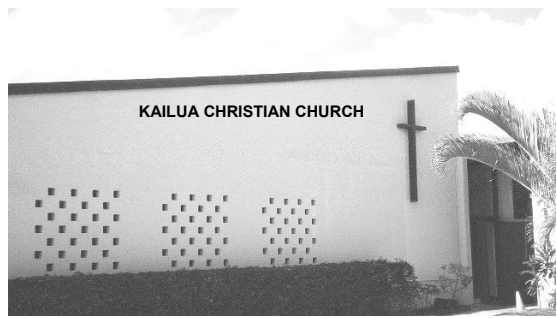


# The Waves of Faith

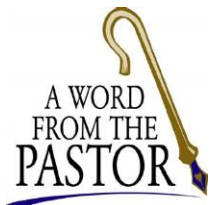
Kailua Christian Church (United Church of Christ)  
317 Manono Street, Kailua, HI 96734-2211  
Chartered 1959 –



DECEMBER 2020

Volume 35

Issue 12



## “God as Shepherd and Pastor as Shepherd in Isaiah 40”

The lectionary text I have chosen for Sunday, December 6, 2020 (Second Sunday in Advent) is Isaiah 40: 1 - 11, N.R.S.V. Although this is about the Prophet Isaiah,\* we can hear the voice of John the Baptist who prepares the way for Jesus whom we know as “the Good Shepherd.” Today, we experience the Lord through the ministry of the Pastor whom we call, “shepherd.” Three attributes of the Lord which are realized in Jesus of Nazareth are highlighted. Today, it is the pastor who shepherds the flock or the members of a church. In this way, God speaks to us about calling a new pastor.

1. **“Comfort, O comfort my people.”** The Prophet Isaiah was commanded by God to comfort the people. This was during the time of the Babylonia Captivity when God’s people experienced much loss and grief. Jesus also had the same calling as do all who are ordained as pastor and teacher. Think of the time when you were anxious, afraid or in a crisis mode, not sure of how to cope or when help would arrive. So often, it is the pastor who may place a phone call, pay a visit, or sit with us. We know when someone cares and understands, and it is a blessing when the pastor has compassion and empathy when we are in some kind of pain. It is Christ’s church where people find this comfort and peace!
2. **“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.”** Isaiah also was tasked with preparing the way for God to enter into the lives of those living very restricted lives likened to being in prison. God’s people had obstacles which

kept them from welcoming the Lord in the desert. Jesus continued to break down barriers and bring about a conversion of the hearts of those who needed to be open to God. Their circumstances stood in the way of experiencing God’s love. And it is the pastor who faces the congregation that has diverse challenges keeping each person from welcoming the Lord into their lives. It takes time, wisdom, and a caring heart to prepare people for God’s Advent. **During this season of Advent, the pastor helps to prepare us for the coming of Christ in the birth of Jesus.**

3. **“He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom.”** Isaiah brought this welcome news of the Lord God to his people held captive by the Babylonians. Jesus himself became “the Good Shepherd” taking care of his flock, his disciples and those who decided to follow him. **Today, it is the Pastor who is our shepherd, gathering the people in his arms.** The minister prays, uplifts, and supports each member of the church symbolized by the shepherd who takes a lamb in his arms and cares for it. Holding a person close, the pastor can discern what is needed and will find ways of providing just as the shepherd feeds the flock. We long for spiritual food and drink from the pastor’s sermons, prayers, and personal interactions.

Kailua Christian Church UCC is at a place where a new pastor will be called to serve our congregation. We all have expectations which need to be shared. Most of us expect the pastor to (1) comfort us, (2) prepare the way for us to experience God in

our lives, addressing our obstacles, and (3) feed us so that we can grow as individual Christians but also as the Body of Christ.

But we need to be reminded that **all of us are ministers**, called to serve! And by virtue of our being baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit has given each of us a Spiritual Gift. It is the pastor who can help each of us discern what spiritual gift we were given and how we should use it to edify and bless the church!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Chris (interim minister)

\*Isaiah 40 was written by Deutero-Isaiah



### MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

***“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” John 15:7***

This will be the last article I write as your Moderator. It has been my honor and privilege to serve you in this position these past four years. Thank you for your love and support over this period. Of course, thank you for showing your love and support to me and my family from the very first time we stepped foot through the sanctuary doors back in October 1998. You are family to us and have helped guide us spiritually through the years with all of your inspiring life stories and kind, loving friendship. Many of you have shared your testimonies in church or in small group settings which have had a profound impact in my life. Some of these members are no longer with us, but their loving faith was inspiring and will always be remembered by me.

