

Sermon: "Looking Back...Glory Days" by Pastor Chris Eng
Texts: Isaiah 4: 5b - 6 and Matthew 25: 23,
Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
Kailua Christian Church UCC

"for glory shall be spread over all as a covering and a canopy, a shade from the heat by day, a refuge and a shelter from rain and tempest." Isaiah 4: 5b - 6 The New English Bible

"His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Message

Anyone celebrating a birthday today? For you being honored, you were born between 1921 and 1938. Have you ever looked back over your life and were amazed at what you were able to accomplish? This past week, a friend and I visited with friends we hadn't seen in years. As we "talked story," there were some moments when we remembered those "glory days!"

On April 15th, Bruce Springsteen's voice belted out one of his favorite songs, "**Glory Days**" on my car radio. He runs into a high school friend who was a star baseball player and later a high school girl who lived up the block who could turn all the boy's heads. Both end up talking about "glory days" in high school. The song ends as he hopes that when he gets old he won't sit around thinking about it but probably will, sitting back trying to recapture the glory of the past.

We've all sat around remembering the "glory days" of our youth. You all can remember the "glory days" of Kailua Christian Church. Today, Isaiah and Matthew speak to us about glory.

Isaiah describes how **God's glory spreads over all** as a refuge and shelter from the sun during the day and the rain and storm at night. Those of you living here in Kailua lost power when the wind and rain hit on Tuesday. The weather is a metaphor, lifting up times in our lives when God has guided and protected us from dangers or the challenges of life. A tanomoshi gang of KCC members like Stella Wakamatsu and Nani Oda met once a month, each contributing money to a pot and whoever was most in need of the money took home the pot.

Nani's home is always open for anyone who wants to drop in and she sends them off with some item along with a blessing of appreciation and encouragement. Yes, we love you, our Kupunas!

In Matthew 25: 23, we all know Jesus' Parable of the Talents. The master praises the one with 10 talents and the other with 5 who have done well in using the talents given to them. And the words, "**well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things, enter into the joy of your lord**" is expressed to each of you 85 and older especially the Charter Members. Yes, you were part of Kailua Christian Church's "glory days." This still continues in Nancy Arakaki who shares the love of Jesus at Kaneohe Plaza today, not only witnessing but **radiating God's glory!**

I look back to the two years and two months I was with you (November 2018 to January 2021) as "glory days." Many of you faced the challenges Kailua Christian Church had with deep faith, commitment and a positive attitude. It included when Covid-19 broke in early March 2020 and we had

to shut down. Zoom worship was held as many of you stepped up to help our church continue its vision and ministry. There were baptisms and new members. And a new, well former pastor was called. I want to say that I've been blessed to have been part of this time when God's glory spread over all. To this we can say, "Praise the Lord!" Amen.

(Mahalo to Myra Yamada, Susan Morita and Jo-Ann Komori)

Pastoral Prayer: A Bidding Prayer

Leader: God of love and grace, we give you thanks for this time of prayer.

People: Hear our prayers O Lord.

Leader: God of Kailua Christian Church, may our leaders envision your mission.

People: Hear our prayers O Lord.

Leader: Christ, the one who brings healing and wholeness, we lift up those who are sick.

People: Hear our prayers O Lord.

Leader: Holy Spirit, as one who comforts, bring peace to those who grieve love ones lost.

People: Hear our prayers O Lord.

Leader: Jesus, who calls us to follow him as disciples, speak to us as we read the Bible.

People: Hear our prayers O Lord.

Leader: God of our Kailua and Kaneohe communities, may our light shine as your witnesses.

People: Hear our prayers O Lord.

Leader: God of the United States of America, we pray for those who lead us.

People: Hear our prayers O Lord.

Leader: Christ who loves the world, we pray for peace across our planet.

People: Hear our prayers O Lord.

Leader: Holy Spirit who fills us with joy, bless those 85+ being honored today.

People: Hear our prayers O Lord.

Leader: God who knows each of us, answer our unspoken prayer requests.

People: Hear our prayers O Lord.

Leader: Jesus who loves us, may all of us leave to bring love to others.

People: Hear our prayers O Lord.

Leader: Amen.

People: Amen.