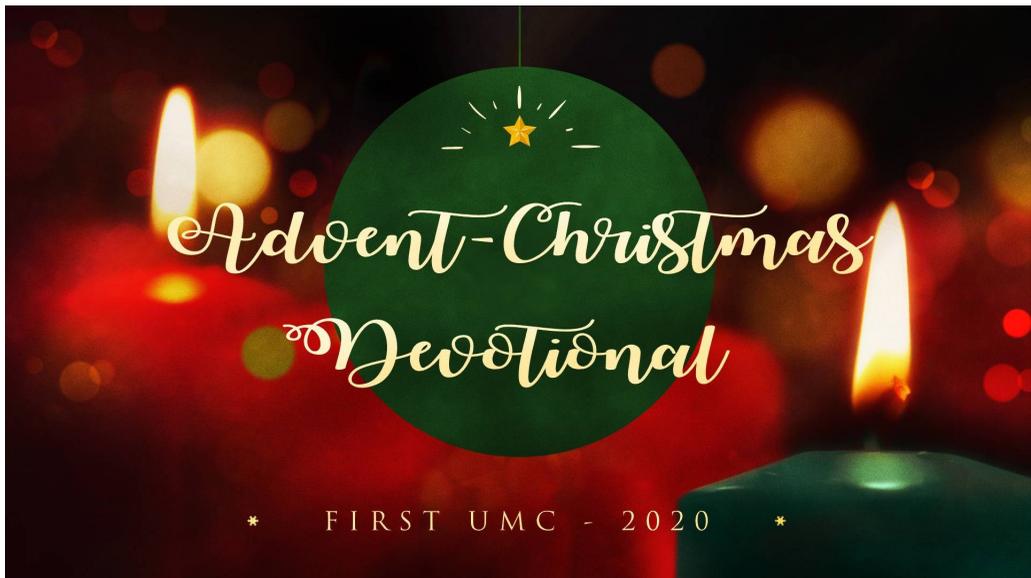


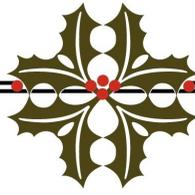


**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH, HONOLULU**
Growing in Christ through Spirit, mind, body, & 'ohana



(In English and Tongan)

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5:2



Talamu'omu'a (Introduction)

Si'i Kainga Lotu Tonga,

Fakafeta'i ki he 'Otua Mafimafi he'ene 'ofa 'aufuato kuo ne fai ma kitautolu he ta'u kafa-kafa ko'eni. Kuo tau a'u mai ki he Fa'ahita'u 'o e 'Etiveni, 'a e fa'ahita'u 'oku tau 'unaloto melie mai kiai he fononga'anga 'o e ta'u. Pea 'I he'etau a'usia ko e fu'u koloa pea ko hono lea: Fakafeta'i 'Eiki 'etau a'u mai, Tau tuku 'a e Kololia ki he 'Otua 'i Langi.

Ko e Tohi ko'eni ko e tatanaki ia 'a e ngaahi a'usia 'a e kakai pe 'o e Siasi, kenau fai ha poupou mo ha talaloto a'usia 'o e ngaahi veesi folofola fekau'aki mo e Fa'ahita'u 'o e 'Etiveni, Kilisimasi pea a'u atu ai pe ki he 'Epifani, 'o e ta'u fo'ou 2021. 'Oku fakahoko ia 'I he 'aho takitaha 'I he lea fakapilitania mo e lea fakatonga, ke tokoni kiate kitautolu kotoa pe. Koia 'oku faka'amu ke tokoni atu ki he'etau ngaahi lau folofola mo e ngaahi fakalaulauloto 'o e ngaahi 'aho 'o e ngaahi fa'ahita'u ko'eni kotoa.

'Oku ou fakamalo lahi atu foki kia Kim Houff 'I ho'o fokotu'utu'u 'o e tohi ni, pea pehe kia Faifekau Viliami Koli ki hono liliu 'o e ngaahi 'aho takitaha ki he lea fakatonga. Pea pehe 'a e fakamalo lahi atu kiate kimoutolu kotoa pe na'e kau mai ke malava ai 'o fokotu'utu'u 'a e ngaue ni, ma'ae fa'ahita'u fakakoloa ni.

Tauange ke hoko 'a e ngaue ni ke tokoni ki he'etau fononga faka'aho mo e 'Eiki, he ngaahi fa'ahita'u ko'eni, ko e tapuaki mo 'etau ofi ange ai ki he 'Otua 'I he lotu, lau folofola, fevahevahe'aki, pea mo e lotu famili foki.

'Ofa ke tapuaki'i mo fakamonu'ia mai kotoa pe kimoutolu 'a e ngaahi famili 'o e Siasi pea mo kimoutolu kotoa pe 'oku mou ma'u faingamalie ke lau 'a e Tohi ni, ke tau ma'u ivi mo tapuaki, pea ke toe pole'i kitautolu ke fai 'a hono finangalo he faka'osinga 'o e ta'u ni, pea pehe ki he ta'u fo'ou na.

'Ofa lahi atu kiate kimoutolu pea ke tau fehufia'aki foki lolotonga 'a e ngaahi 'aho ni, mo e faingata'a fakamamani lahi 'oku tau tofanga ai.

Meia Faifekau Linita 'Ulu'ave Moa

(Faifekau 'o e Siasi First UMC Honolulu – Kainga Lotu Tonga)





Aloha and a blessed Advent to you. We are so blessed to be able to present this devotional guide to you. It is a remarkable collection of different perspectives of faith from members of our Honolulu First United Methodist 'ohana. The guide will extend from the First Sunday of Advent (December 1) through Christmas and concluding on Epiphany (January 6) We hope that it will inspire your own hearts and minds as we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child.

We are grateful to our devotional guide editor, Kim Houff, whose vision and hard work have made this wonderful work possible. We are also grateful to all of the authors who contributed a devotional and/or those who provided translations.

We are still in the midst of the COVID pandemic, but nothing can stop the Good News of Jesus Christ from being proclaimed. Through the reflections of our 'ohana, the blessings of the season will continue to be shared.

May this Advent and Christmas be one in which the Holy Spirit will come into each of our lives in a special way!

Grace and aloha,
Pastor Tom Choi



November 29—1st Day of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-15: 'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.'

The days are coming... This is a timely and wonderful verse with which to start our advent journey. Each year we eagerly await Christmas and the expectation of that “coming” day often results in either a seeming slowness of the month of December or a flurry of activity to prepare. This year, however, I find myself wondering how the preparation and expectation will go. I also wonder how it will be different and probably harder because of the pandemic. In all respects, I want the coming days of 2020-2021 to be “back to normal” and want Advent and Christmas and the holidays to be “Merry” as usual. As I write this in October, I am doubtful that this will be the case. I doubt that the virus will be under control and am convinced there will be a lot of political unrest in this advent season. I am praying though that we will turn to the righteous branch of David to be our guide to doing what is right and just in the Advent season and beyond. Amen.

Mark Houff

Vakai, 'oku hoko mai ha taimi—ko Sihova ia mei he Ta'ehāmai—'a ia te u fakaai ai 'a e tala'ofa, 'a ia na'a ku fai ki he fale 'o 'Isileli mo e fale 'o Siuta. 15'I he ngaahi 'aho ko ia, 'io, 'i he kuonga ko ena, te u 'ai ke muka hake 'ia Tēvita ha Huli mā'oni'oni, pea te ne feia 'a e fakalao mo e totonu 'i he fonua.

'Oku hoko mai ha taimi... 'Oku kau ma'u pe 'ae faha'i ta'u ko eni pea mo hono veesi folofola 'I he taimi fakafiefia. Koe ta'u kotoa pe, 'oku 'i kai ke tau fā'a tatali ki he fā'ahi ta'u 'oe Kilisimasi pea mo ē talitali 'ae “hoko mai” 'ihe mahina ko Tisema pea 'oku fai ai 'e tau teuteu ki he 'ene hoko mai. Ka 'I he ta'u ko eni, 'oku ki'i makehe pea 'oku fakatupu fifili pe'e anga fefe hā 'ate teuteu. 'Oku ou tui 'e ki'i faingata'a ange 'ae ta'u ko eni koe 'uhi koe mahaki faka'auha kuo tō 'i he fonua. Ka ko 'eku faka'amu ko 'ene hoko mai 'i he ta'u ko eni 2020-2021 ke foki pe ki he founa kuo tau maheni ki ai. Ke hoko 'ae faha'i ta'u 'oe 'Etiveni pea moe Kilisimasi ko ha taimi fiefia taha ia 'oe ta'u. Ka 'oku ou tui 'e hoko mai 'ae taimi, 'oku te'eki malava ke matafi atu 'ae mahaki ko ia 'oku tau lolotonga mo'ua ai pea 'e toe fakautuutu foki pea moe mgaahi fehanga-hangai 'ihe mala'e 'oe politikale 'i he faha'i ta'u ko eni. Ko 'eku lōtu, na'a malava ke tau tafoki ki he taki na'e fai 'e Tevita ke hoko ia koe kapasa 'i he 'e tau fononga 'I he faha'i ta'u 'Etiveni pea ke hoko hoko atu ai pe.

Mark Houff

November 30—2nd Day of Advent

Micah 5:2: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” is a Christmas hymn that we sing every year. In this popular hymn, Phillip Brooks the author of that hymn, described the true meaning of Christmas. Bethlehem was a small town and nothing great ever happened there, but God chose this small town for the place of our Savior’s birth. It’s amazing how often God uses unlikely places or people to do His work.

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark street shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

Helena Ogle

Maika 5:2: Pea ko koe, Pētelihema ‘Efalata, si’i fau ke lau ‘i he ngaahi toko afe ‘o Siuta, ‘e ‘alu atu ha Taha meiate koe ma‘aku, ‘a ia te ne hoko ko e pule ‘o ‘Isileli; pea ko ‘ene ngaahi ‘alu ‘atu ‘oku talu mei mu‘a, mei he ngaahi ‘aho ‘o ‘ūtāniti.

“Pea ko koe, Petelihema” koe himi Kilisimasi ‘oku tau fa’a hiva ai ‘ihe ta’u kotoa pe. Koe fa’u foki eni ‘ae tangata ko Phillip Brooks pea ‘oku ne fakamatala’i ‘i he ‘ene fa’u ‘ae ‘uhinga ‘oe Kilisimasi. Petelihema, ko ha ki’i kolo si’isi’i pea na’e ‘ikai ‘i ai ha me’a lelei ‘e ala ma’u ‘I Petelihema, ka na’e fili ‘ehe ‘Otua ‘ae ki’i kolo si’isi’i ko eni koe kolo ke ‘alo’I mai ai ho tau Koeli. ‘Oku fakafo ‘e tau vakai ki he ngaue’aki ‘e he ‘Otua ha ki’i kolo pea moe kakai ta’e ‘iloa ken au fakahoko ‘a hono finangalo.

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark street shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

Helena Ogle



A voice is crying out:

“Clear the **LORD**’s way in the desert!
Make a level highway in the wilderness
for our **GOD!**”

December 1—3rd Day of Advent

Isaiah 40:3: A voice is crying out: "Clear the LORD's way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!"

Such a drastic contrast: desert vs. wilderness (I think of wilderness as a forest). One uninhabited the other inhabited by wild animals. One desolate and dry the other lush with plants growing with unchecked luxuriance.

Our hearts and spirit can be like that - desolate or unchecked. MY heart and spirit can be like that. In fact, it has been like that during this season of the pandemic. I have felt spiritually dried up by not being able to do outreaches, to worship in person, to fellowship with others and then at other times been so busy with ministry because the need is so great that I've felt spiritually weary.

As we start the Advent season, let us pause, take a deep breath, reset and clear the way for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to do great things in and through us!

Sandi Brekke

‘Aisea 40:3 Ko e le‘o ē ‘oku kalanga, “Teuteu ‘i he toafa ‘a e hā‘ele‘anga ‘o Sihova, fakatonutonu ‘i he fonua mamate ha hala tanu ma‘a hotau ‘Otua!’”

Koe ongo feitu‘u ‘e ua, kae fu‘u kehe kehe lahi kapau te tau fakatau hoa ‘ae toafa ki he fonua mamate (ko ‘eku fakakaukau koe toafa koe folesi). Koe feitu‘u ‘e taha ‘oku ma‘u‘anga moui pea koe fetu‘u ‘e taha ‘oku ‘ikai ma‘u ha mo‘ui ai. Koe taha ‘oku li‘ekina pea pakūka pea koe taha ‘oku mo‘ui, ma‘ui‘ui ae tupu ‘ae ngaahi ‘akau.

‘Oku fa‘a pehe pe foki ‘e tau ‘ofa pea mo hō tau laumalie ‘o li‘ekina ‘i he taimi lahi. ‘Oku ou fa‘a ongo‘i pehe pe ‘i he taimi lahi. ‘Ihe taimi ‘e ni‘ihi ‘oku ou ongo‘i ‘e au hange ‘oku pakūka ‘a hoku laumalie ‘I he taimi ‘oku ‘ikai keu lotu faka taha pea mo hoku kaunga pilikimi. ‘Ongo‘i li‘ekina ‘eku mo‘ui faka-laumalie ‘I he taimi ‘oku ‘ikai keu ‘alu ai ki ‘api siasi ‘o hange koe founa angamaheni. ‘Ihe taimi ‘e ni‘ihi ‘oku ou ongo‘i fu‘u mo‘umo‘ua ‘aupito pea au ongo‘I ‘e au ‘oku mafasia ‘a hoku laumalie.

‘Ihe kamata ‘oe faha‘I ta‘u ko eni ‘oe ‘Ētiveni, tau ki‘i tu‘u hifo, mihi‘i ‘e tau manava, pea faka‘ata‘ata ‘ae ha‘ele ‘anga hō tau Koēli, Sisu Kalaisi ke ne tala fatongia pea kene me‘a ngaue ‘aki tau tolu.

Sandi Brekke

December 2—4th Day of Advent

Isaiah 2:4: God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war.

In these troubled times, let us "Fear Not". We can take comfort in knowing, sometime in the future, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is coming to judge, teach and reign over nations in peace. Fighting will end. Instead of swords, there will be plows and pruning tools, and the land will flourish with abundance and a great harvest. But let us have hope not only in the future, but in the present. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life - we can learn from Jesus through the scriptures on how to live in peace, even in the midst of a pandemic. Jesus said in John 14:27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Colleen Masaki

Aisea 2:4: Te ne fai ha fakamaau ‘I he lolotonga ‘oe ngaahi pule’anga mo fakatonu ‘a e ngaahi me’a fekau’aki mo e ngaahi kakai lahi. Te nau tuki ‘enau ngaahi heletā ke hoko ko e ngaahi mata ‘i-palau Pea mo ‘enau ngaahi taó ke hoko ko e ngaahi hele ‘auhani. ‘E ‘ikai hiki ‘e ha pule’anga ha heletā ki ha pule’anga, Pea ‘e ‘ikai te nau toe ako tau.

‘The ngaahi taimi faingata’a ‘o hange ko ia ‘oku tau lolotonga fononga ai, “Oua ‘e manavahē”. Tau fiemalie pe he’e ‘i ai ha taimi ‘e hoko mai ai ‘a Sīsū Kala’isi ke fai ‘a hono fakamaau ‘I ‘o mamani. ‘E tuku ‘ae tau pea ‘e tuku pea moe ngaahi me’a tau pea moe ngaahi heletā, kae fai ‘a hono auhani pea mo hono palau ‘oe kekelele pea ‘e mahū ‘ae funga ‘oe fonua. ‘Oku fai ‘ae ‘amanaki lelei ki he kaha’u ka ‘oku ‘ikai ngata pe ai pea ‘oku tonu pe ke tau ‘amanaki leleli ki he lolotonga. Koe Sisu ‘ae hala pea moe mo’oni ‘oe mo’ui – pea ke tau ako me’ia Sisu ‘i he folofola ki he melino neongo ‘e tau nofo ‘I he kuonga faingata’a ko eni pea moe mahaki faka’auha ‘i ho tau lolotonga. Koe folofola pe ia ‘a Sisu ‘ia Sione 14:27 “Ko ‘eku ‘alu ‘eni, ka u tuku ha fiemālie kiate kimoutolu; ko ha fiemālie ‘a’aku ‘oku ou foaki atu kiate kimoutolu: ‘oku ‘ikai hangē ko e foaki ‘a māmani ‘a ‘eku foaki kiate kimoutolu. ‘Oua na’a tuku ke puputu’u homou loto, ‘uma’ā ha ‘ane manavahē”.

Coleen Masaki



December 3—5th Day of Advent

Isaiah 9:2: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

The metaphor of light makes sense only against a background of darkness. Darkness points to the moral darkness, and to times of judgment and calamity. Those who are “in the dark” are those who lack knowledge. We tend to be more fearful when it is dark, in part because we can’t see the dangers that would be apparent if it were light but also because there is something about darkness that gives rise to our fears.

Our country and the world are in a time of darkness and uncertainty with an unknown coronavirus entering our society and causing a pandemic. This virus has caused much sickness and death as medical experts try to gain knowledge of what we need to do to rid society of its devastating spread.

When Isaiah told of the coming Prince of Peace, he spoke of light dispelling darkness. The metaphor of light is central to our celebration of Christmas. The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem was not only the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, but the dawn of a new

age. Christ's birth is the dividing line between the age of darkness and the age of light. Let us celebrate this Christmas as a response to this gift of light with rejoicing, singing, and praying.

Prayer: Almighty God, may the light of Christ enter our hearts and minds as our country works together to use our knowledge and wisdom to find solutions to the current pandemic looming over our nation. We ask for your blessings as we celebrate the birth of Jesus as the light we need in our homes and in our world.