Here it is December 2020. It is an exciting time at KCC as your Council unanimously voted in

favor of the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) to call Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson as our next Settled Pastor and we will be presenting this to all members for vote via mail. We are voting by mail as we are currently unable to meet in person at KCC. Members will be receiving a ballot to vote for or against the Council's recommendation to hire Pastor Dale as our next Settled Pastor. Please note that ballots must be turned into the KCC office by Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Council is ensuring that controls are put in place regarding this vote by mail process. We will be mailing one ballot with a self-addressed envelope to each member. Ballots will be numbered to ensure that each member of record receives a ballot. Once the ballots have been numbered, they will be shuffled and randomly inserted into the envelopes being sent out to members. Several Council members will open and count the ballots. Results of this vote will be announced at our zoom worship service on December 20<sup>th</sup>. After the service, you may call the church or call Dean if you cannot connect online but would like to know the results from the vote.

I ask that you prayerfully consider Pastor Dale to become our next Settled Pastor when you cast your vote. The PSC worked diligently and prayerfully through the search process with guidance from Pastor Chris. This is an amazing time that we have been praying and waiting for. At times over the years, I know many have felt concerned that we did not have a settled pastor. However, God works in His time and I feel that He has guided KCC and its members to this time in which we find ourselves now.

Even though we may not gather together in person this Christmas season, let us celebrate in our homes the birth of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Take care, Be safe and Merry Christmas to you and your family!

Love in Christ!  
Dean

**DEACON'S MESSAGE**

The year 2020 has been a rough year for the world, for our country, for our state and for Kailua Christian Church. It is almost over, and we have lots of good reasons to be hopeful in 2021. Our God continues to reign and continues to care for us and has a plan for us individually and as a church body. He has sent us a new pastor who many of us already know and love; He has provided us with new federal government leadership pledging to unite us; and He has given us hope for new effective vaccines to help protect us from the current pandemic.

Our new possibility of hope includes welcoming our new Pastor for 2021 and beyond. Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson has been a loving friend and leader of KCC since before he went to seminary in the 1980's. He has lived in Kailua for decades and he and his family have been a cherished part of our ohana for as long as most of us can remember. It will be a good fresh start for the new year to re-welcome Dale and Bev and the entire Vallejo-Sanderson clan should our vote be to accept him.

We are continuing to go through some trying times. The KCC Deacons' last meeting was March 1, 2020. That month we were planning to do our Meet Your Deacon Lunch on March 15, 2020. It did not happen due to the pandemic and that was also the last time the congregation met for worship in our sanctuary. The Deacons have calculated the current membership for KCC and to date we have lost 13 former members in 2020 due to deaths and releases from membership to join other churches. Our current total membership is 131.

Hope is on the horizon. Christmas and the New Year is a time for new hope in our God and in each other. This year we have very good reasons to be hopeful for new and good things to come.

So, let us keep expressing our love to each other and to our God and keep each other and our community in our prayers. Stay safe. We hope to see you all again very soon in person in 2021.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year  
from your 2020 KCC Deacons

**PRAYERS & PRAISES**

Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Pastor Warren Nakano
- ~ Dean's friend, Wes
- ~ Howard Jackson
- ~ Coreen & Tony Sarabia ~ Clifford Sakamoto
- ~ Sharon Nishihira & Steve Hammann
- ~ Larry & Sandra Siu ~ Wayne O.
- ~ Maureen & Dennis Nakashima ~ Jennie Lee
- ~ Ally T. ~ Pastor J. Salle
- ~ Diane & John Mendenhall ~ J. Yano
- ~ Beverly & Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson
- ~ Jiggs Tamashiro, Howard Pang, Hazel Chow, Ellen Chew, Lowell & Myrtle Terada, Walter Yeda, Alice Esaki, Brian Nakashima, Harry Imai, Hazel Masuda, Carl Nemoto, Jean Kanazawa, Ada Kaneoka, Natsuko Matsushima, Hideko Mumaw, Akito & Annie Sagawa, and Ruth Lum and family dealing with high risk factors along with our entire church family dealing with this challenging time.
- ~ Pastor Chris Eng and our Pastoral Search Team
- ~ All Medical, Healthcare, Emergency Need and Caregiving providers.
- ~ Family, neighbors, and friends who care for each other as the needs arise.
- ~ All businesses trying to reopen.
- ~ Staying safe as we welcome tourists back
- ~ All children and teachers dealing with in person and online education.
- ~ For churches to respond to the needs of their neighbors by keeping them safe during pandemic.

