



**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

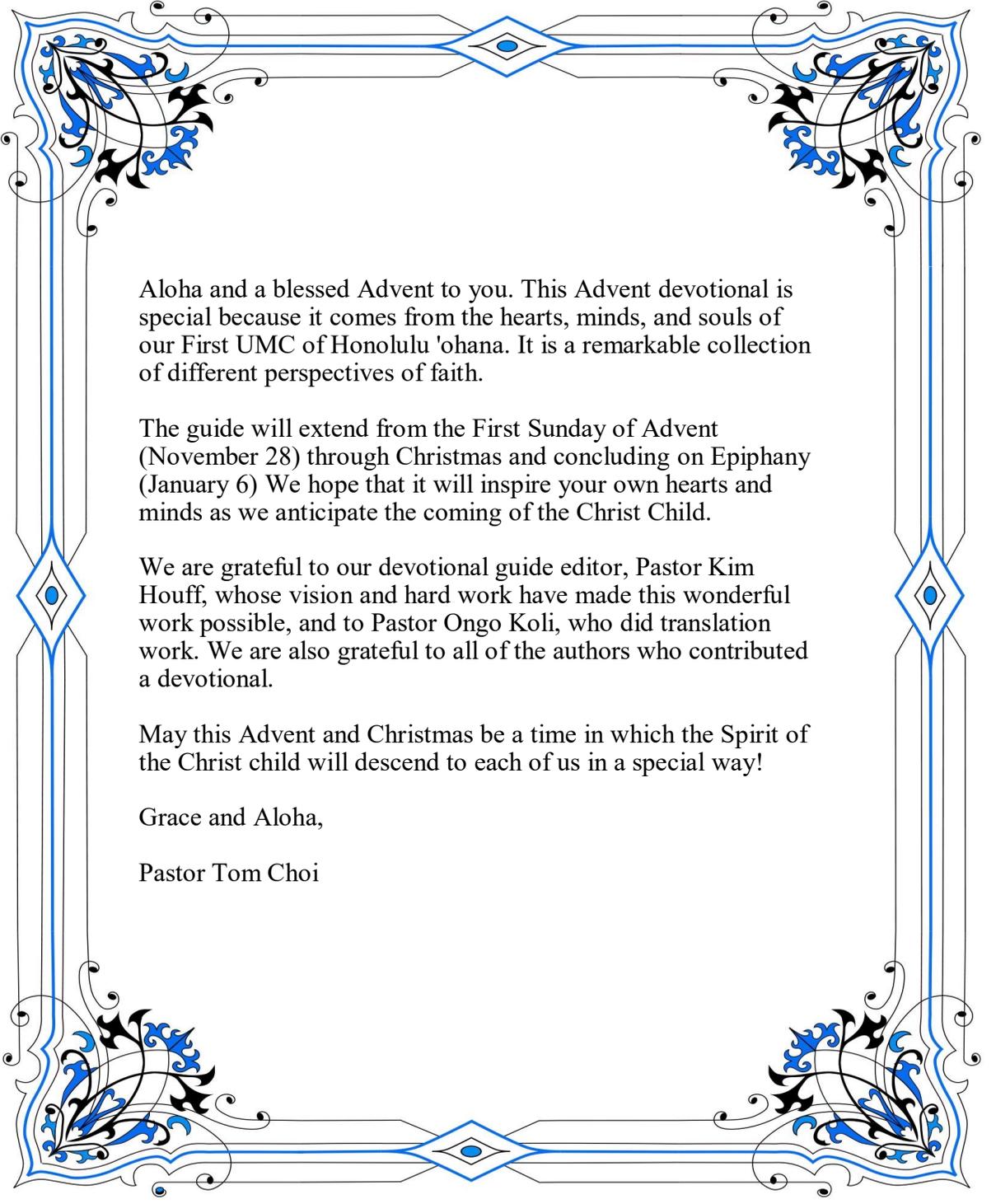
Si'i Kaunga Pilikimi,

Fakafeta'I he 'ofa 'a e 'Otua he fa'ahita'u 'o e 'Etiveni, pea ko e fiefia ia 'oku ne 'omi kitautolu ki he fakatu'amelie 'o e Fa'ahita'u ni. Ko e ki'I tohi ko'eni, 'oku fa'u ia mei he fakalaulauloto 'a e kau memipa pe 'o e Siasi mei he'enau ngaahi a'usia ki he 'amanaki 'o e 'Etiveni, mo e 'amanaki fakamanatu 'o e hoko mai 'a e 'Otua 'o 'ai kakano 'ia Sisu Kalaisi.

Koia 'oku kamata 'a e fa'ahita'u ko'eni he 'aho Sapate, Novema 28, 2021 ki he Sapate, Sanuali 6, 2022. Pea 'oku fakamu pe ke tau kau fakataha 'a e kakai 'o e Siasi 'o tatau pe 'I he kau papalangi mo e kainga Tonga 'I he fakalaulauloto 'o e 'aho taki taha. Kuo 'osi fakafaingamalie atu foki 'a e tohi ni 'I he lea fakapapalangi mo e lea fakatonga. Koia 'oku ou fakamalo kia Faifekau Kim Houff pea mo Faifekau Ongo Koli 'I hono fakama'opo'opo mo liliu ki he lea fakatonga, 'a e Tohi ni ke tokoni'I kitautolu kotoa he fa'ahita'u 'o e 'Etiveni.

Tauange ke mou mau ma ngaahi 'aho fakalaumalie mo fiefia 'I he 'amanaki ke tau fakamanatua 'a e teuaki ke hoko mai 'a e Tamasi'I 'Otua 'ia Sisu Kalaisi.

'Ofa lahi atu mo e Lotu,
Faifekau Linita Moa



Aloha and a blessed Advent to you. This Advent devotional is special because it comes from the hearts, minds, and souls of our First UMC of Honolulu 'ohana. It is a remarkable collection of different perspectives of faith.

The guide will extend from the First Sunday of Advent (November 28) 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, Pastor Kim Houff, whose vision and hard work have made this wonderful work possible, and to Pastor Ongo Koli, who did translation work. We are also grateful to all of the authors who contributed a devotional.

May this Advent and Christmas be a time in which the Spirit of the Christ child will descend to each of us in a special way!

Grace and Aloha,

Pastor Tom Choi

November 28—First Day of Advent

Hebrews 1:1-2: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.

Advent

There you have it, in just two verses. God is Christ and Christ is God! The Prophets prophesied and Jesus fulfilled the prophecies.

As we approach the Advent Season of every year, we are reminded of the prophecies and the fulfillment of them. It is a reminder to God's people everywhere, of what they are to do! Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matt. 28:19. That was the plan! I invite and challenge you this Advent Season to do just that. We can start with ourselves, our families, our neighbors, communities, State of Hawaii, our nation and to the end of the earth. See how powerful you can be? We are his disciples, he has equipped us to share and teach the Good news and He will be with us to the end of the age. That was and still is the plan.

HEPELŪ 1:1-2 : A'E fakakongokonga mo anga kehekehe 'a e fai mu'a 'e he 'Otua 'ene folofola ki he Mātu'a 'i he kau Palōfita, ka 'i he faka'osi 'o ono'aho na'a ne folofola kiate kitautolu 'i ha 'Alo; 2'a e Toko Taha na'a ne tu'utu'uni ko e 'ea 'e 'o'ona 'a e me'a kotoa pē, 'a ia foki na'e fou ai 'ene ngaohi 'a e ngaahi 'univeesi.

'Oku mahino lelei he ongo ki'I fo'I veesi pe ko eni 'e ua ko e 'Otua' pe 'a Kalaisi, pea 'osi! Folofola e 'Otua ki he Palofita, fakaha 'e he palofita 'i he kikite ki he kakai, fakakato e kikite 'e Kalaisi.

Koe ha leva 'a taua 'e fai? Ne 'iai ha palani ngaue? Fefe 'a e Fekau Lahi 'ia Matiu 28:19? Ko ia ke mou o, 'o ngaohi 'a e ngahi kakai kotoa pe ko 'eku kau ako, 'i he papitaiso kinautolu ki he Huafa 'oe Tamai mo e 'Alo mo e Laumalie Ma'oni'oni. Ko e palani ngaue ia! 'Oku ou fakaafe'I atu mo pole ke tau faka'ilonga'I ange 'a e Fa'ahita'u 'Etiveni 'oe 2021 – ko e ta'u ia ke tau ngaue'aki ai 'a e Palani ngaue 'i he Matiu 28:19 ke fai 'aki 'etau ngaue fakalotu. Tau kamata pe mei hotau ngaahi lotofale, kaun-ga'api, komiuniti, tau motu ni, pea mo hotau ngaahi e tau ngaohi Tisaipale mo Papitaiso 'I he huafa 'o Sisu Kalaisi 'o a'u ki he ngata'anga 'o mamani.

Paini Harris

November 29— Second 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 Prophet Jeremiah gives us a sign that hope, and happiness will be fulfilled. The land and its people will be returned by someone from David’s line. *“Thus says the LORD: In this place of which you say, ‘It is a waste without human beings or animals,’ in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without inhabitants, human or animal, there shall once more be heard¹¹ the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD: ‘Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!’” (Jeremiah 33:10-11).*

The Messiah came for everyone. He did not come for any group of people, such as the Israelites. Although we live in a different era as the Prophet Jeremiah, we all share something in common, such as losing a job, losing a loved one, and having no hope in our lives. The good news this Advent season brings us is HOPE. We have a God that will keep His promise and will never let us down.

