a Challenging Situation *Journal Entry by Joni Kohama — December 3, 2020*



As of today, Mom is still at Kuakini Hospital. She still has some pain and is not happy being in a cast but is in relatively good spirits.

Yesterday Mom finished her 4-day treatment for her Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS). Due to some improvement while on the GBS treatment (she took 3 steps with assistance during physical therapy) her doctors feel confident in the GBS diagnosis and will be discharging her this week.

As there is no cure for GBS, the only way that Mom can “reverse” the damage done by GBS is to go through daily occupational and physical therapy at a skilled nursing facility. The good news is that the facility that she will be going to is the Kuakini Geriatric Care facility – on the same campus as Kuakini Hospital

The Kuakini Geriatric Care facility, also known as *Hale Pulama Mau* (HPM), is a good solution for Mom’s situation because its location will allow her doctors to keep a close watch on her GBS while simultaneously and proactively moving her closer to getting the surgery she needs, hopefully, before the cancer starts growing back. As her specialists (neurologist, oncologist, surgeon, internist) all have their offices on the Kuakini campus,

- If her doctors want to see her before she is strong enough to go to their offices, they can go to see her at HPM as all Kuakini doctors have privileges also at HPM
- When she is stronger and has an appointment at her doctor’s office, the HPM staff will put her in a wheelchair and we would just need to wheel her to the doctor’s office (literally a quick walk across a parking lot)
- If she needs to go to the hospital for further scans or testing, the HPM staff would wheel her to the test and then return her to her room.
- After she gains back some strength, it will be easier (and possibly faster) to coordinate the various appointments and tests needed to clear her for surgery.
- Hypothetically, when she is cleared for surgery, she could be discharged from HPM and be directly admitted into the hospital to have the surgery.

The other benefits of HPM are:

- HPM is a safe skilled nursing facility with no COVID outbreaks to date.
- This skilled nursing facility is small - contained to one floor at HPM - so there would be far less patients (and less chance to be exposed to COVID) compared to the other facilities we were considering.
- The other floors of HPM provide long-term and assisted living care however Mom would only be interacting with the staff and patients on the skilled nursing floor.
- Mom will not need to use a medical transport service which will save on some out-of-pocket expenses as well as limit her exposure to others.
- If emergency care is needed, the Kuakini ER and hospital is right outside the front doors of HPM.

If all goes as planned, Mom will be discharged from the hospital and admitted into HPM on Friday afternoon (12/4). We are still awaiting further instruction and information regarding the transition and any guidelines for visiting. The good news is that when I visited yesterday, I taught mom how to answer Google Duo and FaceTime video calls on her cell phone. (See picture attached of her video chatting with Lennon). In the event Mom is not allowed to have visitors at HPM, we are hoping that she can stay connected with friends and family via video calls.

The added complication of GBS, not to mention the broken bone in her foot, have definitely been unexpected obstacles on the road to treating her cancer however, we are focusing on being grateful for this upcoming placement at HPM. HPM seems like a solid, good solution to manage the current challenging situation. We are not too familiar with the level of care at HPM, and there are not many reviews online however, we have not heard anything unfavorable about HPM. We know that it is an older facility however we have seen much renovation work going on at HPM. Our plan is to make the best of the situation and remain hopeful.

Due to the unknown progression of GBS we are unable to estimate how long she will be at HPM. Due to her mild cognitive impairment, she is experiencing some confusion. (She recently did not know she was in a hospital and forgot she had a call button for assistance.) The good news, however, is that so far, with just a little encouragement, Mom seems to be able to pull herself out of any confusion and/or depression. When we visited yesterday, I had an opportunity to post some reminders (i.e. memory aids) and positive messaging (see attached picture) and I read to her the emails and texts she had received. By the time we left, her spirits were definitely lifted and she was filled with much gratitude for the kindness and support of family and friends.

Mahalo to all of you for the outpouring of care and concern. We are so blessed and grateful to have you all in our lives.