**Sincere Condolences** goes out to the families of:

**Mitsue Higashida** who passed away on Nov. 8. Mitsie was a longtime member of KCC and brought smiles to all who met her. She was a wonderful Sunday School teacher, brought words of encouragement, and always had a kind word for every occasion. She will be sorely missed. Sincere condolences to Roy and Sharlene Yamauchi on the loss of their Aunt Mitzie.

We are also saddened by the loss of our dear friend **Loretta Lee** who passed away at home on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. Loretta was 94 yrs. old and although she never became a member at KCC, she was a dear



longtime friend who always had a warm hug and cheerful greeting for everyone at Sunday morning worship. Special thanks to Sharon Mon for taking care of Loretta and always bringing her to church so she was able to fellowship and worship with us.

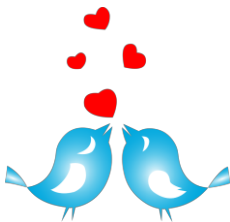


**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Myra Yamada  
Royce Kojiro  
Jean Miyaji  
Myrtle Terada  
Paul Grable  
Brandon Gerber  
Molly Hagmann  
Sandra Siu  
Carol Soma



Grant Jesse  
Jackie Ostiles  
Jennifer Yoshimura  
Pat Oyama  
Lauren Shiroma  
Michelle Morikawa  
Alaka`i Todd



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Dean & Maureen Wakuzawa  
Howard & Saeko Yoshida



**TRUSTEES NOTES**

Who would have known that 2020 would hit us with a pandemic that would close the church for almost 9 months? We never know God’s plan, but we do know that God is an awesome God who never forsakes us. Nothing happens on this great green earth that God does not see. And this pandemic is no different. Perhaps this pandemic was a way to wake up the slumbering church, shaking us out of the routines. It definitely was a time of learning, of molding and shaping. Through it all, God is good all the time.

As I write the final newsletter for 2020, I reflect back on all that we have been through as a church this past year. God has continued to sustain us, going before us, and walking with us through and

through. I am so thankful that He has brought together a wonderful group of people with servant’s hearts to be a support staff to the ongoing needs of our church.

Pastor Chris, thank you for faithfully delivering the word with the foundation of God’s compassion and care.

Moderator Dean, your endless support of leadership and also assistance to the Trustees with the financials, you have really been a help and encouragement for all of us.

For the Council members, Dean Wakuzawa, Dennis Fong, Susan Morita, Paul Grable, Vernon Pang, Pam Morikawa, and Kammy Grable who diligently took care of the needs of the church along with our faithful Trustees, Michelle Morikawa, John Sakamoto, Myra Yamada, Susan Morita, and Maureen Wakuzawa.

To Aaron Tanaka, thank you for hosting and making it possible for us to have our weekly online Zoom services. You provided a wonderful venue for people to still come together safely to worship.

Gail Yoneshige, we are so grateful for your voluntary service in the music ministry when we were in immediate need and for sharing your beautiful voice and talent with us.

To the Pastoral Search Committee, Nancy Arakaki, John Sakamoto, Paul Grable, Dennis Fong, Reggie Yamada, and Pam Morikawa, thank you for being faithful and assiduous to our search process especially through these extra challenging times. We are grateful for you bringing us to this place and time of great possibilities.

To Kammy Grable, our faithful and dedicated secretary, who sees it all and does it all! Thank you for all that you do for this church.

The janitorial staff, Harvey and Corvey Lee, thank you for taking care of our premises and maintaining its rustic beauty.

Together we have been great stewards of what God has entrusted us. With little we were faithful, so now with a lot, we remain steadfast in our faithfulness and responsibility for the provision that God

has granted us. God sees our efforts and the fruits of our labor of love.

I encourage you all to continue to cultivate a spirit of gratitude for everything that has happened this year – the good, bad, the victories and the valleys. During this season of Advent let us be reminded that it is an honor to know and serve Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!  
Susan Morita



### NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA

Aloha Friends!

Due to the ongoing community spread of Covid-19 Virus and its high risk to many of our members and friends, our Na Anela Support and Wellness group have not met since our Jan 25 session with Ekahi Wellness Director, Mr. Robert Walker and his informative talk on Diabetes. We have cancelled our Mar 28 CPR and AED refresher training. We've also cancelled Pharmacist Mrs. Miki Morita's presentation twice, May 23 and Sep 26. Hopefully, the Covid-19 situation improves to where our church can safely open (given wearing of masks and social distancing) and present Miki's informative drug/medicine session on Jan 27, 2021.

Windward Community College (WCC)/AARP's "FAST, HEALTHY AND "ONO" series feature Chef Daniel Swift, the new Workforce Development Coordinator at WCC, focusing on areas of Hospitality and Food and Beverage Education. Many of you have attended Chef Dan's healthy cooking sessions for Na Anela gatherings.