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.

Koe faka’ilonga ‘oe ‘amanaki lelei moe fiefia ta’e ‘amanekina ‘e hoko mai! ‘E toe foki ‘ae fonua ki hono anga maheni pea ‘e toe fokotu’utu’u fo’ou ‘ae hako ‘oe Tu’i Tevita: *“‘E toe ongo ‘i ‘i he potu ni, ‘a ia ‘oku mou pehē, Ko e lala ia, ta’e ‘i ai ha tangata, pea ta’e ‘i ai ha manu, ‘io, ‘i he ngaahi kolo ‘o Siuta mo e ngaahi hala ‘o Selusalema, ‘a ia kuo ka’anga, ta’e ‘i ai ha tangata, pea ta’e ‘i ai ha nofo, pea ta’e ‘i ai ha manu— ‘io, ‘e toe ongo ‘i ai ‘a e le’o ‘o e fiefia mo e le’o ‘o e mavava, ‘a e le’o ‘o e ‘eiki ta‘ane mo e le’a ‘o e ta‘ahine, ‘a e le’o ‘o e fa‘ahinga ‘oku nau pehē” (33:10-11; ‘Aisea 11:1).*

Koe Misaia ko ia ko ‘ene hoko mai ma’a mamani katoa, ‘o ‘ikai ko Siuta mo ‘Isileli. Neongo ‘ae faikehekehe ‘oe ‘ataakai ‘oe palofita ko Selemaia mo kitautolu he ngaahi ‘aho ni, ka ‘oku ‘i ai ‘ae ngaahi mea’ ‘oku ne ‘omi kiate kitautolu koe ‘amanaki lelei. Koe fakalotolahi ‘ae palofita, koe ‘Otua ‘oku falala’anga pea tauhi ki he’ene palomesi. Koe ongoongo lelei ‘eni ‘oe faha’ita’u ‘Etiveni!

Ongo Koli

November 30—Third 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.

The book of Micah provides one of the most significant prophecies of Jesus Christ's birth in all the Old Testament pointing, some seven hundred years before Christ's birth, to His birthplace of Bethlehem. As a contemporary of Isaiah, Amos and Hosea, Micah prophesied during the momentous years surrounding the tragic fall of Israel to the Assyrian Empire (722 BC).

Micah is considered one of the Twelve Minor Prophets of the Hebrew Bible whose messages were directed mainly towards Jerusalem. In verse 5:2, Micah prophesied that Bethlehem, a small village just south of Jerusalem, would be the birthplace of the Messiah.

Matthew wrote about Micah's prophecy in 2:1-6. He writes that Herod lost no time after he heard about the birth of Jesus. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" In Matthew 2:5-6, They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly: It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land, no longer bringing up the rear. From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

The Message is one of the few Bible versions that identify the prophet Micah while most other versions of the Bible merely say 'the' prophet.

Micah prophesied where Jesus would be born but did not say when he would be born. Jesus said that he would come again but he also says "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only." Matthew 24:36.

We should be vigilant to recognize and welcome the Lord who comes to us every day in people, places and events. So, let's use Advent to prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus not only this coming Christmas but whenever He might choose to stand at the door of our soul and knock.



Maika 5:2: Pea ko koe, Pēteliheima ‘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 ‘tāniti.

‘Oku kau foki ‘ae tohi ‘a Maika ‘ihe Fuakava Motu’a ‘oku hāmahino mai ai ‘a hono palofisai ‘ae hoko mai ‘a Sisu Kalaisi pea mo hono ‘alo’i ‘ihe ta’u ia ‘e 700 ki mu’a pea toki ‘alo’i mai a Sisu Kalaisi. Neongo na’e kau pea moe ngaahi palofita ‘o hange ko Aisea, Amosa, Hosea ka ko Maika na’ane kikite’i ‘e ia ‘ihe taimi faingata’a ‘ihe to ko ia ‘a ‘Isileli ki he emipaea ‘o Asilia (722 KM).

‘Oku kau foki ‘a Maika ‘ihe kau Palofita ‘e taha-ua ‘oku ha ‘ihe Tohi Tapu Hepelu pea ko ‘ene palofisai na’e tala faka-patonu pe ki Selusalema. ‘Ihe vahe 5 veesi 2 ‘ihe tohi ‘a Maika, ‘oku ne palofisai ai ‘e ‘aloi mai ‘ae Misaia ‘i Peteliheima ‘ihe ki’i kolo si’i ko Selusalema. Na’e hiki leva ‘e Matiu ‘ihe ‘ene tohi 2:1-6 ‘ihe fanongo ‘a Helota kuo ‘alo’i ‘a Sisu, na’ane fono moe kau taki lotu ‘oe fonua ‘o fehu’i kia kinautolu ate “pe ‘e ‘alo’i ‘i fē ‘a e Mīsaia”?

Na’a nau tali i Pēteliheima ‘i Siutea; he ‘oku pehē hono tohi ‘e he palōfita,

Pea ko koe, “Pēteliheima, kongā ‘o Siuta”. Na’e ‘osi faka-mahino’I mai ‘ehe Palofita ko Maika, “Pea ko koe, Pēteliheima, kongā ‘o Siuta, ‘oku ‘ikai ‘aupito ko e si’i taha koe ‘i he hou’eiki ‘o Siuta; koe’uhi ‘e ha’u meiate koe ha takimu’a ‘a ia te ne pule’i hoku kakai ko ‘Isileli”.

Koe taha foki eni ha palofisai ‘oku ‘asi ‘ihe Tohi Tapu ‘ae hingoa ‘oe palofita ‘oku ne fai ‘ae palofisai ‘o hange ko Maika. Koe ngaahi palofisai lahi ‘ihe Tohi Tapu, ‘oku ‘ikai ke ‘asi ‘ae hingoa ia ‘oe palofita. Na’e palofisai ‘a Maika ‘ae fetu’u ‘e ‘alo’i ai ‘a Sisu ka na’e ‘ikai ke kau ai ‘ae ‘aho pea moe houa ‘e ‘alo’i ai ‘a Sisu. Na’e folofola mae pe foki ‘a Sisu, tene toe foki mai, ka ‘oku ‘ikai tene ‘ilo ki he ‘aho pea moe houa “Ka ko e me’a ki he ‘aho ko ia mo hono houa, ‘oku ‘ikai ha taha ‘oku ‘ilo ki ai; ‘io, pe ko e kau ‘āngelo ‘i he langi; pea na’a mo e ‘Alo ‘oku ‘ikai; ngata pē ‘i he Tamai toko taha”. Matiu 24:36 .

‘Oku tonu pe ke tau toe tokanga ange ke tau tali tali lelei ‘ae ‘Eiki ‘oku fou mai ‘ihe kakai ‘i mamani. Ko ia, tau teu teu ‘ihe faha’i ta’u ko eni koe ‘Etiveni ke tali tali a Sisu ‘o ‘ikai ngata pe ‘ihe ‘aho Kilisimaisi ka ki he ‘aho ko ia ‘e tu’u mai ai ‘ihe mata-pa ‘o tuki tuki mai ki ho tau Laumalie.

Judy Olson

December 1—Fourth 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!"

What is in the Lord's way? Usually there is nothing in a desert to clear. I believe God is asking me to clear out my heart and focus on His goodness which gives Him a clear path to fill my life with plenty of living water.

The wilderness is full of distractions and unknowns just as in life, which could make it scary and dangerous to navigate. We will face challenges, and sometimes we might even feel lost in the wilderness. As we increase our faith and trust God fully, we provide a clear and straight path for God to help guide us through whatever comes our way.

'Aisea 40:3 Ko e le'o ē 'oku kalanga, "Teuteu 'i he toafa 'a e hā'ele'anga 'o Sihova, fakatonotonu 'i he fonua mamate ha hala tanu ma'a hotau 'Otua!"

Koe ha nai 'ae folofola 'ae 'Eiki? Koe natula 'oe toafa, 'oku 'ikai ke fa'a 'iai ha me'a ai ke fakama'a he koe toafa koe 'one'one pe. 'Oku ou tui 'oku 'uhinga mai 'ae 'Eiki ke teuteu 'a hoku lotu pea keu tokanga ki he ngaahi lelei kotoa pe 'oku ne foaki mai.jere Koe ngaahi lelei ko ia 'oku ne teuteu 'a hono hā'ele'anga pea tene fakafonu 'eku mo'ui 'aki 'ae vai 'oe mo'ui.

'He vaotā, 'oku lahi ai 'ae ngaahi me'a 'oku felekeu 'I he 'e tau mo'ui pea faingata'a pea fakatu'u tamaki ki he 'e tau mo'ui. 'E 'I ai pe 'ae taimi 'ihe halanga fononga, te tau fetaulaki ai pea moe ngaahi pole pea 'e hange kuo taumu'a valea 'ae fononga 'ihe toafa. Ka 'ihe tupulaki 'e tau tui pea mo falala kakato ki he 'Otua, ko ia pe 'a hō tokoni ofi.

Mark Brekke

December 2—Fifth 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.

As we continue to face a time of unprecedented unrest and anger, this verse reminds us to eagerly await a peace only God can bring. While we wait there are many ways we can initiate and inspire peace in our own lives and the lives of those around us. Today, pray for peace.

