

**Kailua Christian Church**  
**Sunday, November 2, 2025**  
**“Last Talk”**

*Jesus’ Way of Making Meaningful Moments That Stay With Us*  
*Rev. Dale Vallejo-Sanderson*

**Scripture Reading: Luke 22:19-27**

*“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”**20** In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you. **21** But the hand of him who is going to betray Me is with mine on the table. **22** The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays Him!” **23** They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.*

***24** A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. **25** Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. **26** But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. **27** For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as One who serves.” Luke 22:1-27*

*It has been a special few weeks with you. Thank you for continually reminding me of the wonderful value of belonging to each other because of Christ. I am always warmed and inspired by your caring and encouraging friendship with my family and me.*

*This series is something deeply and passionately stirring in my heart, I feel like God has opened streams of thoughtfulness and joy. I am grateful to be able to share some of this with you and your uplifting responses.*

*The Lord’s Supper that we will share together today has fresh meaning for me. It is one of Jesus’ meaningful “Last Talks”, though not final. Yet the intentional focus of His life and ministry, passion and purpose are so caught up in this simple yet profound experience with the bread and wine.*

*Jesus’ words of “do this in remembrance of Me.”, has come to have some new insight for my day to day life, that I am grateful to share with you this morning.*

*The word Jesus uses of Remembrance, is profoundly more than simply reflecting back on an earlier event. In its original meaning the word “Remembrance” comes with the emphasis of “continue living with.” Jesus was calling His disciples as He calls us to let this meaningful moment stay with us, guide and shape our hearts, our minds, our very faith by His faithful presence in each moment of our lives.*

*The profound gift of His brokenness on the cross for our forever forgiveness is meant to empower how we face the failures and flaws of others as well as our own. The remembering in all our own disappointments, and those of others are overcome by reliving, and continuing to relive Christ's gift to us, for us and for us to give to others. We celebrate Communion to be in deeper communion with Christ in our community.*

*The cup Jesus held up brings the cleansing and cementing of belonging to Jesus now and forever. Jesus knew that there was brokenness and even betrayal among His closest friends. And the fact that when He mentioned this without mentioning any names, well, they each began to question themselves and each other. The open vulnerability of Christ's own vulnerability invites an almost unplanned honesty with our own struggles.*

*It's amazing that shortly after these comments, the disciples slipped into a defense and overcompensated for wondering about their own weakness to try to decide who was the best.*

*Most expressions of pride and self-grandeur are a cover for true weakness and fear of being found out. Jesus calls them, and you and I, to a new response of openness to Him. He calls them to follow His lead, to remember and relive what they have received from Him. He calls them to His way of living to serve. A high calling of true love and life from the heart of Jesus.*

***Jesus makes meaningful moments that stay with us by inviting us to be...***

**I. Humbly Receptive.**

*“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” Luke 22:19*

*When Bev and I met as students at U.H., we were in a class together and slowly began talking and getting to know each other. The openness and kind heartedness of Bev's way and deep faith in God drew me in closer and closer to her. At the same time, my parents were in the middle of a bitterly messy divorce. I had come to a*

*place of having lost hope in the gift of love and being open to such. Yet as Bev and I spent more time talking and getting closer to each other, I was feeling more and more disturbed and resistant. Finally, one day Bev said what I most feared, “Dale”, she said looking at me so sweetly and vulnerably, “I love you.” It was a moment, a rare moment, that I did not have any words. I was frozen in place. I felt bad as Bev simply stared at me, rightly awaiting a faithful response. I was stuck. Then as if God was speaking to me, came the words, ‘are you going to live your life afraid of love and so lose this wonderful person who loves you?’ Or are you going to open up and welcome love?’ It felt like a long pause, Bev didn’t flinch or turn away. All that she was asking of me in these heart felt words was, ‘can you receive my love and respond as well.’*

*Love, true, deep love has no way in us, if we won’t receive it into our hearts, our fears, our hurts and unknowns. That day began a 42 year journey of love together. A life to remember love and to relive love in new and meaningful ways the rest of our life.*