Judy Olson

Aisea 9:2: Ko e kakai na'e nofo he po'uli 'Oku nau mamata ki ha maama lahi; Ko e nofo 'i he fonua 'o e 'ata 'o mate, 'Oku ulo ha maama kiate kinautolu.

'Oku toki 'uhinga malie pe 'ae maama 'ihe taimi 'oku fakapo'uli ai. Koe fakapo'uli 'oku 'uhinga ia ki he taimi 'oku po'uli ai 'e tau mo'ui fakamolale. Koe ni'ihi 'oku 'ihe faka'po'uli 'aki nau tolu 'oku tō nounou 'ihe 'ilo. 'Oku fakatupu loto si'i 'ae taimi 'oku tau fetaulaki ai pea moe po'uli, ko hono 'uhinga koe 'ikai malava ke tau sio'o 'ilo'i ho tau ngaahi fili pe ko ha fakatu'utamaki na'e mei lava ke tau sio ki ai 'ihe maama. 'Oku 'ikai ngata ai, 'oku 'iai pe 'ae me'a ia 'ihe po'uli 'oku nau fu'u manavasi'i kiai.

Ko ho tau pule'anga pea mo mamani 'oku tau 'ihe kuonga 'oku po'uli pea ta'epau 'ae ngaahi me'a lahi 'o hange koe mahaki ko ia koe kolona kuo mo'ua ai ho tau mamani. Kuo mate atu ai 'ae fu'u kakai toko lahi pea puke ai 'ae ngaahi famili pea 'oku kei feku-mi 'ae kau toketa ke ma'u ha faito'o ki he mahaki ko eni.

'Ihe taimi na'e kikite'i ai 'e Aisea 'e hoko mai 'ae Pilinisi 'oe Melino, na'ane lea 'ihe maama ke tuli 'ae po'uli. 'Oku fu'u fie ma'u 'ae maama ki he 'e tau teu ki hono fakafiefia'i 'ae Kilisimasi. Koe 'alo'i ko ia 'o Sisu 'i Petelihema, na'e 'ikai 'uhinga pe ke fakakakato 'a hono kikite'i mai me'ihe kuonga ki mu'a, ka na'e hoko ia koe kamata 'anga 'oe to'u tangata fo'ou. Koe 'alo'i 'o Sisu na'e hoko ia kene fakamavae'i 'ae kuonga fakapo'uli me'ihe kuonga 'oe maama. Ke tau fakafiefia 'ihe Kilisimasi 'oe ta'u ko eni pea ke hoko 'e tau ngaahi maama koe me'a 'ofa lelei ia pea ke tau hiva pea mo lotu.

'Otua mafimafi, ke ulo mai mu'a ho'o maama pea ke hu mai mu'a Sisu ki ho mau ngaahi loto pea mo ho mau ngaahi atamai hono kotoa pea tuku ke mau ngaue 'aki 'ae poto 'ae 'Afiona ke ma'u 'aki ha faito'o 'ae mahaki faka'auha kuo to 'ihe funga 'oe fonua. 'Oku mau kole ha tapuaki me'ihe 'Afiona 'ihe teu ke mau faka fiefia'i 'ae 'aho na'e 'alo'I mai ai 'a Sisu koe maama ki ho mau ngaahi loto fale pea mo mamani foki.

Judy Olson



December 4—6th Day of Advent

Isaiah 7:11: "Ask a sign from the LORD your God. Make it as deep as the grave or as high as heaven."

I had heard on the news that there was a brush fire on Waahila Ridge on September 24th. I had planned on hiking in that area that Saturday but decided I would wait a week. When I went hiking in the area the trail, it suddenly opened up on the area that the fire had burned. The total devastation of the fire was surreal with everything in the area burned to the ground. Even the ground was covered in ash. However, even seeing the devastation, I was reminded that fire is part of the circle of life of a forest and that in a few months life would begin to grow in the area again. I am excited to return to this area in the months ahead to see how God's plan of renewal will unfold. Reflecting on the current COVID situation, it was a visual reminder that even though times are tough there will be renewal in the future.

Marty Conrad

Isea 7:11: Kole ma'au ha faka'ilonga meia Sihova ko ho 'Otua: 'o fai hifo ki lolofonua, pe fai hake ki he taukakapa.

Na'aku fanongo foki 'ihe ongoongo 'i hono talaki mai ai 'ae vela 'i Waahila Ridge 'ihe 'aho 24 'o Sepitema. Na'aku palani foki ki mu'a keu 'alu 'o 'eva 'i he 'aho Tokonaki

‘oe uike ko eni ki he fetu’u ko eni, ka na’aku toe liliu ‘eku fakakaukau keu toki ‘alu ‘i he uike hoko mai. ‘Ihe ‘eku a’u atu ki he feitu’u na’e vela, na’aku fu’u ‘ohovale ‘aupito ‘ihe maumau lahi na’e hoko koe ‘uhi koe vela ko eni ‘o a’u pe ki he kelekele. Ka na’e hoko ‘ae vela ko ko hono fakamanatu mai kia au, koe anga ia ‘e tau mo’ui. ‘E hili ha ngaahi mahina mei heni ‘e tupu me’ihe potu tatau na’e vela ‘osi’osi ha ngaahi huli’i akau ‘oku fo’ou. ‘Oku ou ma’u ha lotu ‘oku fiefia pea ‘ikai keu fa’a tatali ‘I ha ‘aku foki atu ‘I he ngaahi mahina ka hoko mai kuo toe ‘asi mai ha ngaahi mo’ui fo’ou ‘ihe kelekele ko eni na’e vela. ‘I he ‘eku vakai ki he COVID, neongo pe ‘oku ongo mamahi pea hoko mai ke tau faingata’a ‘ia ai ‘i he ngaahi ‘ahoni, ka ‘e ‘i ai ‘ae taimi tene ‘omi ai ha kaha’u ‘oku fo’ou.

Marty Conrad



December 5—7th Day of Advent

1 Corinthians 2:9: But this is precisely what is written: God has prepared things for those who love him that no eye has seen, or ear has heard, or that haven't crossed the mind of any human being.

God promises that He has prepared for us, amazing things. Things we are unable to comprehend. All He asked is that we love Him. So love God with all your heart, body, mind and soul to open up the floodgates of His blessings.

Mark Brekke

1 Kolinito 2:9: Ka na’e mo’oni pē ‘a e lau ‘a e Tohi, Ko e ngaahi me’a kuo ‘ikai mātā ‘e ha mata, pe fanongoa ‘e ha telinga, pe ake ki he lotu ‘o ha tangata; ‘io, ‘a e ngaahi fu’u me’a kuo teuteu ‘e he ‘Otua ma’a e kakai ‘oku ‘ofa kiate ia—

Kuo palomesi mai ‘ae ‘Otua, kuo teuteu ma’aki tautolu ha ngaahi me’a kuo ‘ikai mātā ‘e ha mata pea he ‘ikai malava ia ke tau mahino’i. Ko ‘ene kole, ke tau ‘ofa kiate ia. Ke tau ‘ofa mu’a ki ho tau ‘Otua ‘aki ho tau lotu, sino mo ho tau ‘atamai pea te tau tāai malie ‘ihe ngaahi tapuaki me’ihe ‘Otua.

Mark Brekke

December 6—8th Day of Advent

John 1:5: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

To me, this scripture verse exemplifies a message of hope for mankind. In this day and age we are living in the midst of darkness; be it a pandemic, constant warfare, crime, poverty, and/or the worshipping of idols, materials, & money. However, I know that the light of righteousness, big or small is true and present within us. My prayer this Advent Season is that we continue to shine the Eternal Light of Christ with those in the darkest of corners.

Paini Harris

Sione 1:5: Pea 'oku ulo 'a e maama 'i he po'uli; pea na'e 'ikai lava'i ia 'e he po'uli.

'Oku hanga 'e he ki'I veesi ko eni 'o 'omai ha 'amanaki lelei ki he fa'ahinga 'oe tangata. 'Oku tau lolotonga fononga'ia mo nofo he ngaahi 'aho 'oku fakapopoo'uli; Hange ko e; mahaki faka'auha, tau, pule fakaehaua, faihala, masiva, tauhi 'otua mate, 'ofa he pa'anga mo e ngaahi me'a matelie 'oe mamani. Ka 'I he taimi tatau, 'oku fakamanatu mai mo fakalotolahi'I kitautolu 'e he folofola ***"...pea na'e 'ikai lava'I ia 'e he po'uli"*** Ko ia 'oua 'e mole leva ho'o 'amanaki ka ke tu'u ki 'olunga 'o ulu atu ho'o mama ki he ngaahi potu 'oku kei fakapopoo'ulii ke maamangia ai 'akinautolu 'oku nau kei nofo 'I he po'uli. Ko 'eku lotu ia ki he fa'ahita'u 'Etiveni ko eni.

Paini Harris

December 7—9th Day of Advent

Hebrews 13:16: Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.

What acts of worship have I done in the kitchen or at the workplace lately? How have I pleased God by continuing to be blessed with full time employment during the pandemic and working through stressful changing state and workplace guidelines? Is it sufficient to continue with my overwhelming daily routine but not actually reaching out to do more to help those in need? God expects more from us in addition to monthly payments to favorite charities and our tithes. God also wants those sacrifices that come in the form of different kinds of sacrifices such as sharing your kitchen with friends and engaging in good conversation that leads to discussions of faith and hope for our future through Jesus, sharing your story with authenticity to those you meet in the workplace. working with unflinching morals and integrity as a witness to others of your attempt to live in Christ's shadow, earning the regard from others that know you are Christian by your conduct, manners and speech, making constant ef-

forts to not take things for granted but to remain passionate about working in small ways to support our community.

Heavenly Father empower us to identify needs, provide us with the means to fill those needs and bless us with the faith, hope and courage to do good works, in your name. Amen.

Dawn Dobbs

Hepelū 13:16: Kae'uma'ā, 'oua na'a ngalo 'a e fai 'ofa mo e fai tokoni: he ko e alā feilaulau pehē 'oku hōhō'ia ai 'a e 'Otua.

Koe hā nai ha'aku lotu kuo fai 'i peito pe 'ihe 'api ngaue ke fakahounga 'aki pea mo fakalangilangi ia? Koe ha nai ha founga kouou fakalangilangi'i 'aki 'ae 'Otua 'ihe ngaahi tapuaki kuo ou 'inasi ai lolotonga ia 'ae fu'u taimi faingata'a ko eni. Lolotonga ia 'ae feliuliuaki 'i he pule'anga pea moe tu'utu'uni kihe ngaahi feitu'u ngaue. 'Oku lelei pe koā ke hoko atu 'eku ngaue faka'aho pea mo 'eku ngaue angamaheni kae 'ikai keu tokoni kia ki nau tolu 'oku fie ma'u tokoni. 'Oku fie ma'u 'e he 'Otua 'a 'e tau tokoni 'o 'ikai ngata pe 'i he 'e tau tokoni fakapa'anga ki he Siasi. 'Oku mahu'inga ke tau ngaue 'aki 'ae 'ulungaanga 'oku totonu pea mo ha molale 'oku faka 'Otua. Kuo pau ke tau feinga malohi ke tau 'ofa pea ke tau tokoni'i ho tau ngaahi komuniti. 'E

Tamai Hevani, faka'ivia mu'a ki mau tolu ke malava ke mau 'ilo 'a 'e mau ngaahi fiema'u, faka'inasi pea tapuaki'I ki mautolu'aki ha tui 'oku malohi ke mau malava 'o fai ho ngaahi fatongia 'i he mamani. 'Oku kole 'ae ngaahi me'ani 'i ho huafa. 'Emeni.

Dawn Dobbs

December 8—10th Day of Advent

Philippians 2:4: Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

During this pandemic, God has been impressing on me that I need to learn to be less of an owner and more of a steward. In Luke 18:22 Jesus said to the rich man "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me." Here God isn't asking us to live in poverty, but He does want us to steward well what He has given us. God's blessings come with a corresponding responsibility to others. Blessings flow from God into our lives then flow out of our lives to others. This is stewarding the blessings well! When we look to the interests of others, the blessings keep flowing!

Sandi Brekke

Filipai 2:4: pea 'oua na'a takitaha tokanga ki he'ene me'a 'a'ana pē, ka ki he me'a 'a e kakai kehe foki.

'The lolotonga 'o 'e tau 'ihe taimi faingata'a ko eni 'oku tau fe'ao ai pea moe mahaki faka'auha, 'oku ofo ma'u pe 'eku mo'ui pea kou ako 'ae me'a lahi ke fakasi'isi'i 'eku feinga ke ma'u 'ae me'a hono kotoa kau ki'i feinga keu hoko koe toko taha tauhi koloa pe au 'ae 'Otua. 'I he tohi 'a Luke 18:22 na'e fakahinohino ai 'e Sisu ha tangata tu'umalie, "Oku kei toe ha me'a 'e taha ke ke fai: fakatau atu 'a e me'a kotoa pē 'oku ke ma'u, pea tufa hono pa'anga ki he masiva, pea 'e ai ha fu'u koloa 'e fa'oaki ma'au 'i Hēvani: pea ke ha'u, 'o kau 'i hoku lahi". 'Oku 'ikai 'a Sisu ke hoko eni ko ha me'a ke tau tu'utamaki ai, ka ko 'ene 'uhinga ke tau hoko ko ha kau tauhi koloa lelei 'ae ngaahi me'a 'oku ne 'omi ma'a tautolu. 'Oku tau ma'u 'ae tapuaki ko ia ka'oku 'i ai 'a ho tau ngaahi fatongia ma'a ho tau ngaahi kaunga fononga. Koe tapuaki 'ae 'Otua 'oku fou mai ia ki tau tolu pea fou atu meia ki tau tolu ki ho tau kaunga fononga. Koe 'uhinga ia 'oe tauhi koloa lele pea kau ai 'ae ngaahi tapuaki 'oku tau lave monu ai. Ko 'e tau 'inasi 'ihe ngaahi tapuaki 'ae 'Otua pea lave ai hōotau ngaahi kaungafononga pea 'oku tau ma'u hokohoko 'ae ngaahi tapuaki 'ae 'Otua.

Sandi Brekke

December 9—11th Day of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-2a: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse: from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him.

About 10 years ago, my family started the tradition of an Advent Jesse tree. An Advent Jesse Tree tells the story of Jesus from the beginning of Genesis through Jesus' birth. I really like this tradition because it highlights how the Old Testament is connected to the New Testament. As our verse today says: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse: from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him." Jesus is the shoot that comes up from the stump of Jesse. Jesus is the branch that bears fruit. The Spirit of the Lord rests on him.

If you are interested in starting the tradition of the Jesse Tree, this website (www.faithward.org/jesse-tree/printable-jesse-tree-ornaments) offers free ornaments that you can print in color or in black and white to color for yourself. I colored my own ornament of the stump of Jesse with the shoot that is bearing fruit. You can also get a devotional to go along with the ornaments at this website: www.faithward.org/jesse-tree/jesse-tree-family-devotions.

Kim Houff

Aisea 11:1-2a: PEA 'e fisiki mai ha lito mei he sino'i 'akau 'o Sese, pea 'e fua ha huli mei hono aka. Pea 'oku nofo hifo ki ai 'a e Laumālie 'o Sihova, 'a e laumālie 'o e poto mo e 'ilome'a, 'a e laumālie 'o e fale'i mo e mafai, 'a e laumālie 'o e 'ilo'i 'o Sihova mo e 'apasia ki ai.

Koe ta'u nai eni 'e 10 'a hono tauhi mai 'e hoku famili 'ae ouau 'i he faha'i ta'u ko eni koe teuteu'i 'ae akau 'o Sese. Koe 'akau 'o Sese koe talanoa ia ki he kamata'anga moe tuku fakaholo mai 'ae tohi hoko hoko 'o Sisu meia Senesi 'o a'u mai ki hono 'aloi. Koe ki'i ouau 'oku ou manaki ki ai pea 'oku ou nofo 'o faka'amu loto ke fai mo 'a'u mai ki he faha'i ta'u ko eni he 'oku ne hanga 'o fakahoko lelei 'ae Tohi Tapu me'ihe fuakava motu'a ki he fuakava fo'ou. Pea hange pe ko 'e tau veesi folofola "Pea 'e fisiki mai ha lito mei he sino'i 'akau 'o Sese, pea 'e fua ha huli mei hono aka. Pea 'oku nofo hifo ki ai 'a e Laumalie 'o Sihova". Ko Sisu 'ae huli ko ia 'e fisiki mai pea 'e huli mei hono aka. Ko Sisu 'ae va'a pea 'e fua. Pea 'oku nofo hifo ki ai 'a e Laumalie 'o Sihova.



Kapau 'oku ke fie kamata ha ouau 'o hange ko ia 'oku ou fai 'ihe ta'u kotoa pe, Koe 'akau 'o Sese, teke toe ma'u 'a hono faka ikiiki 'ihe (www.faithward.org/jesse-tree/printable-jesse-tree-ornaments) pea teke ma'u ai 'ae ngaahi fakamatala ki hono ngaahi teuteu 'oe fu'u akau 'o Sese. 'E toe ma'u foki pea moe ngaahi lotu me'ihe www.faithward.org/jesse-tree/jesse-tree-family-devotions.

Kim Houff

December 10—12th Day of Advent

Isaiah 11:6: The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and lion and the yearling together: and a little child will lead them.

Whenever I read or hear this verse from Isaiah, I immediately think of Rev. Edward Hicks' famous paintings of "The Peaceable Kingdom. I thought you would enjoy seeing one of these paintings and some background information on both the artist and the art's symbolism. The symbolism is particularly notable in these times of societal and denominational division.