To get you started, here's a link to one of the UMC Discipleship Ministries' daily prayers that specifically concerns peace between neighbors (and references Isaiah 2:4):
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/prayer-for-peace-with-our-neighbors>

Aisea 2:4: Te ne fai ha fakamaau 'I he lotolotonga 'oe ngaahi pule'anga mo fakatonu 'a e ngaahi me'a fekau'aki mo e ngaahi kakai lahi. Te nau tuki 'enau ngaahi heletaá 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.

“Oku kau foki ‘ae potu folofola ‘oe ‘ahoni ‘ihe faka-loto lahi kia ki tau tolu tau tefito kihe taimi faingata’a ‘o hange ko ia ‘oku tau fononga atu ai. Lolotonga ‘e tau tatali ‘oku ‘i ai ‘ahe ngaahi founga ia ‘e malava ke tau fai ke tau ma’u ‘ai ‘ae melino pea moe kaunga pilikimi. ‘Oku ou faka-lotolahi atu ‘ihe ‘ahoni ke tau lotu ke melino ‘a mama-ni.

Koe link ko eni, koe ngaahi lotu ke tau fai pea ke tau fehufia ‘aki he ‘oku fu’u fie ma’u ‘ae melino ‘ihe kuonga ko eni (Aisea 2:4).

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/prayer-for-peace-with-our-neighbors>

Ashleigh Houff



December 3—Sixth 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.

As we prepare to see the light from the Source of all lights, we prepare with expectation and hope that light will be lighting all generation to generation. We are living under the shade of sins and darkness. God’s light shines on all human beings. Although we walk under the shadow of darkness and death, Jesus Christ is the great light shining from heaven to all of us.

Our expectation for this season is to meet with Jesus Christ, the Great Light, and stay close to Him so that we can see and experience the way, truth, and life.

Pray: Lord, you’re the Great Light, all knowledge is the rays of your glory. Shine your light of grace upon us and may we walk in your light always. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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.

'I he 'etau teuteu ke mamata ki he Maama mei he Maama Lahi 'o e ngaahi maama, 'oku tau teuteu mo e fakatu'amelie mo e 'amanaki ko e maama koia 'e maama ia mei he to'utangata ki he to'utangata. 'Oku tau lolotonga nofo 'i he malumalu 'o e angahala mo e fakapo'uli. Ka ko e 'Otua ko e maama ia 'oku ulo lahi ki he taha kotoa pe. Neongo 'etau nofo he fakapo'uli, ka ko Sisu ko e La'a lahi ia 'oku ne ulo mei he langi kiate koe mo au mo e taha kotoa pe ke tau maamangia ai.

Ko e faka'amu ke tau mamata ki he maama koia ko Sisu Kalaisi, pea ke tau nofoma'u he maama ko Sisu Kalaisi, ka tau 'ilo ai 'a e Hala mo e Mo'ui.

Lotu: Sisu ko koe pe ko e maama mo'onia, fa'ahinga poto kehekehe ko ho huelo ia. Fakaulo mai ho'o kelesi ki homau loto mo e mo'ui, ke mau mafana ai pea mau nofo ma'u ai 'iate koe. 'I he huafa 'o Sisu Kalaisi. 'Emeni.

Pastor Linita Moa



December 4—Seventh 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."

Volcano eruptions, floods, people shooting each other and the Corona virus pandemic. We asked, "Could these be signs from God telling us that the end is near?" Interestingly, Webster dictionary describes signs as, "A motion or gesture by which a thought is expressed or a command or wish made known". As a child, I was taught that we are not to ask God for signs. We just need to be faithful and believe in God. In this verse in Isaiah 7:11, God gave Ahaz permission to express his thought and make his wish known. God told Ahaz to ask him for a sign, not a little sign, but a sign as deep as the grave or as high as heaven. What sign are you waiting for during this Advent season?

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.

ʻHe hoko mai ʻae ngaahi fakatuʻu tamaki ki ho tau fonua ʻo hange ko ia koe puna ʻae moʻungaafi, tafea, tau ʻaki taufana, pea moe mahaki ko ia koe Kolona, koe fehuʻi ʻoku tau ʻeke, pe kuo ofi mai ʻae puleʻanga ʻoe ʻOtua. Koe fakaʻungaʻi ko ia ʻehe tikisinali Webster ʻae foʻi lea ko ia koe fakaʻilonga “Ko ha meʻa ʻoku ngaue pe ngaue mai ke faka ha ke ʻiloʻi”. ʻHe ʻeku kei tupu hake ko tama ʻae ʻEiki, naʻe akoʻi au ke ʻoua teu kole pe ʻeke ha fakaʻilonga meʻihe ʻEiki. Naʻe fakahinohino ki mau tolu ke mau tui pea mo falala ki he ʻOtua. ʻHe veesi 7:11 naʻe ʻave ʻe he ʻOtua kia Ahasi ʻae ngofua kene fakaha ʻa ene fakaʻamu. Naʻe folofola ʻae ʻOtua kia Ahasi ke kole mei ai ha fakaʻilonga, ʻikai ko ha kiʻi fakaʻilonga pe, ka ko ha fakaʻilonga ʻoku to maʻolunga ange ʻi langi pea mo mamahi. Koe ha nai ʻae fakaʻilonga ʻoku ke tatali ki ai ʻihe faahi taʻu Etiveni.

Helena Ogle

December 5—Eighth 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.

I've read this scripture and I've also heard it quoted many times. It is one of the most powerful promises in the Bible. I do love God and for over 60 years, He has filled my life with blessing after blessing. And to everyone who Loves Him, He promises to prepare things that we can't even comprehend. I think about all the wonderful things God has already done in our lives and I'm in awe knowing He has even more incredible plans for us all.

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 loto 'o ha tangata; 'io, 'a e ngaahi fu'u me'a kuo teuteu 'e he 'Otua ma'a e kakai 'oku 'ofa kiate ia—

ʻOku ou faʻa lau foki ʻae potu folofola ko eni pea kuo ou faʻa fanongo ʻi hono tou tou ngaue ʻaki. Pea ʻoku kau foki ʻae veesi folofola ko eni ʻi he taha ene ngaahi palomesi ki he faʻahinga ʻoe tangata. ʻOku ou lau au koe tangata ʻoku tauhi ʻOtua pea ʻoku ou ʻofa ki he ʻOtua. ʻOku ou ʻiloʻi ʻae ʻofa ʻae ʻOtua ʻihe taʻu ko eni ʻe 60 ʻo eku moʻui. Kuo fonu ʻeku moʻui ʻihe ngaahi tapuaki ʻae ʻOtua. Pea koe fakaloto lahi ia kia ki nau tolu ʻoku ʻOfa ki he ʻOtua, ʻoku ne palomesi mai kia koe ʻihe veesi folofola ʻoe ʻahoni, tene fai meʻa fakaofa ʻi hoʻo moʻui.

Mark Brekke

December 6—Ninth Day of Advent

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

It is no secret that our world has become victim to the disease infecting our world; witness to the poisonous political debate dividing our people. Over the past couple of years, our planet has simply been shrouded in darkness; each new messenger of bitter news adding a new layer of grief and worry to blanket over our heads. Like moths and a flickering flame, we have stood helplessly as the world around us has succumbed to shadow and barrenness. Still, my friends, do not let your spirit waver like this flickering flame, for there is light that still prevails in this clouded world to be grateful for. Our world holds the nature and greenery that breathes life and color into our lives. And like the rainbow of the flood of Noah, there lays a promise waiting for us at the end of the rain storm; a promising light at the end of a dark tunnel. Treasure these small shreds of light, for there is a bigger payoff coming; a bath of it waiting for us. The darkness has not taken over, just yet.

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 ikai ke puli 'ae tu'unga 'oe mamani 'oku tau lolotonga 'i ai. 'Oku tau lolotonga fononga fakataha pea moe mahaki ko ia kuo ne faka-konahi ho tau mamani pea 'ihe taimi tataua, na'a tau mamata 'ihe televisone 'ihe ngaahi tipeiti na'e hoko koe kona ki ho tau pule'anga pea ko hono ola, na'ane vae ua ho tau pule'anga 'o fakafahafaha'i. Kuo fepaki mo'oni pe ho tau mamani pea moe faka po'uli mo'oni. Ka na'a tau tu'u tafa'aki pe 'o hange ha ki'i maama tamatamate kae fai 'ae ngaahi fe kolo 'aki. Kaneongo ia, 'oua 'e hoko 'ae ngaahi me'a ko ia ke mole ai ho'o 'amanaki pe mole ai ho'o lelei he 'oku 'i ai 'ae maama tene ikuna'i 'ae faka po'uli. Hange pe ko ia na'e hoko kia Noa pea moe tafea lahi ko ia na'e hoko 'i mamani, na'e 'iai 'ae palomesi hili 'ae matangi; koe palomesi ko ia ko ha maama tene ulo 'ihe fakapo'uli. 'Oku 'i ai 'ae maama 'oku toe lahi ange 'oku teu ke hoko mai. He 'ikai ke ikuna ki tau tolu 'ehe faka po'uli.

Sierra Choi



December 7—Tenth 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.

This verse is telling us that our willingness to do good for others is tied to our praise of God. Our sacrifice should only be out of love and praise for Him. We as Christians should do whatever may tend to promote the good and happiness of our neighbors and to prevent any misfortune. If others require our advice, we ought to give it in the best manner we can.

Prayer: Lord, please help us to always remember to do good to others in glorifying You, Amen!

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.

