

Kailua Christian Church
Sunday, February 19, 2023
Guest Pastor: Rev. Samuel Domingo
"The Pronouncement of Blessedness"
Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)

Scripture Reading: Matt. 5:1-12 The Beatitudes

When Jesus^[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^[b] on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew's Gospel presents Jesus beginning his ministry after calling the disciples with what we all know as The Sermon on the Mount. The familiar Beatitudes addresses an audience that is anxious to receive a word of affirmation as Jesus makes clear his ministry is to the least, the last, and the lost. Jesus' message confirms that God is now favoring these, who society has pretty much forgotten. Matthew reminds us even to this day that our ministry of serving Christ is a ministry to the least, the last, and the lost. And that our primary focus should be confirming on them the blessedness from God.