Mark Houff

Aisea 11:6: Pea 'e nonofo 'a e ulofi mo e lami, pea 'e tākoto 'a e lēpati mo e ki'i kosi, pea fakataha 'a e kafi mo e laione mui mo e pulu sino, pea 'oku fakateka kinautolu 'e ha momo'i tamasi'i.

'The taimi kotoa pe 'oku ou fanongo ai ki he potu folofola ko eni meia 'Aisea, 'oku ou manatu ai ki he faifekau ko Faifekau Edward Hicks pea moe 'ene ta valivali na'e 'iloa "Koe Pule'anga Melino". 'Oku ou tui teke ma'u hā fiefia 'i ha'o mamata ki he tā valivali ko eni pea mo 'ene felave'I pea moe toko taha tā valivali pea moe faka tāta foki. 'Oku ne 'omi 'ae 'imisi 'oe tu'unga 'oku tau 'i ai 'ihe ngaahi 'ahoni.

Mark Houff

"Koe Quaker (Society of Friends), koe Faifekau pea to ta valivali ko Edward Hicks 'oku 'iloa 'ene ta valivali koe Peaceable Kingdom, koe ta valivali pe 'e 62 'oku 'i mamani. Koe ta valivali ko 'eni koe palofisai 'oku ha 'ihe tohi 'a 'Aisea 11:6: "Pea 'e nonofo 'ae ulofi mo e lami, pea 'e takoto 'a e lepati mo e ki'I kosi, pea fakataha 'a e kafi mo e laione mui mo e pulu sino, pea 'oku fakateka kinautolu 'e ha momo'i tamasi'i. 'The 1820, na'e hoko ha vamama'o 'ihe kautaha ko eni koe Society of Friends. Ihe ta valivali ko eni 'a Hicks 'oku ne faka'asi ia 'i he ta valivali 'i ko eni 'i he tunga'i akau 'oku 'asi 'I he valivali ko eni. 'Oku 'asi foki 'ae tunnga'i 'akau ko eni 'i he valivali 'oku mafahi ua, koe mavae ua ia 'ae kautaha ko eni koe Society of Friends pea 'i he tafa'aki 'oe tunga'I 'akau, 'oku takoto ai 'ae ngaahi manu feka'i 'i he melino mo'oni. 'Ae laione pea mo hono ngaahi kaume'a pea moe ox foki. Ko hono ta valivali ia pea mo hono faka mahino 'ae fakamolemole pea moe kataki, 'I he melino.

Koe ta valivali foki ko eni ma'u ia me'ihe neti 'ae NY Metropolitan Art Museum:

<https://collectionapi.metmuseum.org/api/collection/v1/iiif/11081/34295/main-image>



“The Quaker [Society of Friends] minister and painter Edward Hicks is best known for his Peaceable Kingdom pictures, of which sixty-two exist. The paintings represent a messianic prophecy in the book of Isaiah (11:6): “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.” During the 1820s, a severe rift formed within the Society of Friends. In this version of Hicks’s favorite motif, the split is represented by the shattered tree trunk, and the desire for peace between the factions by the menagerie of discordant beasts lying down in perfect harmony. The lion and his companion, the ox, were, for Hicks, symbols of redemption.”

—artist/painting details from: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/11081>

Image is public domain from The NY Metropolitan Art Museum:

<https://collectionapi.metmuseum.org/api/collection/v1/iiif/11081/34295/main-image>

December 11—13th Day of Advent

Ephesians 5:8: For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...

Have you ever been in a room with more than two kids and then turn the lights off? The fear and discomfort that they feel is overwhelming to watch. The thought of not knowing what could happen in the dark is too much to fathom so with quickness, their reaction hits the roof by screaming or crying or being ever so still in fear. In this verse we are reminded that the Lord is the light. We have freedom to praise him even in the darkest places in our lives.

Sita Vaivao

Efesō 5:8: he neongo ko e koto po‘uli kimoutolu ‘i mu‘a, ka ‘i onopooni ko e koto maama kimoutolu ‘i he ‘Eiki: mou laka ‘o taau mo e fānau ‘a maama;

Kuo ‘i ai nai ha taimi na’ake ma’u faingamalie ‘o ke tamate’i ‘ae maama ‘oha loki ‘oku lolotonga ‘ihe loki ha fanau valevale? ‘Oku mahino pe ‘a ‘e nau ilifia pea mo manavahe koe ‘uhi koe fakapo’uli ‘ae loki. Tupu pea me’ihe ‘ikai ke tau ‘ilo’i koe ha ‘ae me’a ‘e hoko ‘ihe lolotonga ‘oe fakapo’uli, koe me’a po ‘oku taupotu mai ko ‘eke kaikaila ‘aki ‘ae le’o lahi taha pea moe tangi ‘i he manavahe. ‘Ihe veesi folofola ko eni, ‘oku toe fakamanatu mai ai kia ki tau tolu koe ‘Eiki ‘ae maama. ‘Oku ‘ia ki tau tolu ‘ae tau’ataina ke tau tapafua ‘a hono huafa ‘o a’u ai pe ki he taimi fakapo’uli taha ‘oku ‘i ai ‘a ho’o moui, koe ‘Eiki ‘ae maama.

Sita Vaivao



‘December 12—14th Day of Advent

James 2:15-16: Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

My first thought when I read through this passage was “Lord, how do you expect us to care for others’ physical needs when we can’t be physically near others?”. The truth of the matter, at least in my case, is that having to physically distance myself from others has become an easy way for me to excuse myself from supporting those around me. Of course, when I see my friends and family members struggling, I still send out short condolences or words of support via text, but how is this different from the verse’s example of empty words with no action to back it up?

For some, there are obstacles beyond physical distancing that make providing support difficult. Me and my college-age friends are well acquainted with some of the limitations — mainly finances and time— that can impact one’s ability to give physical forms of support to others. The same can be said for many during this holiday season in particular, as for many, it has arrived in the midst of a time of unprecedented loss.

During the “stay-at-home order” period of the pandemic, I was feeling my own version of this loss. I was officially a college graduate and was staying with my grandmother, both of us confined to the house. I had resigned myself to hours of boredom and loneliness, until I happened across one of my friend’s Instagram posts asking for mailing addresses. She was using her newfound free time to write letters to any of her friends who wanted one. Since I had been looking to use up some of my stationery (collected from my countless trips to Daiso!), I decided to follow my friend’s example and ask for addresses about a week later. Writing the letters not only used up some time and my stationery, but also gave me the chance to send messages of thanks and support to friends I haven’t kept in close contact with.

The addresses I collected during my mid-quarantine letter-writing kick have made it easy for me to continue secretly sending letters and gifts my friends’ way. It’s a low cost action for a high value reaction: letters may not be “physical help” in the literal sense, but the thought and time that goes into writing them does not go unnoticed. In fact, many of my friends have made note of my address and returned the favor on a whim, as well. Though the onset of the pandemic was the start of a difficult time for many of my friends, I’m so thankful we were able to create a lasting and positive physical reminder of mutual support for each other.

As James implies in today’s verse, our tangible acts of support should not be limited to those within our inner circle. In many cases, those “without clothes or daily food” are total strangers! I won’t spend too much time plugging our church’s many ministries that take action to physically support our brothers and sisters in need; Kim Houff, the Director of Discipleship and Community Engagement here at FUMC and my mother, does that well enough on her own! If you’re interested in learning more about these ministries and how you can get involved, however, Kim can be reached at kim@firstumchonolulu.org.

And, if you’ve been bitten by the letter-writing bug but don’t have any addresses on hand, many children’s hospitals across the US have implemented programs that allow internet users to virtually write and send cheerful greeting cards to patients. I’ve added the web address for one of these programs at the Children’s Hospital of Colorado here (www.childrenscolorado.org/your-visit/cheer-cards/), but keep an eye out for other card programs from your hospital of choice; many seem to pop up during the holiday season!

Ashleigh Houff

Sēmisi 2:15-16: Ko eni, kapau ‘e masiva kofu ha tangata lotu, pe ha fine lotu, mo ‘ikai ‘aupito ma‘u si‘a me‘a tokoni pea ka pehē ange ‘e hamou toko taha, ‘Alu ā, ‘oku fai pē homou fakamāfana, ‘oku fai pē homou fakamākona; ka ‘oku ‘ikai te mou ange ‘a e ngaahi me‘a ‘oku tangi ki ai ‘a e sino; ko e hā hono ‘aonga, ‘ō?

Ko ‘eku ‘uluaki fakakaukau ‘ihe taimi na’aku lau ai ‘ae veesi folofola ko eni, “Eiki, ‘e anga fefe nai ha’a mau tokoni’i ‘a kinau tolu ‘oku fiema’u tokoni ‘o hange ko ho finangalo lolotonga ia ‘oku ‘ikai ngofua ‘ihe lao ‘oe lolotonga ke mau vaofi?. Ko hono mo’oni foki, kuo hoko ‘ae tu’utu’uni ko eni ‘ae lao ke tauhi ‘ae vamama’o koe kau lelei ia kia au ke ‘oua teu toe ofi ai ki ha taha pe teu tokoni’i ai ha taha. ‘E kei fai pe ‘eku ngaahi popoaki tala’ofa pea moe popoaki ‘ofa ki hoku ngaahi famili pea mo hoku ngaahi kaunga’api, ka ‘oku ‘ikai teu ofi ki ai ke tokoni. Ka koe ha koaa ‘a hono faikehekehe pea mo ‘ee tau veesi folofola ‘oe ‘aho ko eni.

Ki he ni’ihi ‘oku ‘iai ‘ae ngaahi tukuia ‘anga ia ‘oku ‘ikai fa’a lava ke fai ai ha tokoni ‘ihe taimi faingata’a. Kia au pea mo hoku kaunga to’utupu ‘oku ‘iai ‘a ho mau ngaahi fakangatangata ke mau tokoni, tautautefito ki he tu’unga fakapa’anga pea moe taimi pea ‘oku fa’a malava pe ke hanga ‘ehe ongo me’a ko eni ‘e ufa, pa’anga pea moe taimi ‘o fakangatangata ‘e tau tokoni ‘ihe fa’ahi ta’u ko eni.

Lolotonga ko ia ‘ae vaha’a taimi na’e fai ai ‘ehe pule’anga ‘ene tu’utu’uni ke tapuni ‘ae pule’anga pea fakataputapui, na’aku matu’aki ongo’i he mo’oni. Na’aku toki ‘osi mai me’ihe kolisi pea na’aku nofo ‘ihe ‘api ‘o eku kuo. Na’aku fatu’aki fakafisi mo’oni ‘ihe vaha’a taimi koeni. Koau pe pea mo ‘eku kui toko ua, ‘ikai ke ‘ilo pe koe ha ha me’a ‘e fai ‘ihe taimi ko eni na’e fai ai ‘ae taputapui. ‘Oho vale pe kuo ou fetaulaki pea mo hoku kau me’a ‘ihe Instagram ‘one ‘eke mai ‘a hoku tu’asila. Na’ane ngaue ‘aki ‘ae taimi iko eni ke faitohi takai ki hono ngaahi kaungame’a. Na’e kamata leva keu muimui ‘ihe fakakaukau ‘a hoku kaungame’a ‘o fai tohi ki hoku ngaahi kaungame’a. Na’e hoko foki ‘ae taimi ko eni koe faingamalie ia kia au keu fai ai ‘ae ngaahi tohi kia ki nau tolu ka ‘ihe taimi tatau na’aku ngaue ‘aki ‘ae taimi ko eni koe faingamalie keu fakamalo ai ki ki nau tolu na’a nau tokoni’i au pea ‘i he taimi lahi, na’aku fai ‘ae fakaloto lahi kia ki nau tolu.

Koe ngaahi tu’a sila ko eni na’aku tanaki ‘i he vaha’a taimi faingata’a ko eni, ‘oku kei hokohoko atu pe ‘eku ngaue ‘aki ki nautolu pea mo hono ngaue’aki ki he tetu’u taki ki hoku ngaahi kaungame’a. Neongo pe ‘oku ‘ikai ko ha tokoni fakasino eni, ka ‘oku hoko ‘ae ki’i taimi ‘oku te nofo hifo ai ‘o fai ‘ae tohi koe ki’i taimi faka koloa ia. ‘Oku toe fakafiefia ange ‘ihono toe tali mai ‘e he ngaahi kaungame’a ‘a ‘ete tohi ‘i he founga tau.

Pea hange pe koe veesi folofola ‘oe ‘aho ko eni, ‘oku totonu ke ‘oua ‘e fakangatangata ‘e tau ngaahi tokoni ma’aki nautolu pe ‘iho tau lolotonga pe ko ho tau ngaahi famili

ofi. ‘The taimi lahi koe toko lahi ‘a ki nau tolu ‘oku masiva kofu pea moe me’a kai fakaka’aho, koe kakai ‘oku ‘ikai ke tau mahi mo ki nau tolu. Pea hange pe ko ‘e tau ngaahi polokalama ‘ae Siasi ‘i hono tokioni’I ‘ae ngaahi tukuhausia. Pea hange pe koe ngaue ko ia ‘a Kim Houff, koe Talekita ‘oe Discipleship and Community Engagement ‘iho tau Siasi FUMC, pea pehe ki he ngaahi fa’e ‘oku nau fakahoko ‘ange ngaahi ngaue fakaofo’ofa ko eni. Kapau ‘oku ke fie kau ki he ngaue tokoni ko eni pea ke fetu’u taki mai kia Kim ‘ihe email kim@firtsumchonolulu.org.

Pea kapau leva ‘oku ke fu’u fie ma’u keke fai tohi ki ha taha, ‘oku lahi ‘ae ngaahi falemahaki ‘oku ‘iai ‘ae si’i fanau ‘oku nau takoto ‘ihe ngaahi falemahaki ‘oku nau fie ma’u ke nau lau ha ngaahi tohi meia ki mou tolu. Koe falemahaki ‘I Colorado, fetu’utaki ki he ww.childrenscolorado.org/your-visit/cheer-cards pea moe ngaahi polokalama kehe pe ‘e lava ai keke fai tohi ‘o talanoa moe ni’ihi ‘oku nau si’i ongo’I li’ekina pea tautautefito ki he fa’ahi ta’u koeni.

Ashleigh Houff



December 13—15th Day of Advent

Galatians 4:4-5: But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Everything was in God’s time. Everything was under the law. There were laws for everything! Yet, when Mary conceived and bore her son who was named, Emmanuel, God with us, things changed. So now with God sending his Son the reign of the law has ended, and a new age has begun.

Animal sacrifices are no longer necessary. Jesus’ death provided a complete remedy for our transgressions. (Hebrews 9:15-17) Isaiah 53:5 predicts what the Messiah will do. He has done far more. We have received the full rights of HIM. Hallelujah!!!

Two songs come to mind “Mary, Did You Know?” and a hymn “Now Are the Days Fulfilled”. Both are available on You Tube.

I am so grateful to have the full rights of sons and daughters. May I live up to being the best Beverly, I can. To God be the Glory! Amen

Beverly Aiwohi

Kalētia 4:4-5: Ka ‘i he hokosia leva ‘a e fakakakato ‘o e taimi, na’e fekau atu ‘e he ‘Otua hono ‘Alo ‘o’ona, ‘a ia ne tupu mei ha fefine, mo tupu ko e mo‘ulalao ki he Lao; koe‘uhi ā ke ne huhu‘i ‘a kinautolu ‘oku mo‘ulalao ki he Lao, ka tau ma‘u ‘a e ohi.

Koe me’a kotoa pe ‘ihe mamani ‘oku hoko ia ‘o fakatatau ki he taimi ‘ae ‘Otua. Koe me’a kotoa pe na’e ‘ihe malumalu ‘oe lao. Pea na’e mo’ui popula ki ai ‘a ha’a tangata. Na’e ‘iai ‘ae lao ki he me’a kotoa. Ka ‘ihe taimi tataua, na’e ‘aloi ‘e Mele ‘ae ‘alo pea fakahingoa ia ko ‘Imanuela, ko hono ‘uhinga “oku ne ‘iho tau lotolotonga”. Na’e hoko ‘a ‘ene hoko mai ki mamani ke tu’i fakalevaleva ia ‘I he law pea hoko eni koe kamata’anga fo’ou ‘i ha kuonga ‘oku fo’ou.

Na’e ‘ikai ke toe fai ‘ae feilaulau ‘aki ‘ae monumanu, hee na’e hoko ‘a ene pekia ‘ihe funga ‘oe kolosi koe fetongi ia ‘oe feilaulau na’a nau anga maheni ki ai.

‘Oku ‘i ai ha ongo hiva ‘e ua ‘oku ou manatu ki ai “Mary, Did You Know?” pea moe himi “Now Are the Days Fulfilled”. “E lava pe keke ma’u eni ‘ihe YouTube. ‘Oku ou fakafeta’i ‘ihe ‘eku hoko ko ‘ene fanau pea ‘oku tau ma’u ‘ae totonu ki ateia. Koe ‘eku lotu pea mo ‘eku faka’amu keu lava ‘o fai ‘a hono finangalo. Pea ke langilangi ‘ia ma’u pe ‘ae ‘Eiki.

Beverly Aiwohi

December 14—16th Day of Advent

Luke 1:35: The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

Let’s examine the phrase, “the power of the Highest shall overshadow you” further. The word overshadowed means to cause (something or someone) to seem less important or impressive when compared to something or someone else. When we really start looking at what God is asking of Mary, we realize that He is also asking of us, to give ourselves over completely to God.

Giving ourselves over to God completely is the whole purpose and point of our faith, the faith that God requires from all of us. Everything about the Gospel of Jesus Christ tells us when we quit focusing so much of our attention on ourselves, we start to claim a new identity.