'Oku hanga foki 'ehe vēesi folofola ko eni 'o faka-hā mai ko'e tau fai lēlei ki hō tau kaunga fononga, ko 'e tau faka-langilangi'i ai pe ia 'ae 'Otua. Ko 'e tau mo'ui kalusefai 'oku mahu'inga 'oku makatu'unga pe 'ihe 'Otua. Ko ki tau tolu koe Kalisitiane pea koe ngaahi me'a kotoa pe'oku faka-hoko, maka tu'unga kotoa pe 'eihe 'Eiki.

Lotu: 'Eiki, tokoni mai ke mau fai ha ngaue 'oku 'aonga pea ke langilangi 'ia ai pe 'ae 'afiona.

Marine Anien

December 8—Eleventh Day of Advent

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

If this pandemic has taught me anything it is this - community is very important. We can encourage, support and share with others whatever we have . . . our gifts, talents, food, an ear to listen, words of encouragement, prayer, etc. Hebrews 13:16 in The Message Bible says "Make sure you don't take things for granted and go slack in working for the common good; share what you have with others. God takes particular pleasure in acts of worship - a different kind of "sacrifice" - that take place in kitchen and workplace and on the streets." For the past 3 years, during the holidays, our family made baked goods for people we wanted to thank . . . the Moanalua Fire Station, Kaiser Permanente Pediatrics unit, teachers, friends, family, etc. It doesn't cost much but it is made with love and lots of laughter!

Christmas 2020 was especially difficult because my mother was promoted to Heaven and our heirloom Christmas ornaments were stolen among other things. So we made our own ornaments with pictures of those who touched us deeply in 2020 and we made duplicates to give the person so they would know how much they meant to us. This Advent season, I encourage you to reach out to others using your special gifts and talents to show just how much you care and how much Jesus cares!



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.

Kapau ‘oku ‘i ai ha me’a teu ako me’ihe mahaki ko eni ‘oku tau lolotonga tofanga ai, teu pehe, neu ako heni ‘ae mahu’inga ‘oe komuniti. ‘E malava ke tau fetokoni’aki, malava ke tau fe’inasi’aki pea malava ke tau fakalotolahi ‘aki. ‘Oku malava ke tau vahe vahe ‘ae ngaahi tapuaki, ‘ae ngaahi me’a tokoni pea lava ke nau fehufia aki ‘ihe lotu. Koe tohi Hepelu 13:16 ‘oku pehe ai “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”, pea ‘oku lava pe ke faka hoko ia ‘ihe ‘api ngaue, ngaahi hala pule’anga pea mo ‘api. ‘Ihe ta’u ‘e 3 kuo maliu atu, na’e fai ‘e hoku famili ‘ae ki’i ngaue koe ta’o keke pea mau ‘alu ‘o tufa ki he kau faiako, koe kau ngaue falemahaki ‘i Kaiser ko ‘e mau faka-malo kia ki nau tolu. Na’e ‘ikai ke fu’u mahu’inga ‘ae ke ke ka koe me’a mahu’inga na’e ngaahi ‘aki ‘ae ‘ofa.

‘Ihe Kilisinasi ‘oe ta’u 2020, na’e kau ia ‘ihe Kilisimasi faingata’a kia au pea mo hoku famili. Koe ‘uhi koe ui na’e fai ‘e he ‘Otua kenge ‘eku fa’e ki ‘api pea ‘ihe taimi tataua ai pe, ‘i he ‘e mau foki mai ki ‘api ‘ihe efiafi Kilimasi, kuo kaiha’asi kotoa pe mau ngaahi me’a ‘ofa Kilisimasi pea moe ngaahi me’a teuteu ‘o ‘e mau fu’u akau kilisimasi. Neongo ‘a hono kaiha’asi ‘o ‘e mau ngaahi me’a teuteu, na’a mau nofo hifo ‘o ngaoohi ha ngaahi teu teu ‘aki ‘ae ngaahi taa oo nau tolu ko ho mau ngaahi kaungame’a lelei. ‘Ihe fa’ahi ta’u ko eni koe ‘Etiveni, ‘oku ou fakalotolahi’i koe ke mafao atu ho ngaahi taleniti ke tala ai ‘ae langilangi ‘oe tamasi’i ko Sisu.

Sandi Brekke

December 9—Twelfth 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.

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.



Amalia Houff

December 10—Thirteenth 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.

This is a great analogy of the impossible possible. It is unbelievable in life for one to live together with his/her enemy. It is impossible for the wolf to live with the lamb, the leopard to lie down with the goat, and the calf and lion. The prophet Isaiah declared that the barriers had been destroyed and everyone became one family. Their differences are not the important things, their love for each other and living in a good relationship are the most important in their living. Living peacefully and loving each other is the image of the kingdom of God and eternal life.

Jesus Christ is the son of God who came to lead us and be our shepherd. He is the Shepherd who leads us beside still waters and restores our soul. As we prepare to commemorate Jesus coming in human beings like us, he guided us to be one family in God's house.

Prayer: Help us O Lord to be your children to live peacefully and lovingly with one another. May your immeasurable grace and peace lead us so that we can have eternal life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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.

Ko e fakatata malie 'aupito 'eni 'a e malava 'a e ta'emalava. 'Oku ta'e'amanekina ke hoko ha me'a pehe he mo'ui ni ke nofo fiefia mo 'ofo'ofani ha tokotaha mo hono fili. Kuo holoki 'a e 'avahevahe kae hoko ko e loto'a pe 'e taha, pea neongo 'ena kehekehe ka 'oku 'ikai ko e me'a ia 'oku lau. Ko e nofo fe'ofo'ofani mo e melino koia 'oku lau ki he Pule'anga 'o e 'Otua. Pea ko 'etau teuteu ki he hoko mai 'a e tamasi'i 'Otua, ko e hoko mai 'a e tokotaha 'oku ne holoki 'a e ngaahi 'a vahevahe mo e fakangatangata kae hoko 'a e nofo ko e nofo melino mo fe'ofo'ofa ni.

Pea ko e nofo koia ko e takanga pe taha, pea ko hono taki ko ha ki'i tamasi'i 'oku ne maheni mo 'ene takanga, pea 'oku ne taukei ke kumi 'a e feitu'u malu mo hao ke taki kiai 'a e takanga ko'eni. 'Io, ko Sisu ko e tokotaha kuo 'osi taukei ke ne taki kinautolu ki he matavai 'oku tafetafe malie pea iku ai ki he mo'ui ta'engata.

Lotu: Tokoni'i kinautolu 'e 'Otua, ke mau hoko ko e fanau 'oku mau nofo fe'ofo'ofa ni mo melino, pea ke taki kinautolu 'e ho 'Alo ko Sisu Kalaisi, ka mau ma'u 'a e mo'ui ta'engata. 'Emeni.

Pastor Linita Moa

December 11—Fourteenth 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...

Light and darkness. Good and evil. Heaven and sin. Happiness and depression. Throughout the pandemic, I, and I'm sure many others, have fluctuated through my own periods of light and darkness. Crests of extreme motivation, happiness, and content, but these crests are followed by valleys of just the opposite. Multiple times restrictions have been lifted, hinting that normalcy was near. We could see the light at the end of the tunnel. But just as quickly as the restrictions were lifted, many were put back in place. Sometimes it can feel like the end of the tunnel is miles away, to the point where we can no longer see the light at the end.

But God assures us that he is with us - above us, beneath us, in front of us, behind us, beside us, within us. God assures us that his light is still shining at the end of the tunnel. Even if we may not see the light now, as long as we trust in Him, we will continue making our way towards the light. Despite such a prolonged period of confusing, challenging, discouraging times, let us continue to remain faithful in our God, that he may continue to guide us out of darkness and into His truth. His light.

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;

Maama pea moe po'uli. Lelei pea moe tēvelo. Hevani pea moe angahala, Fiefia pea moe ongo'i li'ekina. 'Ihe lolotonga ko ia 'e tau fononga mai 'ihe vaha'i taimi 'oe penetemiki, na'aku fononga mai 'aki 'ae fanga ki'i maama pea moe po'uli na'aku fili ki he halafongona, pea 'oku ou tui na'e 'i ai pe 'ae ni'ihi 'o ki tau tolu na'a tau fai tatau. 'Ihe 'e tau a'u kihe tumutumu 'o 'e tau fiefia pea moe fiemalie, 'oku fa'a muimui mai ai 'ae ngaahi tele'a 'oku fēsitu'a 'aki. Na'e tu'o lahi pe foki 'ae mata mata 'e to'o 'ae ngaahi fakangatagata, 'o hange te tau foki ki he tu'unga anga maheni. Na'e malava pe ke tau sio ki he maama 'ihe 'ene 'asi mai me'ihe tafa'aki 'e taha 'oe tanolo. Kae lolotonga pe 'e tau 'amanaki lelei ki hono to'o 'oe faka-ngatangata, kuo toe fai tu'utu'uni mai ki hono tata-puni 'oe fonua pea molea atu 'ae ki'i maama na'e 'asi mai me'ihe tafa'aki 'e taha.