The WCC/AARP cooking sessions are free. Schedule can be found by going to [www.aarp.org/hi](http://www.aarp.org/hi), clicking on **UPCOMING EVENTS**. Select the cooking session of your choice and register by clicking on the sign-up button and filling in your information. Once your sign-up is successful, you will receive an email confirmation from Jackie Boland. Click on "Click

Here to Join the Webinar" and by typing in your passcode (provided on the confirmation email), you will be taken directly to the cooking session. Each session's recipe will be sent to you, in advance, so you can pick up the ingredients and cook along with Chef Dan (est. 30 min) if you choose to, followed by Q & A.

Second Dec session run from 5-5:45 pm:  
Dec 10 (Thu): Pho from Home: A Vietnamese Staple Meal

Last Dec session runs from 5-6:15 pm:  
Dec 17 (Thu): Holiday Meal at Home  
Guest Chef Dale Thomas (30 years at Hale Koa, instructor at WCC, Master Butcher and Chef Dan Swift, Workforce Coordinator at WCC's Culinary Program

Note: Each taped session will be available on AARP's Facebook.

If you have any questions, pls contact me at [yamadamyra@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:yamadamyra@hawaii.rr.com) or call (808) 348-2297. If you want the recipes, pls send me an email. Stay safe, be well and hope you can participate in one or two Zoom classes!  
Mahalo and God Bless!  
Myra



### BIBLE INSTITUTE OF HAWAII

**Winter Quarter – Jan. 19 – Mar. 22, 2021**

BIH will offer 8 weeks of online classes starting in Jan. for the Winter quarter. Classes are held on different nights from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call 595-4700 for more information or go online to [www.biblehawaii.org](http://www.biblehawaii.org)

~ Some of the classes offered are:

Who Is Jesus? Dr. Matt Sanders, facilitator

~ The 100 Great Events of the Pentateuch  
Mr. Gary Lau, facilitator

~ The Gospel of Mark: Christology and Discipleship w/ Pastor Todd Capen, facilitator

~ God's Glory in Exile: The Book of Ezekiel  
Dr. Randy Furushima, facilitator

## WORSHIP REPORT

Worship at Kailua Christian Church has been taking place every Sunday morning online via Zoom at 10:00 am. Each of you should be receiving an invitation to join from Kammy along with the sermon, scripture references and the currently known prayer requests. Let us know if you are not getting it.

Aaron Tanaka has been graciously hosting us and helping us with the technical issues and preparing a PowerPoint presentation each week. He also has been selecting very nice postlude videos and songs for our inspiration and enjoyment.

We usually sign on between 9:30 and 10:00 am each Sunday morning and visit with each other until the service starts at 10:00 am. At that time, we usually have about 30 people participating. Gail Yoneshige has been selecting the songs for us and leading with piano playing and singing. Pastor Chris greets us and gives his sermon and leads us in the pastoral prayer and the benediction. We do not take an offering, but we have an offering section that reminds us to give of ourselves and our resources.

We have been rotating the scripture reading between volunteers who are willing to serve as a scripture reader for a month at a time. Let us know if you would like to volunteer and we will happily include you on the worship team and schedule you in. Thank you to all the scripture reader volunteers in 2020 so far.

Our Covid-19 preparedness co-coordinators continue to be June Cunningham and Paul Grable who are tasked with developing and overseeing the guidelines and policy and getting the facility ready for in-person worship when that day finally arrives. Right now, it looks like there will be no in-person worship through December 2020.

We look forward to the time when we will be able to worship together again in person in 2021. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and God bless you all.



## “NAME THAT AUTHOR”



Here are the answers to November's quotations for *Name That Author*, plus two new quotations for December. For those who cannot wait a month for the author's name, contact Steff at 218-3324 or at [bonsaicats1@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaicats1@gmail.com). If members wish to submit a quotation, submit to Steff who will relay it to Kammy by the 20th of each month.

November's authors:

#1– *"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* (NIV) **Joshua 1:9**

#2– *"You can often change your circumstances by changing your attitude."* **Eleanor Roosevelt**

New search for December's authors:

- #1- Praise the LORD, my soul,  
     all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
 2 Praise the LORD, my soul,  
     and forget not all his benefits—  
 3 who forgives all your sins  
     and heals all your diseases,  
 4 who redeems your life from the pit  
     and crowns you with love and compassion,  
 5 who satisfies your desires with good things  
     so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

#2- "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."