When we let go and let God, when we allow God to truly overshadow us, so much so that we become a beacon of light of God’s love and grace for all people, then we truly take on our real identity, our actual identity, the identity that matters. When we allow God to overshadow us, we become who we were created to be: a child of God, claimed

and named as one of God's very own and loved more than we could ever imagine. When we think about God's invitation to overshadow us completely, it is really rather exciting. It is exactly what we have been hoping for and asking to happen all along. We have been praying for God to come and be with us. We have been praying for God to come and set things right once more. We have been praying for the world to know God's love once more. And the only way this can happen is if we allow God to overshadow us completely.

We tend to imagine that Mary was just sitting there passively while the angel was speaking, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Mary was taking part in this exchange as well. She had the choice to say yes to God's request. If Mary had said no thank you, then God would have had to come up with another plan. But she didn't thankfully for us and for all of creation.

Today and all days, God is promising to overshadow us if we would only let Him. The power of the Most High is waiting to overshadow us, not so that we lose our identity but so that we will be set free. God is waiting to overshadow us so that the Kingdom of God will come to new life in us and in our world today.

Let us Pray:

Let the brilliance of Your glory be seen as we are enveloped by the cloud that reflects the light of heaven and not the darkness of earthly creatures. Move us into the arena of life-giving ministry and influence in our world! Let's live and speak so that men and women in Minneapolis, Morocco, Mongolia and on Maui might know that Jesus Christ is a great Savior, the Son of the Highest, and the never-ending King of kings. That's the passion of the Holy Spirit. To be full of that is to be full of Him. May we give ourselves over to God completely. May the power of the Most High overshadow us, and may we always remember that the only hope of glory is the Christ in you and me. Amen.

Judy Olson

Luke 1:35: Pea tali 'e he 'āngelo kiate ia, 'o pehē, 'e hoko mai 'a e Laumālie Mā'oni'oni kiate koe, pea 'e fakamalumalu koe 'e he māfimaifi 'o e 'Eiki Taupotu: pea ko ia 'e ui ai 'a e hako tapu te ke fā'ele'i,

'Oku ou kole ke tau ki'i sio ange ki he kaveinga ko eni 'oku pehe mai " 'e hoko mai 'a e Laumālie Mā'oni'oni kiate koe, pea 'e fakamalumalu koe 'e he māfimaifi 'o e 'Eiki Taupotu" Koe lea ko ia fakamalumalu 'oku 'uhinga ia koe me'a 'e hoko ki ha toko taha 'oku 'ikai mahu'inga pe 'oku mahu'inga 'o fakatatau ki he 'a takai. Kapau te tau toe vakai fakalelei ki he me'a 'oku kole ange 'ehe 'Otua kia Mele, koe kole ko ia, koe kole ia kia ki tau tolu foki. Ke foaki 'a ho tau kotoa ma'e 'Otua. Koe 'uhinga ia 'e tau tui, ko'e tau tui ki he 'Otua pea 'oku tau foaki kakato ki tau tolu ma'ae 'Otua. Koe me'a

kotoa pe ‘i he Kosipeli ‘o Sisu Kalaisi ‘oku ne tala mai ai, ‘oua te tau fa’a mo’ui sio kita, ‘oua ‘e nofo pe ‘ete tokanga ia kita.

‘Ihe taimi ‘oku tau tukuange ai kita kae tuku ange ma’e ‘Otua ‘e tau mo’ui, ‘oku hoko leva ‘ae ‘Otua koe fakamalumalu ma’aki tau tolu, ‘io ‘o au pe ki ha tu’unga kuo tau hoko ai koe maama ma’e ‘Otua ‘o tau ulo atu ‘ihe kelesi ‘ae ‘Otua. ‘Ihe taimi ‘oku tau tukuanga ai ki he ‘Otua ke ne fakamalumalu ‘e tau mo’ui, ‘oku malava leva ke tau toe foki ‘o hoko koe fanau ‘ae ‘Otua pea malava ke tau fe’ofa’ofani.

Kapau te tau fakakaukau ki he fakaafe’oku fai mai ‘ehe ‘Otua ma’aki tautolu ‘ihe ‘ahoni kene hoko koe fakamalumalu ma’aki tau tolu, koe ongoongo fakafiefia ia. Koe me’a ia ‘oku tau tali kia ai pea koe me’a ia ‘oku tau faka’amu ki ai. Koe anga ia ‘e tau lotu kene hoko mai ke tau fe’ao ‘ihe ‘aho kotoa pe. Talu ‘e tau lotu moe kole ke ha’ele mai ‘o fakatonotonu ho tau halanga fononga. Talu ‘e tau lotu ki he ‘Otua ke kei ‘ofa mai pe mu’a pea koe founga pe ‘e lava ai ko ‘e tau ko’e tau tukuange ‘ae ‘Otua ke hoko koe fakamalumalu ki he ‘e tau mo’ou.

‘Oku tau fa’a fakakaukau ko Mele na’e tangutu pe ‘o fakaongo ki he me’a na’e tala ki ai ‘e he ‘angelo, ka ‘oku ‘ikai mo’oni eni. Na’e talanoa ‘a Mele pea moe ‘angelo. Na’e lea ‘a Mele ‘io kihe kole ‘ae ‘Otua. Na’e mei malava pe ke ‘ikai ‘a Mele pea na’e toe fa’ufa’u fo’ou ‘ae ‘Otua ha plani ‘e taha. Ka na’e ‘ikai ‘o tau fakamalo kotoa ‘ae fa’ahinga ‘oe tangata.

‘Ihe ‘ahoni pea moe ‘aho kotoa pe, ‘oku palomesi mai ‘ae ‘Otua tene fakamalumalu ‘aki tau tolu ‘oka pau te tau tukuage ha faingamalie. Koe fu’u ivi pea moe mafimafi ‘oku ‘ihe taukakapa ‘oku ne talitali mai ki tau tolu kene fakatau’ataina’i ki tau tolu. Kehe hoko koe fakamalumalu ma’aki tau tolu.

Lotu:

Tuku mu’a ‘a ho’o poto pea moho’o kololia ke hā mai kia ki mau toluoni pea ke ‘o’ofaki ki mau tolu ‘aki ‘ae maama ‘o hevani pea ‘ikai koe fakapo’uli ‘o mamani.. ‘Ave mu’a ki mau tolu ki he ngaahi potu ‘oku ma’ui’ui pea mo’ui ‘ihe mamani. Pea ke mau mo’ui ‘o lea koe ‘uhi ko ki nau tolu ‘ae kau tangata pea moe kau fefine kotoa pe mei Minneapolis, Morocco, Mongolia pea mo Maui ken au ‘ilo ko Sisu Kalaisi ‘a ho nau Koeli, koe ‘alo ‘oe Mafimafi pea koe Tu’i ‘oe ngaahi Tu’i. Ko ia ‘ae ‘of ‘ae Laumali Ma’oni’oni. Ko ‘ete fonu ‘ihe Laumalie Ma’oni’oni, ko ‘ete ma’u ia ‘ae fakamo’ui. Ke tau foaki kakato ki tau tolu ma’ae ‘Otua. Pee ke fakamalumalu ki tau tolu ‘ehe ‘Otua mafimafi pea ke tau manatu’i ma’u pe ‘a ho tau ‘amanaki ‘anga pea moe kololia ia Kalaisi. Emeni.

Judy Olson

December 15—17th Day of Advent

Luke 1:38. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me according to Your will." Then the angel left her.

The response of Mary to the angel is one that is reminiscent of how the prophets of the Old Testament would respond to the calling of God. I believe that Luke was portraying Mary as standing in the prophetic tradition. Two things that I infer from this:

- 1) The announcement to Mary that she would be the Mother of Jesus was a calling from God; and for all mothers (fathers, too), the sacred calling to parenthood is one of the highest of all. We have no greater privilege, no more important task.
- 2) The prophets of old were about telling the truth about how God wanted the people to live. We live in times where telling the truth has become more and more scarce, and lying has become normalized. I pray that this will change.

PRAYER: Lord, during this Advent season and beyond, may we fulfill our callings from God and pledge to be truth tellers for the sake of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Tom Choi

Luke 1:38: Pea pehē 'e Mele, Ko au 'eni, ko e kaunanga 'a e 'eiki: ke hoko mai kiate au 'o hangē ko ho'o me'a. Pea 'alu 'a e 'āngelo meiate ia.

Koe potu talanoa fekau aki moe fakamatala o' Mele, he taimi ne faka'ilo ki ai ae angelo, tene hoko koe Fa'e o Sisū. Neongo ene ta'e tui ki he me'a ni, na'a ne tali o pehe "Ko au eni ae sevaniti oe Otua, ke fai ho'o finangalo o faka tatau ki ho'o folofola. (Luke 1:38). Taha eku ngaahi kau me'a he ako na'ane pehe "kau e veesi koeni he veesi fakalata mo fakafiefia" ae tu'u a Mele 'i he haohao'anga oe kau Taki moe kau Palofita. I'he fuokava motu'a te ke kumi o 'ilo'i oku tatau ae tali a Epalahame aisake, sekope, samiuēla, isaia moe niihi pe, ki he Otua "Ko au eni". Ikai ke ngata pe he hoko a Mele koe fa'e faka lao pe tukufakaholo ka oku ne hanga o omi ae fakakaukau ki he mahu'inga ae kakai fefine ihe Talanoa ae Otua mo ene Ongo ongo lelei. Koia, ihe kosipeli o Luke, koe hiva fakafeta'i a Mele, pea moe tu'utu'uni a Elisapeti lolotonga ne longo hono husepaniti oku mahu'inga ki he Otua. Pea moe kau fefine te nau mamata ki he ngeesi fonualoto.

Kuou Tui oku lahi e me'a oku hanga e he Otua o fale'i mai ma' aki tau tolu hono kotoa. Koe ha pe ha mahino oku tau ma'u ki he folofola ae Otua oku mahu'inga ke tau ilo oku i'ai ae me'a oku toe lahi ange ia ma'aki tautolu. Ke tau ilo ia, he fononga koeni oku tau fai.

Pastor Tom Choi

December 16—18th Day of Advent

Luke 1:45: Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.

Father may the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you oh Lord, my redeemer. Amen.

Just a disclaimer... I am not a woman of many words, but I hope that what I share today brings light to your hearts and a drop of hope in your life. Today's verse is a special one. When I think of this verse, I think of my mom. I never understood the decisions she made for me growing up, but now being a young adult in my early 20's, living on my own and taking on real responsibilities, I realize I should've been more grateful when she was around. I trusted her all of my life with no questions and worries. In my mind she will always be there to be my Dr.Phil & Bob the Builder when I needed fixing. It was up until she left that it dawned on me that my life was going to change whether I liked it or not. When I think of this verse it allows me to reflect that just as much as I trusted my mom with my life, I took a leap of faith and trusted the Lord the same way. I went from a life of worry, doubt and fear to a life of hope, love, peace. I learned that when you truly trust God and believe what he speaks into your life, the overflow of blessings will bring joy into your life. My challenge for you this week is to think of that one person you trust most in your life today and with that same trust, give it to God.

Ariitema Vulivalu

Luke 1:45: Pea monū'ia ā ka ko ia na'e tuitala! Koe 'uhi 'e faka mo'oni 'a e ngaahi me'a Na'e fakahā mei he 'Eiki kiate ia.

'E Sihova, ke hoko lelei ki ho 'ao 'a e ngaahi lea 'a hoku ngutu ni, Mo e fakakaukau 'a hoku
loto, 'A e 'Afiona ko hoku Mo'unga mo hoku Koeli! Emeni.

Koe ki'i tala teu..'Oku 'ikai ko ha fefine au 'oku mohu fakamatala, ka 'oku ou fakamuange 'e hoko eku ki'I vahevahe 'ihe ahoni pea moe potu folofola ko eni ke ulo ai ha maama 'iho loto pea ke hoko koe fakatupu 'amanaki. Koe veesi folofola 'oe 'aho ko eni, 'oku ou mahu'inga kia au. 'Ihe 'eku nofo hifo 'o fakakaukau loto ki he veesi folofolani, 'oku ou manatu ai ki he 'eku fa'e. Na'e 'ikai ke fu'u mahino kia au 'a ene ngaahi tu'utu'uni 'ihe 'eku keu tupu hake, ka 'ihe 'eku tupu hake pea a'u eni ki hoku ta'u uangofulu tupu, 'oku malava pe keu tauhi au pea mo 'eku mo'ui, fai 'ae ngaahi fatongia 'oku totonu ke fakahoko, pea toki mahino mai kia au, na'e tonu pe keu ma'u ha loto hounga'ia 'ihe taimi na'aku ma'u faingamalie ai 'ou feohi pea mo 'eku fa'e. 'Ihe 'eku fakakaukau, teu fe'ao ma'u pe pea mo ia, pea tene hoko ko hoku Dr. Phil pea 'e hoko ko 'eku tufunga 'o hange ko Bob the Builder 'ihe taimi teu fie ma'u ai ha

tokoni. Na'e toki mahino mai kiate au 'ihe taimi na'ane hiki atu ai ki fonua lahi, 'ae liliu kuo pau ke hoko ki he'eku mo'ui 'o tatau ai pe. 'Ihe 'eku fakalaulau loto ki he veesi folofola 'oe 'aho ko eni, 'oku hō 'ata mai kiate au, keu falala ki he 'Eiki 'o tatau mo 'eku falala ki he 'eku fa'e. 'Ihe taimi na'aku falala ai ki he 'Eiki 'o hange pe ko 'eku falala na'e fai ki he 'eku fa'e, na'aku ma'u ha mo'ui 'oku nonga. Na'aku ongo'i 'ae hiki 'eku mo'ui meihe puputu'u, veiveiua, ilifai ki ha mo'ui 'oku ofa, melino pea mo 'amanaki foki. 'Oku ou ako, ko 'ete falala ki he 'Otua pea tui kia te ia, 'oku ne 'omi 'ae mo'ui kia kita. 'Oku te ongo'i 'ae fiefia 'i he tapuaki kuo 'inasi ai 'ete mo'ui 'ihe taimi kotoa. Ko 'eku pole ma'aki mou tolu 'ihe uike ko eni, kumi ange ha taha 'iho'o mo'ui 'oku ke falala ki ai, to'o ange 'ae falala koia 'o falala 'aki ia ki he 'Otua.

Ariitema Vulivalu



December 17—19th Day of Advent

Luke 1:46-48 (The Message): And Mary said, I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me and look what happened—I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.

Mary was deeply moved by two amazing message encounters: first with the angel, Gabriel, and then with her cousin, Elizabeth. Blessed Mary testifies of her gratitude and sing praises to God from the inward feeling of her mind and with open mouth. God passed by the rich and noble families of Jewish people and chose this poor virgin to be the mother of the Messiah. Amen!

Marine Anien

Luke 1:46-48: Pea lea 'a Mele 'o pehē, 'Oku fakahīkihiki'i 'e hoku loto 'a e 'Eiki. Pea neka hoku laumālie 'i he 'Otua ko hoku Fakamo'ui. He kuo ne āfeitaulalo mai kia kita me'a vale ko 'ene kaunanga: He faka'uta mai, ko e 'aho ni 'e kamata Ke lau au ko e monū'ia 'e he ngaahi to'utangata.

Ko hono mo'oni na'e ofo a mele 'ihe ongoongo kuo ne a'u sia. 'Ikai ngata pe 'ihe ongoongo meia Kepaleli cae toe ma'u mai moe tala mei hono toko ua ko 'Ilisabeti. 'Oku talaloto 'ae Mele 'ihe he 'ene hounga'ia 'ihe tapuaki kuo ne 'inasi ai 'ihe 'ene hiva 'o talaloto 'ae ngaahi a'usia kuo ne a'u kiai. Na'e fakalaka 'ae 'Otua 'ihe kau fa-nau siu pea moe kau tu'u malie kane fili 'a Mele ke hoko koe fa'e ia ki he Misaia. Emeni

Marine Anien

December 18—20th Day of Advent

Luke 1:66: Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and asked, “What will this child turn out to be?” For the hand of the Lord was surely upon him in a special way.

Those who heard about the birth of Jesus knew that he was destined for something great. The popular Christmas song, “Mary, Did You Know?” looks at the question in this verse from Mary’s viewpoint.. Today, watch the Pentatonix version of “Mary, Did You Know?” and reflect on what Christ’s life means to you. <https://youtu.be/ifCWN5pJGIE>

Luke 1:66: Pea ko kinautolu kotoa pē na’e fanongo ki ai, na’a nau fakama’u ‘i honau loto, he’enau pehē, Tokaange ha me’a ‘e hoko ki ai ‘a e tamasi’i ni! Pea ne’ine’i ā, he na’e kau mo ia ‘a e māfima’i ‘o e ‘Eiki.

Ko ki nau tolu na’e fanongo ki he ‘alo’I mai ‘o Sisu, na’a nau ‘ilo’i ‘e fai ‘ehe Sisu ‘ae me’a lelei. Koe fo’I hiva ko ia “Mary, Did you know?” ‘oku hange ha fehu’I ‘ae Mele. Mou mamata ‘ihe hiva’i ‘ehe Pentatonix ‘ae fo’i hiva ko ia “Mary, Did You Know?” pea ke fakalaulau loto ai kihe ‘uhinga ‘o Sisu ‘i ho’o mo’ui. <https://youtu.be/ifCWN5pJGIE>

December 19—21st Day of Advent

Luke 1:76: And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High: for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him.