Ka 'oku faka-papau mai 'ehe 'Otua, 'oku ne 'ia ki tau tolu - 'oku ne 'i 'olunga, 'oku ne 'i lalo, 'i mu'a 'ia ki tau tolu, 'i mui pea 'i ho tau tafa'aki. 'Oku faka-papau mai 'ae 'Otua, 'oku kei ulo pe 'ene maama 'ihe tafa'aki 'e taha 'oe tanolo. Pea neongo 'oku 'ikai malava ke tau sio ki he maama 'ihe lolotonga, kā koe 'uhi ko 'e tau tui pea mo fālala ki he 'Otua, koe hala ia ki he maama. Neongo 'ae fu'u taimi faingata'a ko eni kuo tau fononga ai, taimi fonu 'ihe ta'e 'iloa pea moe ta'e 'amenekina, 'oku mahu'inga ke kei tu'u ma'u 'e tau 'amanaki pea moe fālala 'ihe 'Otua, ke kei hoko hoko atu pe 'ene tofa mai ho tau hala ke tau fononga ai 'ihe mo'oni. 'A 'ene maama.

Marina Choi

December 12—Fifteenth 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?

As a short-term missionary to Nepal, I learned this lesson early in my missionary journey. Pastor Jomesh Tamang and other pastors in Nepal explained to missionaries how important it is to address the people’s basic needs – like food, shelter, medical attention and clothing to keep warm then the people will be satisfied and their hearts will be open to the Gospel. For over twenty-one years the apostle’s words has guided my work on the missionary field, when I was in the medical field, working here at First UMC, and even when interacting with my own family. If my family is safe and comfortable at home and well fed, then we are happy to sit and talk about what God has been doing in our lives. If we are out and about, we are constantly asking “Are we there yet?” If we are hungry, most likely we’ll be “hangry” and distracted by the thoughts of when our next meal is or where or when we can get a snack and not thinking about all the blessings God has given us or about helping others who are less fortunate than we are.

Our food ministries: the Foodbank, Pancakes and Praise Breakfast, and Family Promise meals program are ways First UMC helps to meet the physical needs of our community. Our Nepal Wells helps to bring fresh water to our friends across the ocean, HOME provides medical care and the Samaritan Counseling Center provides care for mental illness. These are all ministries supported by the generosity of our congregation and friends of First UMC.

Friends, during this season (and beyond) may I challenge you to find ways you too can, not just wish others well, but help provide for the well-being of others as God commands. Love God. Love People.



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?

‘The ki’i taimi nounou ko eni ‘eku hoko koe toko taha nguae faka-misinale ki he fonua ko ia ko Nepal, ‘oku ou ako ai hä ngaahi me’a lahi. ‘Oku faka-manatu mai ma’u pe ‘ehe faifekau ‘oe fonua ko eni ko Nepal, ko Faifekau Jomesh Tamag pea moe kaunga faifekau ‘ihe fonua ko eni ‘ae mah’uinga ke fai ha tokanga makehe ki he fie ma’u faka’aho ‘ae kaka ‘oe fonua. Hange koe me’a kai, fale ke malu malu ai ‘ae kakai, koe fo’i ‘akau faka-falemahaki, koe vala ke nau mafana. Ko ‘ene kakato ‘ae ngaahi me’a faka-sino ko eni pea ‘e mafana leva ho nau loto ki hono tali tali lelei ‘oe Kosipeli. Koe ta’u eni ‘e ua-taha pea moe kei hoko ‘ae lea ‘ae ‘Apositolo koe maama ki he ‘eku ngaue faka-misinale, pea tätau pe ‘ihe taimi na’aku kei ngaue ai ‘ihe falemahaki pea ‘i First UMC pea moe taimi ‘oku ou feohi ai pea mo hoku famili. Kapau ‘oku malu hoku famili pea nau makona pea ‘oku fai fiefia ‘e mau fe’inasi’aki ‘ihe folofola ‘ae ‘Otua. Kapau leva ‘oku fiekaia ‘ae tangata, pea kapau leva ‘oku ‘ikai ke malu ‘ene nofo pea koe me’a ‘e hoko ‘e ‘ikai lava ke nofo ma’u ‘ene fakakaukau ‘ihe folofola ‘ae ‘Otua.

Koe potungae tufa me’a kai kihe kau tukuhausia, koe potungae Pancakes and Praise ‘oku nau ngaahi pelekifasi ma’e kau tukuhausia, koe potungae ko ia Family Promise ‘oku nau ngaahi ‘ae me’a tokoni ma’e kau tukuhausia, koe ngaahi founa ia ‘oku fai ‘e First UMC ke faka-kakato ‘aki ‘ae fie ma’u ‘ae komuniti. Ko ‘e tau tokoni ki he ngaahi keli vai ‘i Nepal ‘oku tokoni ia ke keli ha ngaahi ma’u’anga vai ke inu ai ‘ae kakai ‘o Nepal. Koe polokalama ko ia HOME ‘ae falemahaki ‘i ho tau ‘api siasi, ki hono tokoni’i ‘ae kau fie ma’u tokoni ki he mo’ui lelei ‘ae sino. Koe ‘ofisi ‘oe Samaletane ke tokoni’i ‘ae kau faingta’a’ia faka-’atamai. Koe ngaahi polokalama kotoa ko eni ‘oku makatu’unga ia ‘ihe angalelei ‘ae siasi ‘o First UMC.

Si’i kainga, ‘ihe faha’i ta’u ko eni pea hoko hoko atu, ‘oku ou pole’i koe ke ke kumi ha founa teke malava ai ‘o ‘ikai ngata pe ‘i ho’o popoaki talamonu ka ke kau ‘i hono tokoni’i ‘ae mo’ui lelei ‘ae kakai ‘oe fonua ‘o fakatatau ki he tu’utu’uni ‘ae ‘Otua. ‘Ofa ki he ‘Otua pea ‘Ofa foki ki he Kakai.

Sandi Brekke



December 13—Sixteenth 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.

It was at the right time that this occurred. The time was nearing an end from Daniel's 483 year prophecy (Daniel 9: 24-26) Because Jesus is God, He has the power and resources to redeem us. Because Jesus is man, He has the right and ability to redeem us. Not only have we been redeemed (rescued from bondage, free, adopted) but also we are members of His family with all the rights and privileges.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You did so much more than I deserve and still continue to bless me. Thank You for Your grace and mercy and providing so many blessings as a result of being Your daughter. I love You, and give You all glory, honor and praise. In Jesus's name. Amen.

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'ulaloa ki he Lao; koe'uhi ā ke ne huhu 'i 'a kinautolu 'oku mo'ulaloa 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 tatau, 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.

Beverly Aiwahi

December 14—Seventeenth 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."

In reading this verse from The Message, which is a Bible translation (or paraphrase) that I rarely read, I was struck by the part that says "the power of the Highest hover over you." In particular, the use of the word "hover" caught my attention. I did a quick Google search and found that the term "hover" or "hovering" is used four times in vari-

ous translations of the Bible—most often in reference to birds. The most famous occurrence is in Genesis 1:2, which states “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.” The image of the Holy Spirit (or Spirit of God) hovering over the water of the formless earth and over Mary is compelling to me. I think the Holy Spirit is the most difficult part of the trinity to understand, although the fact that it can hover over us is comforting. My personal experience with the Holy Spirit—hovering over our Bible studies, meetings, and relationships with others, etc.—is that it is a wonderful guide and comforter to us. I also like the parallel between the spirit hovering over the earth’s creation and hovering over Mary in the creation of Jesus. I am thankful for the mystery of the Holy Spirit and its capability to hover over us. Let us pray for the continuing and deep presence of the hovering spirit in our lives and activities. and named as one of God’s very own and loved more than we could ever imagine.

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 ‘ikai foki ko ha potu folofola eni ‘oku ou fa’a manako keu lau, ka ‘ihe ‘eku ma’u ‘ae faingamalie keu lau, na’aku fu’u tokanga ‘aupito ki he kongā ko ia ‘ihe folofola ‘oku pehe “ ‘e hoko mai ‘a e Laumālie Mā‘oni‘oni kiate koe, pea ‘e fakamalumalu koe ‘e he māfimaifi ‘o e ‘Eiki Taupotu”. Tau tefito ki hono ngaue ‘aki ‘ae fo’i lea ko ia koe “fakamalumalu”. Na’aku fekumi ki he ‘uhinga ‘oe fo’i lea ko eni pea au ma’u ‘oku tu’o fā ‘a hono ngaue ‘aki ‘ihe Tohi Tapu, ‘ihe ngaahi ‘uhinga kehe kehe pe ‘oe fo’i lea ko eni koe “fakamalumalu” kae lahi ki he fehokotaki pea moe manupuna. ‘Ihe tohi ‘a Senesi 1:2 ‘oku pehe “Pea na’e maomaonganoa ‘a māmani mo lala; pea na’e fakapo‘uli ‘a e funga ‘o e loloto. Pea na’e fakamalumalu‘e he Laumālie ‘o e ‘Otua ki he fukahi vai”. Koe ‘imisi ‘oe Laumālie Mā‘oni‘oni pe koe Laumālie ‘oe ‘Otua ‘oku ne fakamalumalu ‘ihe fukahi vai pea mo Mele koe fu’u ivi malohi eni. ‘Oku kau foki ‘ae Laumālie Mā‘oni‘oni ‘ihe ‘e tau tui Tolu Taha’i ‘Otua pea ‘oku fa’a ta’e mahino ‘ihe taimi lahi ka ko hono fakamahino mai ko eni ‘oku ne fakamalumalu ki tau tolu, ‘oku ne ‘omi ha loto ‘oku nonga. Koe taimi ‘oku ne fakamalumalu ai ki tau tolu, ‘oku tau ma’u ha loto ‘oku nonga. ‘Oku ou ongo’i lahi ‘ae fakamalumalu mai ‘ae Laumālie Mā‘oni‘oni ‘ihe taimi ‘oku ou kau atu ai ki he ako Tohi Tapu ‘ae Siasi ‘o fai ai ‘ae fe’inasi’aki pea moe kaunga pilikimi ‘ihe lotu. ‘Oku toe malie ange kia au ‘ae fakamalumalu ‘ae Laumālie Mā‘oni‘oni ‘i hono fakatupu ‘o mamani pea mo ‘ene fakamalumalu kia Mele ‘i hono fakatupu ‘o Sisū. ‘Oku ou fakamalo ‘ihe fu’u misiteli ko ia koe Laumālie Mā‘oni‘oni pea mo ‘ene fakamalumalu kia ki tau tolu. Ke tau lotu pea mo kole ke kei hoko hoko atu ai pe ‘ene fakamalumalu ki he ‘e tau mo’ui.