*Jesus' kind of love, what He asks of us, in so many words is “Will you be humble enough to receive my love for you, always.”*

*It seems to me one of the greatest challenges to truly experiencing the love of Christ is coming to a **Humble Receptiveness**. All of us have come to open our hearts to Jesus out of some sense of our own limits and needs. The challenge is that most of us have been taught, or rise up in an attempt to not be so vulnerable. So we live out our lives by trying to do for Christ, trying to be a good Christian, and trying too often to make up for our mistakes by giving and doing. Not all bad, is this. Yet I hear Jesus calling each of us to a remembrance, a living into over and over again that our lives are forever given to us by the gift of Christ forgiveness and love, calling us to humbly receive.*

**A.** *What holds you back from being humbly open to welcome God’s care and healing?*

*Jesus makes meaningful moments that stay with us by inviting us to be...*

## **II. Humbly Grateful.**

*“In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.” Luke 22:20*

*“But the hand of him who is going to betray Me is with mine on the table. Luke 22:23*

*“They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.” Luke 22:23*

*When we were in Seminary, grad school, it was hard in many ways. Anthony was 8 months old when we started our 4 year journey towards my Masters of Divinity degree. We had little money, scholarships were few and far between at that time for seminary. You, our Kailua family, gave us a scholarship which we deeply appreciated.*

*I remember one of my high school teachers visited us in Hawaii. We talked and he asked about the youth ministry I was doing and our future plans. It was Feb. Anthony was just one month old. We shared about applying to go to seminary in the fall. We were still praying and trying to see what school loans and scholarships might be available. It seemed a bit crazy as we just had a baby and little money. Mr. Corey asked if we got our plane tickets yet, I said no, we are saving up for them now. He excused himself, asked to borrow our phone and went into the other room. He came back in a few moments, and told us his brother in law was getting our tickets, not to worry about those. We were stunned, we tried to say no. It is too much, we said. He would not hear it, all he asked was for us to receive it. It was one of many gifts of encouragement in our life together. Bev and I never forgot nor tired of being humbly grateful for Mr. Corey, along with many others, even here at Kailua Christian, that have caused us great encouragement and joy of gratitude beyond our imagination.*

*In Bev and my actual last talk, we remembered and relived as we had often over the 40 plus years of our life journey, of God’s wonderful gifts delivered through the hearts of such wonderful people. Our last talk was a full joy of gratitude.*

**B. What undeserved gift has Jesus given to you that invites ongoing gratefulness?**

*Jesus makes meaningful moments that stay with us by inviting us to be...*

### **III. Humbly Responsive.**

*“For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as One who serves.” Luke 22:1-27*

*Our good friend and pastor Howard Yoshida reminded me again last week when we were driving to visit Nathan Kohashi, about one of his last talks with Bev. It was in Feb. of 2021. Howard came over to see me at the church office. He was surprised to see Bev sitting on the floor with Kammy in the front office, doing what she loves and has a knack for. She was sorting and cleaning up stacks of papers to help become more usable. Howard was moved that she was there serving with Kammy. He joked that she was cleaning up all the messes he and I left years ago. I assured him it was mostly his. Ha.*

*Bev loved Kailua Christian Church, the family here and had received so much love from her first meeting to the end. She learned much of learning how to humbly receive, it wasn't easy for her, she was such a strong, giving person. But, **learning to receive** brings us to becoming more **humbly grateful** for all God's generous ways with us and for us. Bev taught me much about living in **humble response** to God, especially in the challenges of difficult people, frustrating unknowns of finances, changes and moves, and the painful reality of not having much control over the assault of cancer. Yet Bev continued to find her way in the midst of these challenges and difficulties of life, to come back and remember the goodness of God and so live in response to God above all else and through all else.*

*C. Who is someone Jesus could be asking you to serve because of Jesus' love for them and you, regardless of how they are?*

*Thank you for being a wonderful and ongoing reminder of God's great goodness.  
Amen*