This verse is part of the canticle (or song) of Zechariah. Zechariah is filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesies that his newborn son, John, will be the prophet who prepares the way for the Lord. Whenever I read this verse, I automatically think of the song “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord” from the musical, Godspell. In the musical, John the Baptist sings this song which draws a crowd to him. He then baptizes them. If you have not seen the musical Godspell, you can watch this video of the song “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord.” <https://youtu.be/8E5VHT3kfQ0>

Kim Houff

Luke 1:76: Pea ko koe, tamasi’i, ‘e lau ko e Palōfita ‘o e ‘Eiki Taupotu, He te ke fakamelomelo kiate ia ke teuteu hono ngaahi hala:

Koe veesi folofola ko eni koe kongā ia ‘ae hiva ‘a Sakalaia. Na’e fonu ‘ihe Laumalie Ma’oni’oni a Sakalaia koe ‘uhi ‘e hoko ‘a hono foha ko Sione koe palofita ia tene teuteu ‘ahe hala ma’e ‘Eiki. Koe taimi kotoa pe ‘oku ou lau ai ‘ae potu folofola ko eni, fa’a fakakaukau ma’u pe au ki he “teuteu hono ngaahi halo e ‘Eiki” me’ihe kau hiva ko ia koe Godspell. Koe tangata hiva ko ia ko Sione Papitaiso ‘oku ne uingaki’i ‘ae fu’u kakai toko lahi. Pea ne papitaiso ki nautolu. Kapau ‘oku te’eki keke mamata ‘ihe kau hiva ko

eni Godspell, ‘e malava pe keke sio ‘ihe fo’i hiva ko ia koe “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”. <https://youtu.be/8E5VHT3kfQ0>

Kim Houff

December 20—22nd Day of Advent

1 John 1:5: This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.

When we know God, we are walking in the light. But oh, how easy it is to walk in darkness, whether we know it or not. We know God, but sometimes we stumble into the darkness looking for a way out. This scripture gives me comfort in knowing that God is light. There is no darkness at all. Though we may walk in darkness, when we call on God, we recognize the love and teachings that Jesus taught us, just like this scripture says. God is always there for us, to call out to Him, to turn on that light.

Especially in times such as this, when the unpredictable happens. This is a time where many of us may be struggling to cope with the restrictions that come with Covid-19: quarantines, lockdowns, social-distancing, etc. For some, this is darkness, not knowing the next time we can see our loved ones freely, or go out freely, going back to our normal, before Covid-19, but this scripture comes as a reminder of God’s light even through this darkness. God’s light is shown through continued ministries, through virtual worship and fellowship, and through the work that people are doing to stay connected with one another.

I am reminded of a children’s song that my Sunday School kids sang a while back: “Let’s all walk together in communion and sing, walk, walk in the light. Let’s love one another ‘til the Savior comes, walk, walk in the light.” For us to walk in the light is to love each other, to be in communion with one another, and wait until the Savior returns.

Prayer: God, we thank you for your son, Jesus Christ, for teaching us the lesson of your love and light. Remind us, that if we are ever in darkness or struggling with anything, that we can call on you to shed light in our lives, and be a light to others. Amen.

Lavinia Taukalo

1 Sione 1:5: Ko eni ia ‘a e fekau na‘a mau fanongo meiate ia, ‘o tala kiate kimoutolu, ‘a ‘eni, Ko e ‘Otua ko e maama, pea ‘oku ‘ikai ha momo‘i fakapo‘uli ‘i he ‘Ene ‘Afio.

Koe taimi ‘oku tau ‘ilo’i ai ‘ae ‘Otua, ‘oku malava ke tau lue ‘ihe maama. Oi, ka ‘oku toe faingofua ange ‘ae lue ia ‘ihe pouli pe ‘oku ke ‘ilo ki ai pe ‘ikai. ‘Oku tau ‘ilo kotoa pe ‘ae ‘Otua ka ‘ihe taimi lahi, ‘oku tau humu ‘o to ki he fakapo’uli pea fai ai ‘ae taufā

holo pea moe fekumi ki he maama. Koe potu folofola ‘oe ‘ahoni, ‘oku ne ‘omi ‘ae ongo ‘oku nonga ‘ihe ‘e tau ‘ilo’i, koe ‘Otua ‘ae maama. ‘Oku ‘ikai ke ‘iai ha fakapo’uli. Pea ne ongo ‘e tau fononga ‘ihe fakapo’uli ka koe taimi ‘oku tau ui ai ki he ‘Otua, ‘oku malava ke tau ‘ongo ‘a ‘ene ‘ofa pea mo ‘ene ngaahi akonaki na’e fakafou mai ia Sisu ‘o hange pe ko ‘e tau veesi folofola ki he ‘aho ko eni. ‘Oku ‘iate ki tau tolu ma’u pe ‘ae ‘Otua ke tau ui ki ai pea ke ne fakaulo mai ‘ae maama.

‘Oku mo’oni eni ‘o tautefito kiha taimi ‘o hange ko ia ‘oku tau lolotonga ‘iai. Ko ha taimi ‘oku tailiili ai ‘ae mo’ui ‘a ha’a tangata pea moe faingata’a ‘oe mahaki faka’auha ko ia koe Covid-19. Kuo fakataputapui pea mo fakangatangata ‘e tau ngaue, tu’utu’uni nofo ma’u ‘i ‘api, kualenitini, fakamama’o fute 6 me’ihe toko taha ‘oku ofi mai. Ki ha ni’ihi koe fakapo’uli lahi mo’oni eni. ‘Ikai ketau ‘ilo pe te tau toe fesiofaki pea mo ho tau ngaahi famili ‘ofa’anga. ‘Afe nai ha taimi te tau toe foki ai ki ho tau anga maheni. ‘Oku fakahinohino ki tautolu ‘ehe veeshi folofola ‘oe ‘ahoni, ‘ae maama ‘ae ‘Otua ‘iho uhouhonga ‘oe fu’u fakapo’uli ‘oku ‘ihe funga ‘oe fonua ‘ihe ‘aho koeni. Koe maama ‘ae ‘Otua ‘oku ne kei ulo mai ‘o kei malava pe ke fakahoko ‘e tau lotu pea moe fakafeohi ‘o tau kei fetu’utaki ai.

‘Oku ou manatu ki he ki’i hiva na’a mau fa’a hiva ai ‘ihe lautohi fakaSapate na’e pehe ” “Ke tau lue fakataha pea mo hiva, lue, lue ‘ihe maama. Ke tau fe’ofa’ofani ki ha taimi ‘e toki ha’ele mai ai ‘ae fakamo’ui, lue, lue ‘ihe ‘ene maama”. ‘E malava ke tau lue ‘ihe maama ‘okapau te tau lue ‘I he maama pea ke tau fe’ofa’aki ‘o tali ki he’ene ha’ele mai.

Lotu: ‘Oku mau fakamalo haki ki he ‘Afiona koe’uhi ko ho ‘alo ko Sisu Kalaisi pea mo ‘ene fakahinohino ‘oku fai ‘a ho’o ‘Ofa pea mo ho’o maama. Fakamanatu mai ka ‘I ai ha taimi kuo mau to ai ki he fakapo’uli ke mau ui ki he ‘Afiona pea moho’o maama. Emeni.

Lavinia Taukolo

December 21—23rd Day of Advent

Matthew 1:20-21: But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

I love this story and remember the skits in Sunday school, playing roles of different people in the story with knowing we will receive gifts at the end of the play. Yet, reading this passage over and over, I can’t get over the fact, that this is all in a dream. And just what if Joseph chose not to listen or believed in his own dream, how much would that have changed the world?!

The Bible doesn't explain much about Joseph, the father of Jesus; however, in order for him to dream dreams and have access to God's heart speaks all the facts I need to believe that he was a man of God and that there had to be a relationship between the two. The plans God has in store for our lives and our future won't come to pass if we aren't allowing the Holy Spirit to connect us to God, The Holy Spirit allows us to hear God's every plan for our lives. The "why," "where," "when," "what," and "how" are also included in the dream. Joseph the father of Jesus allowed The Holy Spirit to guide his family to everlasting life. This is the faith we all need.

Sita Vaivao

Matiu 1:20-21: Pea lolotonga 'ene fifili ki he ngaahi me'a ni, 'iloange na'e hā kiate ia ha 'āngelo 'a e 'Eiki 'i he misi, 'o ne pehē, 'E Siosifa, hako 'o Tēvita, 'oua na'a ke teteki ke 'omi 'a Mele ko ho uaifi; he ko ia kuo ne tu'itu'ia ai 'oku mei he Laumālie Mā'oni'oni. 21Pea te ne 'alo'i ha tama, pea te ke fakahingoa ko Sīsū; he ko ia ia te ne fakamo'ui hono kakai mei he'enau ngaahi angahala.

'Oku ou tui na'a tau kau kotoa pe 'ihe manako 'ihe ki'i talanoa ko eni 'ihe taimi lautohi fakasapate. 'I hono fakatātā'i, taimi 'e ni'ihi 'oku hiva'i pea hoko koe sikiti. Ka 'ihe 'eku tou tou lau 'ae veesi folofola 'oe 'aho ko eni, 'oku kei ofo pe 'eku mo'ui 'ihe mahino mai koe misi pe 'eni. Pea fefe leva kapau na'e 'ikai ke tui 'a Siosefa ki he'ene misi pea 'e fefe leva kapau na'e 'ikai fanongo 'a Siosefa ia ki he'ene misi?!

'Oku 'ikai lahi ha talanoa 'o felave'i pea moe Siosefa koe tamai ia 'a Sisu 'ihe Tohi Tapu, ka ko 'ene hoko koe toko taha na'e fakafou mai ai 'ihe misi 'ae ngaahi fekau 'ae 'Otua, 'oku 'osi talamai 'ae tu'unga mo'ui 'a Siosefa, koe tangata 'a Siosefa 'ae 'Otua pea na'e takaua 'a Siosefa pea moe 'Otua. Koe palani 'ae 'Otua ki he 'e tau mo'ui pea mo ho tau kaha'u 'e 'ikai hoko ia 'okapau 'ikai tukuanga 'ae Laumalie Ma'oni'oni kene fakahoko kitautolu pea moe 'Otua. Koe Laumalie Ma'oni'oni 'oku ne fakaava ho tau loto ke tau fanongo ki he 'Otua pea moe palani ma'ae tau mo'ui. Koe ngaahi fehu'i ko ia kohai, 'ife 'ia, 'a fe'ia moe koe ha 'ae 'uhinga 'oku ma'u kotoa pe is 'ihe misi. Na'e tukuanga 'e Siosefa 'ae Laumalie Ma'oni'oni ke taki 'i hono ki'I famili. Koe fa'ahinga tui eni 'oku ton uke tau ma'u.

Sita Vaivao



December 22—24th Day of Advent

Matthew 1:23: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel—which means “God with us.”

Remember that time that you heard God’s word. If you haven’t heard God’s word, then don’t despair because you can if you seek and ask, it will be given unto you. By petition and spending time laying out your own despair or situation to God, you can hear his voice in the details. Who better to yell at and describe your anger or heart-ache than God? God can take it. He knows what you are going through and he loves you. He loves you for bringing it to him.

I have a few instances where I have experienced God’s voice in my life. These instances have arrived following constant petition, sometimes for weeks, and sometimes for years, but the voice is distinct with an overwhelming calm and peace as the direction comes from our Heavenly Father with direction and purpose. The next challenge is to follow God’s direction like Joseph did after his dream where the Angel commanded that he take Mary as his wife. Imagine how Joseph stood with courage and conviction to go against the social mores of the time, take a wife that was pregnant with the son of God, support her and the child and to do so with such faith and conviction. Heavenly Father, as we are in the midst of this season, we pray for the courage and conviction to do the right thing even when it is easier to join the crowd. We pray for your guidance in our lives, in our community and in our world. Working through each of us to improve communication of your Word, your love and the path to Salvation through Jesus Christ.

Dawn Dobbs

Matiu 1:23: “E feitama ha tāupo‘ou, pea te ne fā‘ele‘i ha tamasi‘i tangata. Pea ‘e fakahingoa ia ko ‘Imānuela, ko hono ‘uhingá, ‘Ko e ‘Otuá ‘oku ‘iate kitautolu.’”

Manatu‘I ‘ae taimi na’ake ‘uluaki fanongo ai ki he le’o ‘oe ‘Otuá. Kapau ‘ikai, ‘oua teke ilifia pe loto si’i hee kapau teke fekumi pea kapau teke kole tene foaki atu kia koe. ‘E malava ia kapau teke tuku taimi ma’e ‘Otuá pea ke hanga hake ki he ‘Otau ‘i he lotu. ‘Oku ne tokaimananga ‘ae me’a hono ko toa pe pea ‘oku ne ‘ofa ki he toko taha kotoa pe.

‘Oku ‘i ai pe ‘a ‘eku ki’i taukei ki he taimi na’aku ‘inasi ai ‘ihe le’o ‘oe ‘Otuá ‘ihe ‘eku fononga ‘oku fai. Ko’eku ‘inasi ko eni ‘he le’o ‘oe ‘Otuá, na’e toki hoko mai ia hili ha ngaahi ‘aho pea moe ngaahi ta’u ‘iha’aku lotu pea moe kole ki he ‘Otuá. Na’e tulimui mai ha loto ‘oku nonga pea mo fiemalie pea hange na’e ha’u ai pe pea moe tofa hala ‘ae ‘Otuá ki he’eku mo’ui. Koe pole kiate au, koe feinga ke muimui’i ‘ae

hala kuo tofa 'ehe 'Otua 'o hange na'e fai 'e Siosefa hili 'ene mohe 'o misi ke hoko 'a Mele ko hono mali. Ki'I fakakaukau loto ange ki a Siosefa. Ke tu'u hake kene fai 'ae me'o 'oku fepaki ia pea moe tui 'ihe kuonga ko ia pea pehe foki ki he sosaieti pea ke hoko 'ae fefine ko hono mali, tu'itu'ia ki he 'alo 'oe 'Otua pea ke tauhi ia pea moe ki'i tamasi'i 'aki 'ae tui pea moe falala 'Otua. Tamai Hevani, 'oku mau lotu atu, 'ihe lolotonga 'e mau 'ihe fa'ahi ta'u koeni, 'omi mu'a ha loto 'oku lahi ke mau fai 'ae me'a 'oku totonu neongo 'oku faingofuaange ke mau muimui 'ihe hala 'ae tangata. 'Oku mau lotu atu ki ho maama kene tataki 'e mau fononga fakafo'ituitu, 'a ho mau komuniti pea moe fo'i mamani ko eni 'i ho'o 'ofa pea mo ho'o fakamo'ui ia Sisu Kalaisi.

Dawn Dobbs

December 23—25th Day of Advent

Luke 2:3-4: And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

The Roman census was an important event for the King of the time. The king ordered all the citizens of Rome to register their value in money. They had to register the names of their parents, their age, employments, wives and children, servants, city they lived in or town in the country. So, Joseph had to go to his own town, Bethlehem, the town of his ancestor David to register and he took Mary with him. The trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem is about 80 miles. This was not a short distance in those days. It was a significant undertaking, costing time and money.

It is amazing for me that Joseph and Mary both obeyed the Roman King's decree even though this time was not easy for them because Mary was close to delivery when they made this journey. They decide to obey the order of the king.

Sometimes it is not easy for us to follow an order because of the hardship, just like Covid-19 today, but we need to obey no matter what happens. Obedience is the right way to trust God. God will guide us in the right way if we completely trust Him in all circumstances. Luke tells us that it was while they were in Bethlehem, that the days were completed for her to be delivered. To trust and obey God is the best gift for you during this Advent season.

Prayer – Dear Lord, help us to trust and obey you during the journey of life. As we come toward to the end of this year, enable us to trust and obey to your lead. Bless us all to listen, trust and obey you always. In Christ's name. Amen.

Pastor Linita Moa

Luke 2:3-4: Pea na'e 'alu 'a e kakai kotoa pē, takitaha ki hono kolo 'o'ona ke tohi ai. Pea fononga hake mo Siosifa foki mei he kolo ko Nāsaleti 'i Kāleli, ko 'ene 'alu ki Siutea, ki he kolo 'o Tēvita, 'a ia 'oku hingoa ko PēteliHEMA; (he na'a ne kau ki he hako mo e fa'ahinga 'o Tēvita)

Ko e tu'utu'uni 'a e Tu'i Loma ke tohi kakai 'a hono pule'anga ko e me'a mahu'inga 'aupito ia he taimi koia. Na'e tu'utu'uni 'a e Tui'i Loma ke tohi kakai 'a hono Pule'anga kotoa koe'uhi ke 'ilo ai 'a e mahu'inga fakapa'anga pe ko e tax 'o hono pule'anga. Koia ai na'e pau ke lesisita 'a e hingoa 'o e ongo matu'a, honau ta'u motu'a, ko 'enau ngaue, uaifi mo e fanau, kau sevaniti, kolo pe fonua 'oku nau nofo ai. Koia na'e fononga hake ai 'a Siosifa mei Nasaleti ki PeteliHEMA he ko e kolo ia 'o 'ene kui ko Tevita ke tohi kakai ai. Koia na'a ne 'alu hake foki mo Mele, 'a e taau-po'ou kuo polo'i ke na mali. 'Oku 'ikai ko ha fononga faingofua 'eni, he ko e mama'o 'o Nasaleti ki PeteliHEMA ko e maile nai 'e 80. Pea ko e fononga ko'eni 'oku 'ikai ngata pe he'ene mama'o, ka 'oku lahi 'a hono ngaahi me'a, mahino pe ko e fakamole fakapa'anga he ko e fononga mama'o foki.

'Oku matu'aki fakaofu kiate au 'a e talanoa ko'eni ki he talangofua 'a Siosifa mo Mele ke na fononga ki he tohikakai. Taimi ko'eni 'oku meimei fa'ele 'a Mele, ka ne-ongo 'ene faingata'a, ka na'a na talangofua kakato 'o faai-fononga ke fakakakato 'a e tu'utu'uni 'o e tohi kakai.