Mark Houff

December 15—Eighteenth 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.

This is a familiar passage for Advent, one which leaves me in awe that Mary could respond to what the angel told her by saying that she is the "Lord's servant." I am not sure that would have been my first response! As I read the verse this year, however, I stopped at "Lord's servant" and considered another biblical person who also served others: Jesus. On the night before his death, Jesus wrapped himself in a towel, poured water into a bowl, and washed his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel. This is literally the task that a servant would do. Yet, that is not the only way that Jesus serves. He makes the ultimate sacrifice by giving His life for us. I know that it is unusual to think about Christ's death as we prepare for His birth, but thinking of his willingness to sacrifice everything for me makes it much easier for me to say that I am the Lord's servant no matter how hard the task may be that God calls me to.

Prayer: God, may we be encouraged by Mary's willingness to be the Lord's servant so that we may also follow God's will for our lives. Amen.

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.

‘Oku kau ‘ae vessi folofola ‘oe ‘ahoni ‘ihe veesi folofola maheni pea moe faha’i ta’u ‘oe ‘Etiveni pea ‘oku ou fa’a talafili ma’u pe ‘ihe tali ‘a Mele ki he ‘āngelo “Ko au ‘eni, ko e kaunanga ‘ae ‘eiki”. ‘Oku si’i si’i ‘eku tui ‘e tatau ‘eku tali pea moe tali ‘a Mele. ‘Ihe ‘eku vakai ki he veesi folofola ‘oku hanga ‘ehe tali ‘a Mele “Ko au ‘eni, koe kaunanga ‘ae ‘eiki” ‘o taki ‘eku faka-kaukau ki he toko taha tatau pe na’ane hoko koe sevaniti ‘i mamani, ‘a ia ko Sisu. ‘Ihe efiāfi ko ia na’e kalusefai ai ia, na’ane to’o ha tauveli, pea mo ha vai ‘one fufulu ‘ae va’e ‘oe kau ako. Koe ngaue eni ia na’e fa’a fai pe ia ‘ehe kau sevaniti ‘oe ‘aho ko ia. Na’e ‘ikai ngata ai ‘a ene ngaue faka-sevaniti, na’ane pekia fokki, koe ‘uhi ko ki tā ua. ‘Oku ou ‘ilo’i pe ‘oku ‘ikai ke tau fa’a manatu’i ‘ene pekia ‘ihe teu atu ke tau faka-manatu ‘ae ‘aho na’e alo’i mai ‘ae ki’i tamasi’i ki mamani, ka ‘ihe ‘eku nofo hifo ‘o manatu’i ‘a ‘ene kalusefai ‘ene mo’ui ma’aku pea ‘oku faingofua pe kia au keu lea ‘o tala, ko au koe sevaniti ‘ae ‘Eiki neongo pea neongo ko hala ‘oku fou ai mate pe mo’ui, kehe pe keu fai ‘a hono finangalo.

Lotu: ‘Otua, tuku mu’a ke mau ma’u ha lotu ‘oku lahi ‘o hange ko Mele ‘a ‘ene hoko koe sevaniti muiaki ‘ae ‘Otua. Emeni.

Pastor Kim Houff



December 16—Nineteenth Day of Advent

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

Here are my blessings:



God promised to give me a soul-mate.
Celebrated our 21st wedding anniversary.

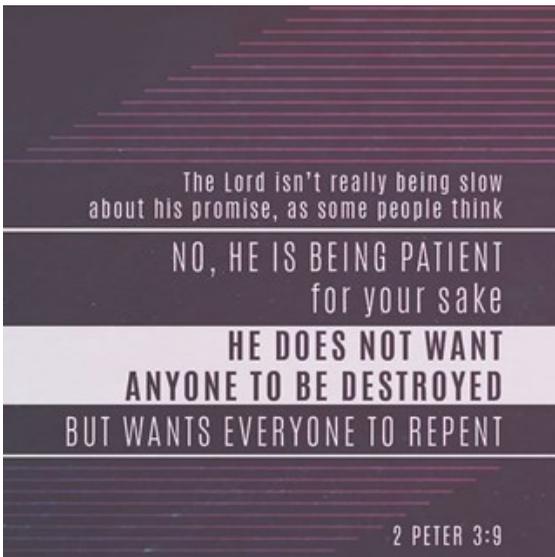


God promised to make me a mother. Sara is a healthy high school senior.



God promised me a more fulfilling career.
We laugh and have fun all while doing God's work.

Sometimes it's hard to believe when God asks you to wait. Hopefully these two scriptures will help bridge the gap while you are waiting for God to fulfill his promises to you. It is so worth the wait!



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.

Ko 'eni hoku ngaahi tapuaki: (vakai ki he 'eku vahe vahe 'i mu'a pe 'i 'olunga heni)

Na'e palomesi 'ae 'Otua ke 'omi ha taha ke hoko ko hoku leuleumafana. Na'ane palomesi teu hoko koe fa'e. Na'ane palomesi ha mala'e fe'unga teu ngaue ai.

Faka-fiefia'I 'ae hoko sia 'ae ta'u 'e 21 'e ma nofo mali. Mo'ui lelei 'a Sara pea 'oku kalasi taha-ua 'ihe high school. 'Oku mau fiefia ma'u pe 'i hono faka-hoko 'ae ngaue 'ae 'Otua.

'Oku tau nofo 'ihe taimi 'e ni'ihī 'o faka-kaukau ki he taimi 'oku folofola mai ai 'ae 'Otua ke tau ki'i tātāli. 'Oku ou fakatauange 'e hoko 'ae ongo veesi folofola ko eni koe faka-lotolahi kia koe 'i ho'o tātāli ki he 'Otua pea mo 'ene palomesi.

Sandi Brekke

December 17—Twentieth 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.

One of my favorite songs for Advent is “Breath of Heaven (Mary’s Song)” by Amy Grant. Listen to the song and imagine yourself in Mary’s place.. Ask God to be with you as he was with Mary. <https://youtu.be/FWo3qlqyW1c>

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.



Koe taha 'ae fo'i hiva 'oku ou manako ma'u pe keu fanongo ki ai 'ihe faha'i ta'u 'oe 'Etiveni, koe fo'i 'oku ne hanga 'o faka-manatu mai kia au 'ae kole 'a Mele ki he 'Otua ke 'iate au ma'u pe 'o hange ko 'ene ia Mele. Teke lava 'o fanongo ki he fo'i hiva 'ihe youtube, 'ihe link ko eni: <https://youtu.be/FWo3qlqyW1c>

Pastor Kim Houff

December 18—Twenty-first 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.*

This passage comes right after there was a debate among those who were at the temple when Jesus's cousin John was to be named. John's father, Zechariah was rendered speechless for a time and Elizabeth, John's mother, said that his name was to be John, which means "Graced of God" or "God's Graciousness." The people around them said that there was no one in their family with that name and, skeptical of Elizabeth, turned to Zechariah, who wrote out the words "His name is John" before regaining his voice and bursting forth with praises to God.

Names were extremely important and embodied the essence of that person's character. That he was named "Graced of God," and there were so many amazing events around this child led all to believe that God was with the child. Perhaps all of us should have the nickname of John or Johanna because we are all graced of God and the Lord is with us in a special way.

Prayer: Lord who comes to us in both routine and amazing ways, fill us with your grace, and that we may do special things in your name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What will this child turn out to be?

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 māfimaifi 'o e 'Eiki.*

Koe hili foki eni 'ae tipeiti 'a e famili ko ia 'o Sakalaia pea mo Ilisapeti 'ihe tempale pea ko 'e nau tipeiti'i pe ko hai nai 'ae hingoa 'e ui 'aki 'a Sione. Na'e 'ikai foki ke fa'a lea 'ae tamai 'a Sione, 'a Sakalaia 'ihe fepotalanoa'aki ko eni, kae loto 'a Ilisapeti ke ui 'ae tamasi'i ko Sione, ko hono 'uhinga koe "Kelesi 'ae 'Otua", pe koe "Kelesi'ia 'ihe 'Otua". Na'e 'ikai foki ke loto ki heni 'ae famili koe 'uhinga na'e 'ikai ke 'i ai ha taha 'ihe famili 'e faka-hingoa ko Sione. Lolotonga 'e nau talanoa, na'e vakai atu 'a Ilisapeti kia Sakalaia 'oku ne tohi'i mai 'ae ngaahi lea ko eni " Ko hono hingao ko Sione".