Hint:

-Mahatma Gandhi. -Mother Teresa. -Anne Frank.



## FRIENDLY REMINDER

*Voting Ballot for Pastoral Candidate selection is due in the church office by Friday, Dec. 18, 2020.*

**A DIFFERENT STAR**  
**From Shine On, Beautiful Soul!**  
 by Jennifer Gerelds

*Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure... Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.*

*Philippians 2:14-16*

Have you ever wondered what made the wise men notice the star that led them to Jesus? Was it brighter? A different color? Shape? Size? The Bible does not say. It only reports that it was different from the rest, it was something the men had been anticipating, and it matched their expectations—all the way to Jesus.

In society today, being recognized as influential and important—in essence, becoming a star—dominates the headlines. Everyone wants to make a difference, to be noticed and celebrated for their brilliant glory. The problem is that we are only human. Vessels made of earth and clay, not stardust. Even celebrity fame falls impotent to bring the lasting value we crave.

But what if that clay pot was filled with light from the inside? Then what was dead and lifeless on its own could achieve the function and brightness desired.

Child of God, you may be a jar of clay, but you have been created to shine out divine glory. Our heavenly Father has filled each believer with His very own presence. His light shines a different, brighter, deeper color than anything people can conjure on their own. You stand apart like the star of Bethlehem, unique and brilliant. Not because you have manufactured greatness, but because God has placed His presences and power in you. So, let your light shine. And may the love and power of God within you light the way for others to find Jesus too.

“It doesn’t take a huge spotlight to draw attention To how great our God is. All it takes is for one committed person to ... let his light shine. “

Gary Smalley and John Trent

“Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever.” Daniel 12:5

Contributed by Lily Lee



**MISSIONS OUTREACH**

“How Can I Pray for You? That one question can disarm even the most hostile person. Even if someone doesn’t believe in God, they are typically receptive to being prayed for. On a personal level, we all like to be prayed for.

So, as you step out in faith to share the love of Jesus with someone who has shared a hardship or heartache, consider sharing this question with them. This may be a conversation starter when keeping in touch with friends or family that you haven’t connected with for a while. God will bless this situation to His glory.

Please continue to pray for our partners in ministry out in the community. These are challenging times to care for the needs of those in our community living with high risk situations, dealing with depression, drug addiction, abuse, hunger, homelessness, and unemployment. Pray that there will be people who are willing and able to help where help is needed.

Thank you for your generous support of our Thanksgiving Offering. Funds received will go to ministries (River of Life, Family Promise, Windward Food Pantry at St. Anthony’s Church) and hopefully comfort and heal some of these hardships.

Jesus is the reason for the season!





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Return service requested

Rev. Christopher Eng, Interim Pastor

**"The Hope Of Christmas" by Matthew West**

Take me back to eight years old  
The little church on a dead-end road  
With a candle flicker in one hand  
and dad's hand in the other

Take me back to Silent Night  
My heart was full and the world was right  
Cause right now the world looks nothing  
like those innocent Decembers.

These days peace on earth is hard to find  
And I need you to remind me one more time

*\*You're still the hope of Christmas  
You're still the light when the world looks dark  
You're still the hope of Christmas  
And You're still the hope of my heart*

Watch the snowflakes falling down  
Like a blanket on this town  
For a moment we can hardly see  
the pain this year has brought us

May the sick find healing's touch  
May hatred's fight be won with love  
And may every heart make room for you  
the One who came to save us

I bowed my head to pray tonight  
Felt my little girl by my side  
She slipped her tiny hand in mine  
And we both talked to You

And it took me back to eight years old  
My daddy's hand and a story told  
About Heaven's love in a manger low  
And a promise that's still true

\*Chorus



**IMPORTANT DATES**

**On Sunday, Dec. 6** after our Zoom Worship Service, an informational meeting to review the budget is scheduled. We encourage anyone needing assistance for getting on Zoom / via Computer or phone to call the church office so we can arrange some assistance for you.

**Dec. 18** will be the last day for accepting ballots to be counted for the Pastor's vote. Members are encouraged to mail in their ballots early so there is no problem receiving it in time – ballots can be dropped off in person by arranging in advance with church office.

**On Sunday, December 20** announcement will be made of the results of our vote regarding the candidate, Rev. Dale Vallejo-Sanderson who was recommended by the PSC and unanimously approved by our Council for consideration.

**Join us on Thursday, December 24, 2020** for Christmas Eve Worship Service on Zoom. We invite anyone who needs the code for zoom to call the church office and get on the email list.

**On Sunday, December 27, 2020** we will install and celebrate the acceptance of our new slate of officers for the new year.