Taimi lahi 'oku faingata'a kiate kitautolu ke talangofua ki ha tu'utu'uni koe'uhi ko e tukunga 'o e mo'ui, hange ko e covid-19 he ngaahi 'aho ni, ka kuopau ke tau talangofua ki he ui 'a e 'Otua. 'Oku fakamanatu mai 'e Luke, lolotonga 'ena 'I PeteliHEMA, na'e kakato hono mahina ke fa'ele ai.

Ko e me'a lelei ma'u pe ke tau falala ki he 'Otua, pea tau talangofua foki. 'Oku mafeia 'e he 'Otua 'a e me'a kotoa pe, ka 'oku fiema'u ke tau matu'anga falala kakato pea tau talangofua kakato ki he 'Otua koe me'a'ofa lelei taha ia 'o e fa'ahi ta'u Etiveni.

Lotu – 'E 'Otua, tokoni mai mu'a ke mau falala kakato mo talangofua kakato kiate Koe he fa'ahita'u ko'eni.'I he'ema'u a'u mai ki he ngata'anga 'o e ta'u ni, tuku mu'a ke mau fanonga atu kiate koe, falala kakato, pea mo talangofua kakato kiate koe.'I he huafa 'o e Kalais. 'Emeni.

Pastor Linita Moa

December 24—26th Day of Advent

Luke 2:6-7: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Expecting your firstborn is a Big Deal! It is exciting and comes with a lot of preparation. A new room, crib, stroller, clothing, you name it 'with all pun intended' you got it! Now think of Mary's firstborn; No room, no crib, no stroller, nothing except for the name. My prayer this Advent Season is that we seriously MAKE ROOM IN OUR HEARTS AND LIVES for Mary's firstborn, our Savior Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!

Paini Harris

*Luke 2:6-7: Pea lolotonga
'ena 'i ai, na'e kakato hono
māhina ke fā'ele: 7pea na'a
ne 'alo'i 'a e tama, ko hono
'uluaki, 'o ne fakakofu 'aki
ia 'a e kofu'i tamasi'i valeva-
le, 'o ne fakatokoto'i he
'ai'angakai 'o e manu:
koe'uhi na'e 'ikai te na hao
'i he fale talifononga.*

Ko e fuofua pe ko e 'uluaki fua 'oe manava 'o ha fa'ee 'oku mahu'inga lahi 'aupito kiate kitautolu fa'ahinga e tangata. 'Oku fai e teuteu ki ai, hange ko hono fo'u ha ki'I loki fo'ou ma'ae pepee, ko e ki'I mohenga pepee, saliotē, vala, 'o a'u ki hono hingoa. Ka 'I he talanoa 'o Mele, na'e 'ikai ke pehee. Na'e 'ikai ke 'iai ha loki ia, pe mohenga pepee, saliotē mo e ha fua e ngaahi naunau 'oe pepee fo'ou, tukukehe pe hono hingoa. Ko 'eku lotu ia ki he 'Etiveni 'oe 2020 ke tau TEUTEU HA LOKI 'I HOTAU NGAHI LOTO MO 'ETAU MO'UI ke 'afio ai e fua e manava 'o Mele, 'a Sisu Kalaisi ka ko ho tau Fakamo'ui. Talamonu ki ha Kilisimasi Fiefia!

Paini Hariris



December 25—1st Day of Christmas

Luke 2:10: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

The rush of blood thumps and stomps around in her head, the veins using her temples as a trampoline, throbbing with intense waves and jumps; their ebb and crest seemingly growing by every passing second.

The anxiety and stress from inside her crawl and slither out of her body; their trail of malevolence leaving behind a grimy track as they swallow it whole in a consumption of endless thoughts and worries:

The number of cases displayed on the television screen rises with every single update; leaving her to scrub, clean, and disinfect everything she comes into contact with, for fear of becoming another number in a never ending case toll.

Her weekly trips to the grocery store with her father being a journey down a path of barren shelves and an eternity's line of wait leading out of the mouth of the entrance.

The strain against the back of her eyes from an entire day of school being spent from behind a computer screen.

The pangs of sorrow and anguish she feels aching in her chest at the sight of Beloved restaurants being forced into locking its doors,

Families scrounging up every last dollar to put food on the table,

The tsunami of used banker boxes rising to record highs,

Hospital workers transitioning into a new life that doesn't allow them to wish their spouse a 'good day at work' on the way out;

Smell the savory aroma of a home-cooked family dinner;

Kiss their children's heads goodnight after a long shift; sit before a confetti frosted cake to the melody of a birthday song;

Dress up as a StormTrooper with their families walking door to door collecting nougats, taffies, caramels and chocolates;

Share a box of truffles displayed on a bunch of supermarket flowers overlooking a sunset that marks the twentieth year of marriage.

Her calendar of summer events, filled to the brim with events, hangouts and plans, slowly, little by little, draining into a vast plain of absence; all being cancelled one by one, the telltale phrase “due to these difficult times” filling up her email inbox.

The raging war against a racial unrest whose roots run deep to the founding days of our nation.

The cries of rage and fury and signs scribbled with anger claiming her social media apps and the media spotlights on her television.

The tears of a childless, husbandless, fatherless, siblingless family, marching with an entire nation behind them, fighting against decisions that have cost the innocent lives of too many.

The pained voices and damaging experiences that took immense amounts of courage and bravery to step forward with,
All being muffled and silenced by the sole of their offenders' shoe; the underlying power their voice carries overpowering and voiding the numerous allegations.
Arguably one of the most painful experiences of their lives being accused as lies; their stories being painted over as a selfish opportunity to gain media exposure; allegation after allegation being invalidated; voice after voice being suppressed.
“How?” She wonders, salty tears of frustration threatening to spill out of her eyes.
“How can there be such good news in the midst of a year such as this?”
It's then she realizes that she has been focusing on the tears and the forlornness of the reflection of her year, that she hasn't noticed the beauty of the angels within her own life; the glittering dust of their blessing and good news producing rays of sunshine that combat the shadows the year has covered her in:
The soft smile of a math teacher as she carves an hour block out of her own schedule to graciously help one of her students who struggles in a lesson.
An Easter basket overflowing with delicacies like pastel foiled chocolate eggs and yellow sugared marshmallow bunnies; delivered with a warm welcome from halfway across the island
A vacant hotel suite, its luxurious and deluxe embellishments wrapped up in a fluffy silk ribbon; graciously giving two freshly seventeen year old twins a weekend to remember.
A king sized bag of decadent swirled white and milk chocolate teardrops, each foil-wrapped bonbon adorned with a small paper ribbon that reads “HUGS”, symbolizing all the hugs they wish they could share.
A sweet note is pressed to the top of the package; words filled with sentiment and endearment that raises the edges of her lips, a grin beaming with fondness and warmth.
The presence of a young mentor she looks up to; the strength and encouragement interlaced within her words; the wisp of a golden halo sitting atop her head.
The hilarious pictures, heart emoticons, and uplifting videos she receives checking in with her friends; the laughter she lets out releasing the tension with her body; the contentment she feels making its way up to her cheeks, shading them in with a rosy flush.
This year has definitely been one she did not expect; but further one that had been warmed around the edges and filled with the sunshine and tenderness from the loving kisses of the angels hidden among the gloom carried over twelve long months.
The pearl of their teeth in their beaming smiles; the light glittering off their souls in soft waves; and the promise and delivery of “good news” in the midst of anything but.

Sierra Choi

Luke 2:10: Pea pehē ‘e he ‘āngelo kiate kinautolu, ‘oua ‘e manavahē; he ko eni kuo u ha‘u mo au ha talanoa mālie, ko e me‘a fakafiefia ‘aupito, ko e me‘a ma‘a e kakai ‘Isileli kātoa.

‘Ihe ‘eku manavasi’I, pea puputu’u mo ‘eku fakakaukau, ‘ikai fa’a malava ke ta’ofi ‘ae mafana ‘i hoku loto ‘ihe lau sekoni.

oha’a hoku sino, pea hange ‘e mole ‘ae ngaahi lelei kotoa pe koe’uhi koe tailiili pea moe mo’umo’ua ‘ae fakakaukau.

Kuo lahi ange ‘ae ngaahi ‘ata ‘ihe televisone ‘ihe ‘aho kotoa pe, koe lahi ange ia ‘ae fakamaau pea moe fakama’a ‘ihe ngaahi potu kotoa pe koe manavasi’i na’a kau ‘ihe ngaahi keisi faka’aho.

Ke ‘eva ki he falekoloa pea mo ‘ene tamai hange ha’a fononga ‘i ha ki hee ta’engata ‘ae laine hu ki tu’a.

Koe mamahi ‘a hou mata ‘ihe ‘alu ki he ako, ‘o ‘ikai koe ‘i loki ako ka koe komipiuta.

Koe mamahi ‘oku ne ‘ongo’i ‘i hono fatāfatā ‘ihe falekai ‘ofa’anga pea koe ‘uhinga ia ‘ae loka ‘ae matapa.

Si’I feinga ‘ae ngaahi famili ke ma’u ha me’a tokoni ‘ihe tepile, Koe peau kula ‘a hono ngaue’aki ‘oe ngaahi nge’esi puha mo ‘ene fakautuutu.

Kuo a’u ‘ae kau ngaue falemahaki ki he tu’unga fo’ou ‘oe mo’ui pea koe fa’ahinga mo’ui ‘oku faka’amu ho nau ngaahi hoa ke nau ma’u ha ‘aho faka’ofa’ofa ‘ihe ngaue.

‘Oku ‘ālaha mai ‘ae kakala ‘oe ma’u me’atokoni efiafi ‘i ‘api, fe’i loaki pea moe fanau ‘ihe efiafi hiki ia ha ‘aho ngaue lōloa mo’oni, nofo hifo ‘ihe fo’i kēkē mo hono hiva’i mai ‘ae hepi birthday.

Teuteu ‘o hange ha ‘eiki tau ‘oe famili, lue lue me’ihe ‘api ki he ‘api ‘i hono tanaki ‘oe nougats, taffies, carramels pea moe chocolates;

Fe’inasi’aki ‘ihe puha truffles ‘oku ‘I falekoloa ‘ihe funga matala’iakau ‘oku ne faka’ilonga’i ha mali ta’u ‘e uanoa.

Ko ‘ene tohi mahina ‘oku fonu ‘ihe ngaahi katoanga kehekehe pea moe ngaahi palani pea hange ‘oku kaniseli tahataha koe fakamahino ‘ae taimi faingata’a ko eni pea ‘mo ‘ene emeili.

‘Oku ongona mai ‘ae tau tupu me’ihe laulanu ‘oku mo’ua ai ‘a fonua pea moe pule’anga ko eni.

Koe tangi pea moe hiva ‘oku ne fakamahino’i mai ‘ae ‘ita koe ‘uhi koe mitia fakasosiale pea moe televisone.

Koe lo’I mata ‘oe fanau, ‘ae uitou, pea moe famili ‘oku nau lue kae poupou atu ‘ae pule’anga, fakafepaki ki he tu’utu’uni ‘oku usesia ai si’inga ngaahi mo’ui ‘ae tonuhia.

Koe le’ao ‘oe mamahi ‘oku ongo mai pea ‘oku hoko koe faka-lotolahi to laka atu kimu’a.

Ka 'oku hoko eni ko hono fakale'osi'i ki nau tolu; ka 'oku ongona ho nau le'a pea mo 'e nau tangi.

'Oku kau eni 'ihe me'a mamahi mo'oni kuo te a'u sia 'ihe 'e nau mo'ui pea tuku aki'i 'ae loi; kuo nau tala 'ae me'a kehe 'o felave'i pea mo 'e nau fakamatala; tukuaki'i, tuku'aki'i 'oku hala, le'o pea moe le'o kuo lolomi.

'Oku ange fēfē nai eni, lo'i mata kuo konā, ngaahi mo'ui kuo hoha'a pea kuo hopo mai ki hala. "'Oku anga fefe ke hoko mai ha ongoongo lelei 'ihe ha ta'u 'o hange koe ta'u ko eni?"

Na'ane toko fakatokanga'i hake, 'oku tō a'e fakamamafa ki he lo'imata ku to pea moe ngaahi me'a 'oku lolotonga hoko, kae puli ai 'i ate ia 'ae faka'ofa'ofa 'oe 'angelo 'ihe 'ene mo'u, 'ae ngaahi tapuaki pea moe ngaahi ongoongo lelei kuo hoko koe maama ke fakafepaki'i 'ae ta'u ko eni.

Ko 'ene malimali 'oku ne ako'i ia ke tauhi 'ae houa 'ihe ngaahi polokalama kuo 'osi fa'u ke tokoni ki he'ene fanau ako pea mo 'e nau leseni.

Koe kato teu 'oe fa'ha'i ta'u 'oe toetu'u 'oku fonu hakehake 'ihe ngaahi lole kehekehe 'ae masimelo pea moe bunnies, 'oku ne tufa takai ko hono talitali lelei 'a ki nau kuo nau lava mai.

Koe ngaahi hotele pea moe haahi nofo'anga totongi faka'ofa'ofa kuo teuteu'i lelei ki nau tolu 'aki 'ae ngaahi tupenu silika koe 'uhi koe ongo mahanga ta'u tahafitu ken a manatu'i lelei.

Koha mohinga kuo tukufakaholo mai kuo fonu 'ihe lo'imata, 'oku hange koe lole chocolate 'oku si'i si'i 'aupito ka 'oku tu'u ai 'ae "HUG", koe faka 'ilonga 'oe loto ke nau vahe vahe.

Koe ki'I tohi 'on fakapipiki 'ihe kofukofu, koe ngaahi lea 'oku fakatupu mafana pea 'oku ne fakatupu 'ae malimali 'ia te ia, koe malimali 'oe loto mafana.

'Ihe lolotonga 'oku lolotonga muimui ki ha ki'i talavou, koe malohi pea moe fakalotolahi 'oku ne tokoni'i 'ae ngaahi me'a 'oku 'i hono 'ulu.

Koe me'a 'oku oli 'aki 'ae tā ko eni, 'oku 'aki mai 'ae loto 'oku hoko koe fiefia'anga 'ihe 'asi mai 'oku ne fetu'u taki pea mo hono ngaahi kaunga me'a; koe ngaahi kata kuo hoko ia koe fakamalele ki hono sino, koe ha'iha'i sia na'ane ongo'i kuo hoko ia koe ngingila.

Koe ta'u ko eni koe ta'u na'e 'ikai ke tau lave 'ilo ki ai, ka koe ngaahi ta'u ki mu'a na'e hoko ia ko ha maama na'e hulungia ai 'ae ngaahi 'ofa na'e puli 'ihe taimi lahi pea 'ihe ngaahi lau mahina.

Koe mata'i tofe 'a ho nau nifo 'oku mali mali ta'e tuku; hoko koe maama 'a ho nau loto; pea koe palomesi 'oe ongoongo lelei 'i ho nau loto lotonga.

Sierra Choi

December 26—2nd Day of Christmas

Luke 2:17-18: When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

The shepherds witnessed one of the most amazing sights in the history of world: the infant Jesus, born in a stable, but whose countenance reflected the very presence of God. It was something special and intimate, but they did not keep it to themselves. They spread the word about this child, sharing the blessing.

December 26 is known mostly in the United States as 1/2 price Christmas sales! But traditionally it is known as Boxing Day, mostly in the United Kingdom and countries formerly associated with the U. K. It is the second day of Christmas and a time when servants, working people, and the poor received "boxes" containing gifts, alms, and other gratuities. Sometimes, children were asked to give one of their toys to be boxed up and given to the less fortunate. It's a way to share the blessings of Christmas. I hope that in some way, we can preserve that tradition this year.

PRAYER: Lord, may the tradition of Boxing Day be preserved in some way this Christmas, so that the amazing gift of the Christ child's grace be shared with others. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Pastor Tom Choi

Luke 2:17-18: Pea 'i he'enu mamata ki ai, na'a nau fai 'enu fakamatala ki he me'a na'e lea'aki kiate kinautolu, 'o kau ki he tama ni. 18Pea ko kinautolu na'e fanongo ai, na'a nau ofo kotoa pē 'i he ngaahi me'a na'e lea'aki 'e he kau tauhi sipi kiate kinautolu.

Na'e kau foki 'ae mamata'ae kau tauhi sipi ki he ki'i tamasi'i ko Sisu 'ihe 'ai'angakai 'oe manu 'iha me'a fakahisitolia. Na'e kau ia 'iha me'a mahu'inga mo'oni ki he 'e nau mo'ui, ka na'e 'ikai ke nau pukepuke pe 'ae me'a na'a nau mamata ki ai. Na'a nau tala-ki ki mamani 'ae me'a na'a nau mamata kia ai.

'I he 'aho 26 'o Tisema, koe 'aho ia 'oku 'iloa 'i 'Amelikani koe 'aho 'oku fakama'ama'a ai 'ae ngaahi falekoloa, koe fakama'ama'a 'oe Kilisimasi. Ka koe kuo hili na'e 'iloa ia koe 'aho 'oe "Ngaahi Puha" 'o hange koe ngaahi Pule'anga Fakata-hataha pea mo hono ngaahi pule'anga kaunga'api. Na'e hange pe ia ha 'aho ua 'oe Kili-simasi, koe taimi na'e foaki ai 'ae ngaahi puha me'a 'ofa ma'e kau ngaue sevaniti, pea pehe ki he kau masiva. Koe taimi ia na'e foaki atu ai 'ehe ngaahi famili 'ae ngaahi me'a 'ofa ki he kau li'ekina pea moe tukuhausia. Na'e a'u pe ki hono toe to'o mai 'ae ngaahi me'a 'ofa 'e nau fanau 'o kau 'ihe tufa puha me'a 'ofa ko eni. Koe fe'inasiaki 'oe

ngaahi tapuaki ‘oe Kilismasi pea moe kau tukuhausia. ‘Oku ou faka’amu pee ‘e mala-va ke tau tauhi ‘ae ngaahi ouau ko eni ‘ihe ngaahi ta’u ka hoko mai.