Na'e kau foki 'ae hingoa 'ihe me'a mahu'inga 'ihe kuonga ko eni pea 'oku hanga 'ehe hingoa 'oe toko taha ko ia 'o tala 'a hono 'ulungaanga. Na'e ui ia ko "Kelesi 'ae 'Otua", pea na'e lahi pe 'ae ngaahi 'ulungaanga 'oe tamasi'i ko eni na'e tui ai 'ae kakai na'e 'iateia 'ae 'Otua. Mahalo 'oku tonu pe ke ui ho tau ngaahi hingoa faka tene tene ko Sione pe ko Sioana koe 'uhi koe Kelesi 'ae 'Otua kuo 'omi ia ma'aki tau tolu.

Lotu: 'Eiki lelei 'oku ke ha'ele mai ki he 'e mau mo'ui 'ihe founa 'oku fakafo ma'u pe. Fakafonu mu'a 'e mau mo'ui 'aki ho'o kelesi pea ke malava ke maufai ha ngaahi ngaue lelei 'i ho huafa. 'Ihe huafa 'o Sisu Kalaisi, ko ho mau 'Eiki, Emani.

Pastor Tom Choi

December 19—Twenty-second 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.

Here Zechariah speaks to his son John, even when he was an infant and had no knowledge of what his father was saying, for the sake of those who were present. John will be called a prophet of the Most High for he will go before the Lord to prepare the way and foretold the coming of the Messiah. Amen!

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:

'Ihe he tau veesi folofola 'oe 'ahoni, 'oku tau onгона ai e lea 'a Sakalaia ki hono foha ko Sione lolotonga 'oku kei valevale pea te'eki kene 'ilo ha me'a 'e taha. Koe tamasi'i 'e lau koe Palōfita 'o e 'Eiki Taupotu he te ne hoko koe fakamelomelo kiate ia ke teuteu hono ngaahi hala ki he hoko mai 'ae Misaia. Emeni!

Marine Anien



December 20—Twenty-third 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.

Apostle John announced to us all that God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all. God is entirely goodness and truth with no evil or falsehood. He is without any darkness or shadow. He is perfect and without sin. So let us walk in the light as He is in the light and may the light of God in Christ shine in our hearts so that we may see the light as we abide in Him and He in us. Amen!

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

‘‘Oku fakaha mai ‘e Sione, koe ‘Otua ‘ae maama pea ‘oku ‘ikai ha momo‘I fakapo‘uli
‘ihe‘en ‘Afio. Koe lelei ‘ae ‘Otua ‘oku ta‘engata pea ‘oku ‘ikai koha loi. ‘Oku ‘ikai ha
momo‘I fakapo‘uli ‘e taha. Koe ‘Otua ‘oku haohaoa ‘ikai hano mele. ‘Oku mahu‘inga
leva ke tau lue ‘ihe maama. ‘Oku tau fakatauange ke ulo atu ‘a ‘ene maama ‘i ho mou
ngaahi loto takitaha.

Marine Anien

December 21—Day Twenty-fourth 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.

Reading this passage helped me to understand how obedient Joseph’s spirit must have been to be given such a dream with instructions. Oh what would I have done, if I had such a dream?! To be really honest, I probably would not have paid much attention to it, because my dreams are hard to remember and some are just night mares. But Joseph knew that this was the message God had given him to fulfill. And he did just that. Today we are saved only through that name. And that’s the name of Jesus. All Glory to God for he is Great.

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 uaiifi; 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.

‘The ‘eku lau ‘ae veese folofola ko eni, ‘oku malava keu mahino‘i ‘ae talangofua kakato ‘a Siosifa ki he misi na’e hoko koe fakahinohino. Oi..koe ha nai ha me‘a na’aku mei fai ‘oka pau nā ko au na’e hoko mai ki ai ‘ae misi ko eni? Ko hono mo’oni, kapau na’e hoko mai eni ki au, mahalo pe he‘i kai keu fu’u tokanga au ia ki ai he ko ‘eku ngaahi misi ‘oku ‘ikai teu manatu‘i ia ‘e au ‘ihe taimi ‘oku ou ake ai pea ‘ihe taimi lahi ko eku ngaahi misi koe ngaahi misi fakailifia pe ia. Ka na’e ‘osi ‘ilo‘i pe ‘e Siosifa koe popoaki eni me’ihe ‘Otua pea kuo pau ke faka-kakato. Pea ko ia pe na’ane fai. ‘The ‘ahoni, ‘oku tau hao ‘ihe huafa ko ia ‘o Sisu. Koe Kololia ki he ‘Otua he ‘oku Lelei ia.

Sita Vaivao

December 22—Twenty-fifth 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.”*

Music plays an important part in my worship and daily devotions. Songs such as "Mary, Did You Know", "What Child is This?", "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" "For Unto Us A Child Is Born" from Handel's Messiah, "Emmanuel", "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" have many memories for me. When I was much younger, we presented a Christmas play at church. My cousin Eleanore sang a solo, "Infant Holy. Infant Lowly." I still remember how proud I was of her. The last time we were together (2016), I asked her to sing it. I've sung Handel's Messiah for many years. The last time was a virtual performance last year. I also remember going Christmas caroling and singing "What Child is This?" outside the maternity wing at Kapiolani Hospital. I say all this because without the Virgin birth and bearing a son whose name shall be called Emmanuel, we wouldn't be here nor would God Be With Us! It is comforting especially since I am a widow to know that God is with me.

Prayer: God, you are so kind, loving, and always present. May I remember this always and act accordingly so that You get the glory! In Jesus's name I pray. Amen.

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.’*

‘Oku kau foki ‘ae hiva pe koe musika ‘ihe ouau mahu’inga ‘ihe ‘e tau fai ‘ae lotu pea tau tefito ki he lotu ‘oe ‘aho Sapate pea mo ‘e tau fe’inasi’aki ‘ihe folofola. Koe ngaahi hiva ‘iloa ko ia koe "Mary, Did You Know", "What Child is This?", "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" "For Unto Us A Child Is Born" from Handel's Messiah, "Emmanuel", "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" ‘oku ne ‘omi ‘a e ngaahi manatu melie kia au. ‘Ihe taimi na’aku kei finemui ai, na’a mau fai ai ha lesoni faka-tātā ‘oe Kilisimasi. ‘Oku ou manatu’i lelei pe, na’e solo ai ‘a hoku toko ua ko Eleanore ‘ihe fo’i hiva koe, "Infant Holy. Infant Lowly." ‘Oku ou kei manatu’i lelei pe ‘a ‘eku fiefia lahi ia Eleanore. Na’aku ma’u foki a faingamalie ke ma fetaulaki ai pea moe Eleanore ‘ihe 2016 pea naaku kole ange kene hiva’i ‘ae ngaahi fo’i hiva me’ihe Handel’s Messiah ‘o hange koe fo’i hiva ko ia koe “What Child is This”? ‘ihe falemahaki Kapiolani. ‘Oku ‘uhinga ‘eku vahevahe atu eni, kapau na’e ‘ikai ‘ae feitama tāupo‘ou, ‘o ‘alo’i ha tama, pea fakahingoa ia ko ‘Imānuela, he’i kai ke tau ‘iheni, pea he ‘ikai ke ‘iate kitautolu ‘a e ‘Otua. ‘Oku ou ‘ongoi fiemalie mo’oni ‘ihe ‘eku hoko koe uitou peau ‘ilo’i ‘oku ‘iate au ‘ae ‘Otua.

Lotu: ‘Otua fai manava ‘Ofa, ko koe ‘ae ‘Otua ‘oku ‘ia mau tolu ‘ihe taimi kotoa pe. Tuku mu’a keu manatu’i keu fai lelei ‘ihe taimi kotoa pe koe ‘uhi ke ‘o’ou ‘ae koloia ma’u ai pe. ‘Ihe huafa ho ‘alo ko Sisu, Emeni

Beverly Aiwohi

**December 23—Twenty-sixth 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.

Going home at the holidays can be contemplative, reflective, stressful and even adversarial, depending upon each of our perspectives and family situations. Being required to return to what is called your “home” prior to festive holidays, for the purpose of registering is a secular requirement to follow the rules of the earthly governing body. Some of us are far from family and some of us have very little family. Would I be required to return to my place of birth in the middle of Kansas? Would I even know a cousin or other relative if I passed them on the street? Would I just return to register and not even try to make contact with distant relatives that may be in the area? Very difficult to contemplate how I would personally respond to a requirement to return to what someone else has determined to be my hometown to register. Where do I belong? Where do we all belong? My realm of experience is in the present. Trying to find Peace and Joy in God’s love and purpose for my life. My home is where I am standing and my purpose is to walk with Jesus until I am called to my earthly home. I belong to Jesus and the House of God. Amen.