Ke Taau Lotu: ‘Otua, ke hoko mu’a ‘ae ‘aho ko ia ‘oku ‘iloa koe ‘aho ‘oe puha koe ‘aho ia ke mau tauhi pea ke mau manatu’i ke fakafonu ‘ae ngaahu puha me’a ‘ofa ki he masiva.

Pastor Tom Choi

December 27—3rd Day of Christmas

Luke 2:19: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her head.

“Seeing is believing” is another way of describing the shepherds’ reaction to their visit. They saw Jesus lying in Mother Mary’s manger. Only then did the shepherds exuberantly and excitedly tell others what they had witnessed. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary must have felt immense pride and accomplishment for enduring the long struggle from first being told she would be the mother of Jesus. She remained faithful to God. God delivered his promise to Mary. Strangers appeared to pay tribute to Jesus and the accomplishment of Mary.

The memories of the birth of my first child remain strong in my mind. I treasure those memories of all of the firsts; first smile, first rollover and first steps. I imagine Mary treasured the praises and songs about her first child in much the same way. Mary considered these treasures and the miracle of birth and keeps them in her heart. Most of us relate to these sentiments, regardless of gender, the overwhelming joy of the birth of your child and the acknowledgment from your community are treasures that remain in our hearts to ponder when we think of the Glory of God.

Dawn Dobbs

Luke 2:19: Ka ka kumuni kotoa pē ‘e Mele ‘a e ngaahi me‘a ni, ‘o ne fefilihaki ki ai ‘i hono loto.

Koe taha ‘oe ngaahi lea ‘iloa ‘ihe kuongani koe “koe mamata koe tui” pea ‘oku ‘uhinga ia ki he taimi na’e ‘a’ahi atu ai ‘ae kau tauhisipi. Na’a nau mamata kia Sisu ‘oku na takoto pea mo mele ‘ihe ‘ai’angakai ‘oe manu. Koe toki taimi eni na’e fiefia ai ‘ae kau tauhisipi ‘o nau ‘alu ‘o tala ‘ae me’a kuo nau mamata ki ai. Ko ki nau tolu na’a nau fanongo ki he talanoa ‘ae kau tauhisipi, na’a nau fiefia foki. ‘Oku ou tui na’e ongo’i langilangi ‘ia ‘a Mele pea ne fiefia ‘ihe ngaue lahi kuo malava. Na’ane ongo’i fiemalie he koe talu e, me ‘ihe ongoongo lelei ko ia na’e fakahoko ange tene ‘alo’i ‘a Sisu, ‘alo ‘oe ‘Otua pea mo ‘ene kataki’i ‘ae fononga ‘o a’u mai ki hono ‘alo’i ‘o Sisu ‘ihe ‘ai’angakai ‘oe manu. Na’ane falala mo’oni ki he ‘Otua pea na’e tauhi ‘e he ‘Otua ‘a ‘ene palomesi kia Mele. ‘Ihe ‘eku manatu ki he ‘eku ‘uluaki tama, na’aku feinga pe

keu to'a. 'Oku ou tauhi 'ae ngaahi manatu lelei 'o 'eku 'uluai tama. 'A 'ene ngaahi to'onga, 'a 'ene ngaahi malimali kotota pe, 'ae 'uluaki feinga laka. 'Oku ou tui pe na'e pehe pe pea mo Mele, na'ane tauhi 'i loto 'i he 'ene ngaahi manatu 'ae fangaki'I to'onga 'a Sisu 'i he taimi na'e kei valevale ai. 'Oku ou tui, 'oku tau kau kotoa pe 'i he manatu melie ki he ngaahi lelei na'e 'inasi ai 'e tau mo'ui pea mo 'e tau fanau 'o hange ko Mele, na'ane kumuni kotoa 'ae ngaahi me'ani ki hono loto.

Dawn Dobbs

December 28--4th Day of Christmas

Isaiah 9:6: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

What a powerful day this must have been. Could you imagine hearing this statement for the first time? It's hard to comprehend the depth of love that is promised. God shows his amazing love for us through the birth of His Son Jesus Christ. To know He is present in our lives today brings me joy and peace. I'm in awe to know and believe He loves us that much.

Mark Brekke

Aisea 9:6: He kuo 'alo'i mai ha Tama, Kuo tuku mai ha Foha: Pea 'e 'i hono uma 'a e pule'anga. Pea ko e huafa 'e ui'aki Ko Fakaofa - 'ene-fale'i, ko e Helo-'Otua, Ko e Tamai Ta'engata, ko e 'Eiki 'o e Melino.

'Oku kau eni ia 'i ha 'aho fakaofa ki he 'e tau mo'ui. Ki'I fakakaukau ange, kapau ko ho'o toki fanongo eni ki he potu folofola ko eni pea 'oku pehe mai" He kuo 'alo'I mai ha Tama, Kuo tuku ma ha foha". 'E ki'I faingata'a ke tau mahino'I 'a hono 'uhinga pea moe loloto 'ae 'Ofa 'ae 'Otua. 'Io, ko 'ene 'ofa ia 'i he fa'ahinga 'oe tangata, na'ane foaki ai hono 'alo ke hoko mai 'o 'ai kakano. 'Oku ne 'i ho tau lotolotonga he na'e ha'u mo ia 'ae melino. 'Oku ofo ma'u pe 'eku mo'ui 'ihe 'eku vakai ki he'ene 'ofa 'oku fai ma'a tau tolu.

Mark Brekke

December 29—5th Day of Christmas

John 1:14: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father full of grace and truth.

One of my favorite Christmas verses is John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the Son from the father."

It shows God’s decision to defeat sin and Satan and to redeem lost and hurting mankind. The only way for God to redeem mankind is to dwell among us. It shows God’s love for us that he was willing to become vulnerable human flesh and to dwell among sinful humanity. He became flesh and moved in with us.

He truly was the eternal God in the flesh – – God’s son who came to hurting and rebellious mankind.

What He did was beyond human comprehension: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:8). Truly, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Ongo Koli

Sione 1:14: Pea na’e hoko ‘a Folofola ko e kakano; ‘o ne fokotu‘u hono tāpanekale ‘i hotau lotolotonga, pea na’a tau mamata ki hono Sikaina (ko ha lāngilangi na’e taau mo ha ‘alo-tofu-pē-taha kuo ha‘u mei he’ene tamai)–ta ‘oku ne fonu ‘i he kelesi mo e mo’oni.

Taha ‘oe ngaahi veesi folofola manakoa pea maheni pea taukei pea moha’a Kalisitiane, Sione 1:14: Pea na’e hoko ‘a Folofola ko e kakano; ‘o ne fokotu‘u hono tāpanekale ‘i hotau lotolotonga, pea na’a tau mamata ki hono Sikaina (ko ha lāngilangi na’e taau mo ha ‘alo-tofu-pē-taha kuo ha‘u mei he’ene tamai)–ta ‘oku ne fonu ‘i he kelesi mo e mo’oni.

‘Oku fakamahino mai ‘ehe veesi folofola ‘oe ‘aho ko eni ‘ae founa na’e ngaue ‘aki ‘ehe ‘Otua kene ikuna’i ‘aki ‘a Setane pea ke fakafoki mai ‘a ha’a tangata kuo mole ‘e nau mo’ui ‘ihe angahala. ‘Oku ha ‘ihe veesi folofola ‘oe ‘aho ni ‘ae ‘ofa ‘ae ‘Otua na’ane tuku ‘a langi pea mo hono Masani kae hoko mai ‘o ‘ai kakano ‘o hoko koe tāka-ua pea mo ha’a angahala. Na’ane hoko mai ‘o kakano koe ‘uhi ko tau tolu angahala. Koe ‘Otua na’e hoko mai ‘o kakano ma’aki tau tolu fa’ahinga ‘oe tangata na’e mo’ui popula.

Koe me’a na’ane fai, ‘oku ‘ika malava ke fakatataua pea mo’oni ‘ae ‘Apositolo ko Paula ‘ihe ‘ene tohi ki he kainga Loma 5:8 “Ka ko e ‘Otua ‘oku ne fakahā ‘a e mo’oni ‘o ‘ene ‘ofa ‘a’ana kiate kitautolu ‘i he pekia ‘a Kalaisi ma’atautolu, lolotonga ‘oku tau kei angahala”. Ke tau fakalangilangi ia, Kalaisi ko ho tau ‘Otua.

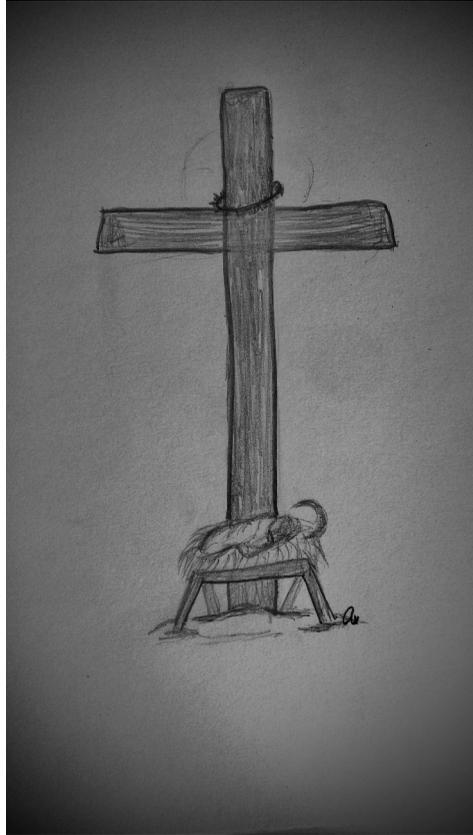
Ongo Koli



December 30, 2015—6th Day of Christmas

Psalm 24:10: Who is the King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the king of glory!

Saame 24:10: Ko hai ia koā ‘a e Tu‘i Lāngilangi. Ko Sihova Sāpaoti, Ko ia ia ‘a e Tu‘i Lāngilangi.



Artwork by Amalia Houff

December 31—7th Day of Christmas

Psalm 98:1: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

God has done MARVELOUS things! This is not something the world would expect to hear at the end of 2020. We have rounded the corner! Maybe not in the battle against the coronavirus but definitely in my heart and spirit. Because this year has been so difficult, I have spent more time on my knees praying for others than at any other time,

spent more time being still and having quiet time with God, and more time with my family cherishing every moment together. I have gone from singing "woe is me" to singing songs of praise to the Lord for He HAS done marvelous things and is good all the time!

I have been listening to the Zeo Worship CD we received in our VIP BLOOM Conference box and it has lifted my spirit every time. I hope it will lift your spirit as well.

<https://youtu.be/8LCGhRuv0mg> "O Praise the Name" by Zeo Worship

Sandi Brekke

Saame 98:1: Hiva kia Sihova 'aki 'a e hiva fo'ou ē; He ko e koto fakafofo 'ene ngāue; Ko hono to'ukupu to'omata'u mo hono nima tāpuhā, Kuo ne ma'u 'a e fakamo'ui ma'ana.

Kuo fai me'a fakafofo 'a Sihova! 'Oku 'ikai ke fakakaukau pehe 'ae mamani ia ki he ta'u ko eni 2020. Kuo tau fepaki pea moe kolona ka 'oku ou kei tui pe pea 'oku kei 'iate au 'ae laumalie lelei. 'Oku 'uhinga pe ia, koe ta'u eni 2020, koe ta'u faingata'a pea na'e lahi ange ai 'ae faingamalie keu punou ai 'o tu'ulutui 'o lotu pea mo hoku famili ki he 'Otua. Na'aku ma'u 'ae taimi lahi pea moe faingamalie keu fakataha ai pea mo hoku famili 'o fai 'e mau lotu. Pehe foki ki he hiva 'aki 'ae ngaahi hiva ke fakalangilangi'i 'aki 'ae 'Otua he kuo ne fai 'ae me'a fakafofo ki he 'eku mo'ui.

'Oku ou fa'a ma'u faingamalie keu fanongo ki he ngaahi hiva fakalotu CD 'a Zeo na'aku ma'u me'ihe Konifelenisi 'ae VIP BLOOM pea 'oku 'ongo'i fiemalie ai 'a hoku laumalie 'ihe taimi kotoa pe. 'Oku ou faka'amu 'e malava ke tokoni atu ki ho laumalie.

<http://youtu.be/8LCGhRuvOmg> "O Praside the Name" hiva fakalotu 'a Zeo.

Sandi Brekke

January 1, 2016—8th Day of Christmas

Matthew 2:1-2: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the time of King Herod. Magi came and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? Because we saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." At the beginning of the year 2021, we first come to search for Jesus and to worship him.

That is the very first thing we need to do in the beginning of the year, we need to look for Jesus and as we find him, worship him. Give him our gift which is our whole life to be his own. No matter how far we come from, look for the star, the star will lead us to

where Jesus is. In other words, allow Jesus to be your guide in this new year. Trust that Jesus leads you and completely surrender your life this year for Jesus to be your friend and savior.

After the Magi found Jesus and gave their gifts, they returned to their home in a different way. Once we find Jesus, Jesus totally changes our life to go back home as a new person. That is the message of this new year. Seek Jesus and as we find Jesus, Jesus changes us to be a new person.

Prayer ~ Lord Jesus, make us and mold us as a new person this new year. Guide us so that we can find where you are. Help us to surrender our whole being and worship you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Rev. Linita Moa

Matiu 2:1-2: PEA hili 'a e 'alo'i 'o Sīsū 'i PēteliHEMA 'i Siutea, 'i he kuonga 'o e tu'i ko Hēlota, 'iloange na'e hoko ki Selusalema 'ani Maki mei Hahake, 'oku nau fehu'i, Kofa'ā ia kuo 'alo'i ko e Tu'i 'o e kakai Siu? he na'a mau mamata 'i Hahake ki hono fetu'u pea kuo mau omi ke hū kiate ia.

Ko e hili 'eni hono 'alo'i 'a Sisu 'I PeteliHEMA, Siutea lolotonga 'oku tu'i 'a Helota. Na'e fekumi mai ha kau poto mei he hahake, 'aia na'e ui ko e kau Maki, 'o nau fehu'i, "Kofa'a ia kuo 'alo'i ko e Tu'i 'o e kakai Siu? He na'a mau mamata ki hono fetu'u 'i Hahake, pea kuo mau omi ke hu kiate ia. 'I he kamata'anga 'o e ta'u fo'ou ni, 2021 'oku totonu ke tau fuofua fekumi kia Sisu, pea 'I he'etau ma'u 'a Sisu, pea ke tau hu kiate ia.

Ko e fuofua me'a ia ke tau a'u kia Sisu, pea 'I he'eta ma'u 'a Sisu, foaki kakato kiate ia 'etau me'a'ofa, ka ko 'etau mo'ui kotoa. 'Oua na'a lau 'a e mama'o mo e fuoloa ho'o kumi kia Sisu, he kuo 'omi 'a e fetu'u ke ne tataki ko emo au ke ta a'u kia Sisu. Kumi kia Sisu 'aki ho loto kotoa mo ho'o mo'ui kotoa, pea kuo hoko 'a Sisu ko e fetu'u ia ke ne taki koe ke ke a'u ki he Tamai. Ko Sisu Kalaisi ko e fetu'u ia ke ne tataki kitaua ki he Pule'anga 'o e 'Otua. Foaki kakato ho'o mo'ui, pea ke tukulolo ma'a Sisu, kae taki koe 'e Sisu ki he mo'ui ta'engata.

Pea a'u 'a e kau Maki kia Sisu, na'a nau foaki 'enau ngaahi me'a 'ofa, pea nau foki 'I ha hala kehe ki honau fonua. 'Oku pehe 'a e tangata/feFINE 'oku a'u kia Sisu, 'oku matu'aki liliu e mo'ui 'o ki ha mo'ui 'oku fo'ou, ka ko e mo'ui ma'a Sisu mo e mo'ui ta'engata.

Lotu ~ 'Eiki Sisu, ngaohi mu'a kimaUTOLU pea takao kimaUTOLU ke mau hoko ko e tangata/feFINE fo'ou 'I he'emaU ma'u 'a e 'Afiona he ta'u fo'ou ni. Tataki kimaUTOLU ke a'u

atu kiate koe. Tokoni'i kimautilu ke mau tukulolo kakato 'emau mo'ui 'o hu totoaki kiate koe. 'I he huafa 'o Sisu Kalaisi. 'Emeni.

Rev. Linita Moa

January 2—9th Day of Christmas

Matthew 2:10-11: When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

During 2020, I think many of us have asked ourselves, what would I do in “that” situation; where my leaders asks me to complete a task but concern about the reasons advise against? Would I have acted like Dr. Fauci or Dr. Birx under the circumstances? The Wise Men did not reject the tasking even though they may have not agreed with the unstated purpose of the task. Herod instructs the Magi (learned advisors) to follow the star and search for the child. I imagine a large entourage, that would have been noticed all along the journey with their finery and multitude of servants and guard, marching a thousand miles would have been quite a sight. The Magi journeyed from the land of Abraham and Daniel so they must have known the stories and the prophecies of the Messiah. Upon arrival, they provided tribute to the child and worshipped him as a homage of the nations to the newborn King, within his humble home. They brought gifts of gold representing royalty as Jesus will be King. Gift of Incense represent prayers rising to heaven. And the gift of Myrrh, a burial oil, possibly foretells the death of Jesus. These Wise Men did not return to Herod but instead spread the pathway for the Gospel to later be preached in their home countries. Mary and Joseph were poor so did they use these expensive gifts to flee to Egypt and escape Herod? Was this story a deception that goes against accountability for our own integrity and character? Should the Magi have rejected Herod instead of seeming to be complicit in his unsavory machinations?

Do the means justify the ends? Of course, especially when it is led by God and Angels. God must have transformed the hearts of the Magi during their journey and even upon arrival. Prayer and Transformation still works today. Staying the Course during 2020 even though the urge to reject directions provided by our leaders, has been a tough ride to handle. Individually trying to understand the dangers around us and assess the risks while taking reasonable measure to mitigate those risks and continue Staying the Course has only been accomplished by myself through daily prayer and petitioning for guidance from Jesus. How do we as Christians, maintain our personal integrity during the challenges of 2020? We celebrate stories like this one and we continue to pray for Gods intervention and transformation in our lives. Having faith and patience to Stay the Course until we can see the Transformation unfold.

Dawn Dobbs

Matiu 2:10-11: Pea 'i he'enau sio ki he fetu'u, na'a nau fiefia 'aupito, 'aupito. Pea 'i he'enau hū ki he fale, na'a nau 'ilo 'a e tamasi'i, 'oku 'i he'ene fa'ē ko Mele; pea nau fakatōmape'e 'o hū kiate ia: pea na'a nau tangaki 'enau ngaahi 'angame'a, 'o nau 'atu kiate ia 'a e ngaahi me'a'ofa, ko e koula mo e laipeno mo e mula.

'Ihe lolotonga 'e tau fononga mai 'ihe ta'u ko eni 2020, 'oku 'ou tui na'e tokolahi 'ae ni'ihī na'a nau fehu'ia, koe ha nai ha me'a na'aku mei fai kapau na'e hoko mai eni kia au. Koe ha nai ha'aku me'a na'e mei fai kapau na'aku a'u sia 'ae tu'unga ko ia. Koe ha ha me'a teu fai kapau koe fekau me'ihe kau taki ke fakakakato ha fatongia pe ko ha ngaue, ka 'oku 'ikai te tau tui ki ai. Teu fai nai 'ae me'a na'e fai 'e Dr. Fauci pe ko Dr. Birt. Koe kau maki, na'e 'ikai ke nau talangata'a ki he fekau neongo na'e 'i ai pe 'e nau ongo fakafo'i tuitui. Na'e ui 'e Helo 'a 'ene kau fale'i koe kau Maki, pea na'e fekau ken au muimui'i ki he fetu'u pea ke nau kumi ki he fetu'u. Na'e fou atu 'ae fononga 'ae kau maki 'I he founua 'o 'Epahame pea mo Tevita pea 'oku ou tui na'a nau 'osi 'ilo pe ki he talanoa pea mo hono palofisai 'oe Misaia. 'Ihe 'e nau tu'uta, na'a nau punou ki he ki'i tamasi'I 'o nau lotu 'o fakafeta'i kuo 'alo'i mai 'ae 'alo 'oe 'Otua. Na'a nau ha'u pea mo 'e nau me'a 'ofa koe koula koe fakafongia 'o ha tu'i. Koe la'i peno ko hono fakafongia 'o hevani pea moe mula, koe lolo ki fa'itoka. Na'e 'ikai foki ke toe foki 'ae kau maki kia Helota, ka nau 'alu ki nau tolu 'i he hala kehe. Koe hala foki ia na'a nau malanga'i 'ae Kosipeli pea moe ongoongo lelei. Koe Mele pea moe Siosefa na'a na fu'u masiva ka na'e 'ikai hoko ia ke liliu ai 'ae talanoa ki he 'alo'i ma'i 'o Sisu. Na'e totonu nai 'ae talangata'a 'ae kau maki kia Helo?

'Oku tonu nai 'i hono hanga 'e he ola 'o fakatonuhia'i 'ae uhangā? Io, tautautefito koe 'Otua 'oku taki ai. 'Oku ou tui na'e liliu 'e he 'Otua 'ae loto koe kau maki lolotonga 'e nau fononga ki he ki'i tamasi'i. Koe lotu ki he liliu 'oe ngaahi loto 'oku kei ngaue pe 'i he 'ahoni. Tau fononga 'I he hala kuo tofa 'e he 'Otua ki he ta'u koe ni 2020 'o tatau ai pe neongo 'oku tau ongo'i 'ihe taimi lahi ke tau talangat'a ki he tu'utu'uni 'ae kau taki. Faka fo'ituitui, tau feinga ke tau mahino'i 'ae ngaahi me'a 'oku hoko 'iho tau 'ataakai pea moe ngaahi fakatu'utamaki. 'E anga fefe ha'a tau tauhi 'ae molumalu pea moe ngeia koe Kalisitiane 'ihe 2020? Ke tau faka fiefia 'I he talanoa kuo tau fanongoa pea ke tau lotu 'o tui ki he ivi 'oe tui pea moe liliu 'I he 'e tau moui.

Dawn Dobbs



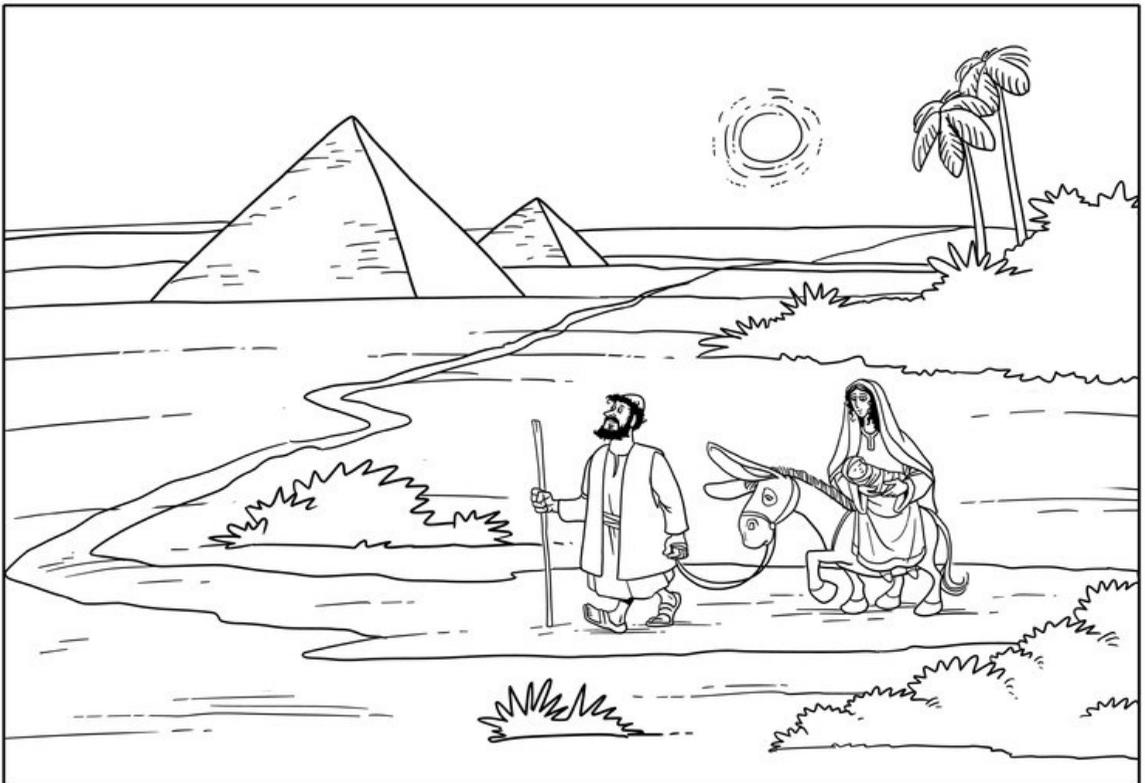
January 3—10th Day of Christmas

Matthew 2:13: *When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”*

Take a break today from the post-holiday rush and color this picture of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus escaping to Egypt. Think about what it was like for the holy family to be refugees.

Matiu 2:13: *Pea kuo nau ‘alu, ‘iloange, na‘e hā kia Siosifa ha ‘āngelo ‘a e ‘Eiki ‘i ha misi, ‘o ne pehē, ‘Ā hake, ‘o to‘o ‘a e tamasi‘i mo ‘ene fa‘ē, pea ke holataki ki ‘Isipite; pea ke nofo ai kae‘oua ke u toki fakahā atu; he ‘oku teu kumi ‘e Hēlota ‘a e tamasi‘i ke fakapoongi*

Tau ki‘i malōlō ai me‘ihe ngaahi fatongia ‘oe ‘aho pea moe mo‘umo‘ua ka mou me‘a mai ke tau tā valivali. Koe ki‘i faka-tātā ko eni koe imisi ia ‘o Siosefa pea mo Mele pea mo Sisu ‘ihe ‘e tau hola ki ‘Isipite. Ki‘i fakakaukau kihe momeniti ko eni, ki he taimi na‘e hola ai ‘ae ki‘i famili ‘o kumi hufanga ki ‘Isipite.



January 4—11th Day of Christmas

Matthew 2:16: When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Cogniet's "Massacre of the Innocents" does not focus on the carnage caused by Herod's decree as many other paintings of this subject do. Instead, he highlights a mother who is trying to protect her child from the massacre. Spend some time pondering the thoughts and feelings of the mother as you gaze at her face. Now, look at the background. See the terror and mayhem that the mother is hiding from.



Prayer: God, we pray for those who are living in fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones. Please deliver them as you delivered Jesus from the “massacre of the innocents.” Amen.

Kim Houff

Matiu 2:16: Pea ‘i he toki hā kia Hēlota kuo va‘inga‘aki ia ‘e he kau Maki, na‘a ne tuputāmaki ‘aupito; ‘o ne fekau ke tāmatae‘i ‘a e tamaiki kotoa pē ‘i Pēteliheima mo e ngaahi ‘api na‘e kau ki ai, ‘o ngata meiate kinautolu na‘e ua ta‘u ‘o fai ki mui; ‘o fakatatau ki he taimi na‘a ne ma‘u mei he kau Maki.

.Koe tā valivali ko ia ‘ae tangata ‘iloa ko Leon Cogniet ‘oku ‘iloa koe “Massacre of the Innocents” ‘oku ‘ikai tefion ‘ihe tamate‘i ‘oe tamaiki ‘e [Hēlota](#) ‘o hange koe tā valivali ‘ae kau tangata ‘iloa ‘e ni’ihi. Ka ‘oku fakatefio ‘ae tā valivali ‘a Cogniet ‘iha fa’e ‘oku ne feinga ke malu‘i ‘a ‘ene tama me’ihe tu’tu’uni ko eni ‘a Hēlota. Ki’i tu’u hifo ‘o vakai fakalelei ki he fofonga ‘oe fa’e ko eni pea ke tau ki’i fakakaukau loto ki he tu’unga ‘oku ‘iai ‘ae fa’e pea mo ‘ene tama pea moe anga ‘ene fakakaukau ‘ihe taimi ko ia. Toe ki’i vakai atu ki he tu’a ‘oe fa’e ko eni, koe me’a pe ‘oku ‘asi mai koe fakapō.

Lotu: ‘Otua, ‘oku mau lotu ma’a nau tolu ‘oku nofo tailiili ‘e nau mo’ui moe ilifia koe ‘uhi ko ho nau ‘ofa’anga. Fakatau’ataina’i mu’a ‘e nau mo’ui me’ihe ngaahi fakatu’u tamaki pea moe ngaahi fili ‘oe halanga fononga. Emeni.

Kim Houff

January 5—12th Day of Christmas

Matthew 2:21-23: So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets. “He will be called a Nazarene.”

Most don't realize that the 12 days of Christmas run from December 25 and end on January 5. This has to do with the different calendars that the Roman and Eastern Orthodox churches use. So I hope that you have been celebrating Christ's birth until today!

In today's reading, Joseph - the adoptive father of Jesus - is ever protective of his family. Having heard that Herod the Great, the one who ordered the Slaughter of the Innocents, had died, Joseph returns to Israel from Egypt. Some scholars believe that they were headed to Bethlehem. But he hears that Herod's son Archelaus has assumed his father's throne. Joseph - who shares the same name as the Joseph of Genesis, who had and interpreted dreams - has a dream and takes his family to a remote area called Galilee, to an obscure town called Nazareth. While Matthew was concerned about linking Jesus with

Old Testament prophecy, which was very important to giving Jesus credibility as the Messiah. But today, let's celebrate Joseph's concern as an adoptive and protective father, whose love for his family - including his adopted son - was as great as any natural father. May we celebrate fathers everywhere who do the same.

PRAYER: Lord, thank you for fathers of all kinds and father figures. May they love and protect their families much as you love and protect us. Amen.

Pastor Tom Choi

Matiu 2:21-23: Pea 'ā hake ia, 'o ne to'o 'a e tamasi'i mo 'ene fa'ē, pea ne 'alu atu 'o hū ki he fonua 'o 'Isileli. Ka 'i he'ene fanongo ko 'Akileosi 'oku pule 'i Siutea, ko e fetongi 'o 'ene tamai ko Hēlota, na'a ne manavahē ke 'alu ki he potu ko ia: pea na'e valokia ia 'i ha misi, ko ia na'a ne fononga ki he ngaahi feitu'u 'o Kāleli. Pea ne 'alu 'o nofo 'i he kolo 'oku hingoa ko Nāsaleti; koe'uhi ke fakamo'oni ki he me'a na'e lea'aki 'e he kau Palōfita, 'o pehē, 'E ui ia ko ha Nāsaleti.

'Oku 'iai foko 'ae toko lahi 'oku 'ikai ke nau 'ilo'i 'ae 'uhinga 'oe 'aho 'e 12 'oe Kili-simasi me'ihe 'aho 25 ki Sanuali 'aho 5. 'Oku 'iai 'a 'ene felave'i pea moe kehe kehe 'ae ngaahi tohi mahina 'o hange koe tohi mahina faka Loma, koe tohi mahina 'oku ngaue 'a ki 'e nau tolu 'oku nau tauhi 'ae taufatunga motu'a 'oe lotu me'ihe hahake. 'Oku ou faka'amu pe na'ake fakafiefia'i 'ae 'aho na'e 'alo'i mai 'ai 'a Kalaisi 'o a'u mai ki he 'ahoni!

'Ihe veesi folofola 'oe 'ahoni, Siosefa – koe tamai 'a Sisu- na'ane malu'i 'aupito hono famili. 'Ihe 'ene fanongo kuo tu'utu'uni 'e Helo ke fakapoongi 'a ki nau tolu tonuhia, na'ane foki mei 'Isipite ki 'Isileli. 'Oku tui foko 'ae kau sikola 'ihe Tohi Tapu, na'e hu'u mai 'e nau fononga ki Petelihema. Ka na'e fanongo 'ae Siosefa kuo hoko hake 'ae foha 'o Helota ko Akileosi ki he taloni. Ko Siosefa koe hingoa tatau pe ia pea moe Siosefa 'ihe tohe Senesi 'a ia na'e faka'uhinga'i 'ae ngaahi misi. Na'e mohe ia 'o misi ke 'ave 'ae famili ki he feitu'u ko Kaleli ki he ki'i kolo ko Nasaleti. 'Oku 'i ai 'ae tokanga makehe ia Matiu ke feinga ke fakafehokotaki 'o Sisu ki he ngaahi palofisi 'oku 'asi ihe fuakava motu'a. Ka koe 'ahoni, tau ki'i fakafiefia'i mu'a 'ae tamai fakamamani 'a Sisu ko ha tamai lelei. Pe ke kau ai pe mo 'e tau fiefia 'ihe ngaahi tamai kotoa pe 'oku nau kau fakataha pea mo Siosefa.

LOTU: 'Eiki, faka-malo atu koe 'uhi koe ngaahi tamai kotoa pe 'ihe mamani. Tuku mu'a ke hoko 'e nau 'ofa koe malu 'anga ia ho nau famili takitaha. Emeni

Pastor Tom Choi

January 6—Epiphany

Psalm 96:1: Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth!

I was nothing and you gave me everything
When my spirit was broken, you made my heart sing
When the world pushes me down to the lowest of lows,
It is your forgiveness and love that truly shakes my soul

In your eyes I am blessed
and in your Word I will invest
For it is my spirit that rejoices and adores
the one whom I love, the Lord of Lords

Marina Choi

Saame 96:1: HIVA kia Sihova ‘aki ‘a e hiva fo‘ou Hiva kia Sihova, ‘a māmani kotoa.

Na’e ‘ikai ha’aku mahu’inga pea ke ‘omi ‘ae me’a hono kotoa
‘Ihe taimi na’e masivesiva ai ‘a hoku laumalie, na’aku hufanga ‘i ho’o ‘ofa
Pea ‘ihe lolomi au ‘e mamani ki he ma’u lalo taha
Ko ho’o fakamolemole pea mo ho’o ‘ofa ‘ae nonga ‘anga hoku loto

Ko ho’o fofonga ko hoku tapuaki
Pea ‘iho mamani teu kau ‘i hono talaki
He ko ho laumalie ‘oku ou polepole ai
‘a ia ‘oku ou ‘ofa ai, ‘Eiki ‘oe ngaahi ‘Eiki

Marina Choi





Devotional lovingly created by:
First UMC Honolulu
1020 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96814

Email: office@firstumchonolulu.org Instagram: firstumchonolulu
Facebook: First United Methodist Church Honolulu Twitter: HonoluluFUMC