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 hīngoa ko Pēteliheima; (he na’a ne kau ki he hako mo e fa’ahinga ‘o Tēvita)

Koe taimi pe ‘oku tau foki ai ki ‘api ‘ihe ngaahi ‘aho malolo, ‘oku fa’a faingata’a ‘ihe taimi ‘e ni’ihi. Pea tau tefito kapau koe fekau mai ke tau foki ki ‘api pea ‘e fie ma’u mai ke te le-sisita pea talangofua ki he tu’utu’uni ‘oe kau taki ‘oe fonua. ‘Oku ‘i ai ‘ae ni’ihi ‘ia ki tau tolu ‘oku ‘i ai ho tau ngaahi famili pea ‘i ai ‘ae ni’ihi ‘oku ‘ikai ke ‘i ai ha famili. ‘E fekau nai au keu foki ki hoku fonua tupu’anga ki Kansas? ‘Oku ki’i faingata’a kia au pe teu tali nai ‘ae tu’utu’uni mai ha taha keu foki ki ‘api ‘o lesisita. ‘Oku ou kau ki fe? ‘Oku tau kau ki fe nai? ‘Ihe lolotonga, ‘oku ou fekumi kihe melino pea moe ‘ofa ‘ae ‘Otua. Ko hoku ‘api ‘ae potu ko eni ‘oku ou tu’u ai he lolotonga pea ko hoku fatongia keu feohi fakataha pea moe ‘Eiki kae ‘oua leva kuo ne ui mai keu foki ange ki api. ‘Oku ‘o’oku ‘a Sisu pea moe fale ‘oe ‘Otua. Emeni.

Dawn Dobbs

December 24—Twenty-seventh 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.

The birth of your first child is the greatest miracle! I can't imagine what Mary must have felt holding baby Jesus, the Messiah, for the very first time. I know when I held Sara for the first time I felt so much joy! And like Mary, I swaddled Sara and placed her in her second-hand crib in our humble one room basement apartment. I wonder if, like me, she worried if she would be a good mother and if she would be able to provide all that her child needed to be all God created him to be.

Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, told her: ⁴⁵“Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!” *Luke 1:45 (NIV)*

Mary's response was a song. Mark also had a song in response to my OBGYN doctor telling us we were going to have a miracle baby (the invitro doctor had told us 6 months prior that we would not be able to have children). May you rejoice in the hope and be blessed by God's promises for you this Christmas Eve. Here are both Mary and Mark's songs:

Mary's Song *Luke 1:46-50 (The Passion Translation)*

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.



From now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
50 His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

Mark's Song: The Promise of a Miracle

You are the promise of a miracle
You are the answer to many prayers
All along there's been a plan for you
By the grace of God and His love you are here

I can't wait to see your precious eyes
My heart burns knowing you're alive
Safe in your mother's womb, you feel our love
We were chosen to bring you up, our special gift from above

I pray for wisdom so I raise you right
To love you like Jesus, willing to give my life
So you feel the love our Father gives
He chose you a blessed mother, an angel of faith, who shines His light

You can listen to Mark's song on YouTube at Promise of a Miracle written by Mark Peter Brekke <https://youtu.be/7D6EVc7ngUQ>

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 valevale, 'o ne fakatokoto'i he 'ai'angakai 'o e manu: koe'uhi na'e 'ikai te na hao 'i he fale talifononga.

Ko 'uluaki fua 'a hoto manava koe mana lelei taha ia kuo 'inaisi ai 'ete mo'ui. 'Oku ou fakakaukau loto atu ki he fa'ahinga ongo na'e ma'u 'e Mele 'ihe taimi na'ane 'omi ai 'a ki'i pepe ko Sisu, 'ae Misaia ki hono nima. 'Ihe fuofua taimi na'aku puke mai ai 'a Sara 'ihe 'aho na'e fa'elei ai, na'aku ongo'i ha ongo 'oku fiefia 'iloto 'ia te au. Pea hange pe ko Mele, na'aku fakakofu 'a Sara 'o tuku ia ki ki'i mohenga pēpē sekeniheni 'ihe ki'i loki taha na'a mau nofo ai. 'Oku ou fa'a fakakaukau pe na'e tokanga pe hoha'a nai 'a Mele pe 'e hoko nai ko ha fa'e lelei ki he ki'i tamasi'i ko Sisu, pe tene malava nai 'o faka-kakato 'ae fie ma'u 'ae ki'i tamasi'i ke hoko ki 'o fakatatau ki he finangalo 'ae 'Otua.

Koe lea ‘a Ilisapesi “*Pea monū‘ia ā ka ko ia na‘e tuitala!Koe‘uhi ‘e fakamo‘oni ‘a e ngaahi me‘a Na‘e fakahā mei he ‘Eiki kiate ia*” (Luke 1:45)

Na’e tali mai ‘aki ‘e Mele ‘i ha ta’anga pe koe hiva ‘o hange koe tali ‘a Ma’ake ki he toketa ‘i he ‘e ne fakahoko mai ‘oku ou feitama hili hono tala mai ‘ehe toketa ‘ihe mahina ‘e 6 ki mu’a he ‘ikai lava ke mā fanau. ‘Ofa ke mou ma’u ‘ae fiefia pea moe ‘amanaki pea ke tapuekina ki mou tolu ‘ehe ‘Otua ‘aki ‘ene palomesi ‘ihe efiafi Kili-simasi ko eni.

Ko eni ‘ae hiva ‘a Mele pea moe hiva fa’u ‘a hoku husepaniti ko Ma’ake:

Ko e Hiva Fakafeta‘i ‘a Mele

47Pea neka hoku laumālie ‘i he ‘Otua ko hoku Fakamo‘ui.

48He kuo ne āfeitaulalo mai kia kita me‘avale 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.

49He kuo fai ma‘aku ‘e he Māfimafi ha ngaahi me‘a lalahi:

Pea ‘oku mā‘oni‘oni hono huafa.

50Pea ko ‘ene meesi ‘oku laui to‘utangata

Kiate kinautolu ‘oku manavahē kiate ia.

Koe fa’u ‘a Ma’ake ki ho no ‘ofefine. The Promise of a Miracle

Ko koe ‘a mana na’ae palomesi mai

Ko koe ‘ae ‘uhinga ‘ae ngaahi lotu pea moe hufekina lahi

Kae ta ‘oku ‘i ai ‘ene palani ma’u

Koe kelesi pe ‘ae ‘Otua pea mo ‘ene ‘ofa hō ‘uhinga

‘Ikai keu fa’a tatali keu sio ki ho ki’i fofonga

‘Oku mafana ‘a hoku mafu ‘ihe ‘ilo’i ‘oku ke mo’ui

‘ihe manava ho’o fa’e, ‘oku ‘ofa’i ai koe

Na’e fili ki mā ua koho tauhi, ko ho ma tapuaki mei langi

‘Oku ou lotu ki he poto faka ‘Otua ke fai ‘aki ho tauhi

Keu ‘ofa ia koe faka Sisu Kalaisi ‘o mole ai ‘eku mo’ui.

‘O malava ke ke ongo’i ‘ae ‘ofa ‘e tau Tamai

Kuo fili koe pea ke monu’ia koe fa’e, ko angelo ‘oe ngaahi tui, ‘oku ulo ai ‘ene maama.

‘E lava pe keke fanongo ki he fo’i fa’u ko eni ‘a Ma’ake ki ho no ‘ofefine ‘ihe YouTube. Lomi ‘ihe link ko ena. Promise of a Miracle written by Mark Peter Brekke
<https://youtu.be/7D6EVc7ngUQ>

Sandi Brekke

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 phrase “do not be afraid” is one I’ve always associated with the Bible, probably because of just how often I’ve seen it in the verses I’ve studied! You may have heard that there are 365 appearances of the phrase, one for each day of the year. While this rumor has been debunked, the number of times it does show up (approximately 103 in the KJV, according to reference.com) proves that we have been and continue to be anxious people in need of regular reminders that there is no need to fear.

Fear is something I’ve always associated with uncertainty, and following this logic, you could say that the past two years have been filled with both. One of the most anxiety-inducing notions I’ve experienced often this past year is being certain that things will remain uncertain- what a nightmare! Whenever I read or watch the news, I am fully aware that I’m about to see updates surrounding the pandemic, but I’m never certain about whether the news will be good or bad. I’m very sure that I’ll be moving once I graduate, but I’m very unsure as to where I’ll be headed. And, as I write this, I’m certain that it remains uncertain if we’ll be worshipping in person or online once you read this.

There are plenty of things to be uncertain about, and it’s easy to get swept away in the anxiety that ensues as a result, but God wants so much more for us than to be fearful. In today’s verse, the angel reminds the shepherds, and by extension us, that we don’t need to be afraid. Why? Because Christ is born and will die for our sins—and what’s more certain than that?

Luke 2:10: Pea pehē ‘e he ‘āngelo kiāte 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.

Koe lea ko ia “oua ‘e manavahē” koe fo’i lea ‘oku felave’i ma’u pe ia pea moe Tohi Tapu, pea mahalo pe ko ‘uhi ko ‘eku tou tou sio’i ‘ae veesi folofola ko eni. Mahalo pe kuo mou ‘osi me’ai ka ‘oku ‘asi tu’o 365 ‘ae fo’i kupu’i lea ko eni ‘ihe Tohi Tapu pea ko hono fakamanatu mai ia kia ki tau tolu tu’o taha ‘ihe ‘aho kotoa pe ‘oe ta’u ke “oua ‘e manavahē”. ‘Oku ‘asi tuo 103 ‘ihe paaki ko ia ‘oe KJV pea ‘oku ne faka mahino mai ai koe kakai ki tau tolu ‘oku puputu’u ‘e tau mo’ui pea ‘oku fie ma’u ia ke faka-manatu ma’u pe ke ‘oua ‘e ilifia.

Koe ilifia pe koe manavahē ‘oku felave’i lelei ia pea moe ta’epau pea ‘oku pehe tofu pe ‘e tau fononga ‘ihe ta’u ko eni ‘e ua kuo tau situ’a ki ai. Kau ‘ae me’a ‘oku tau puputu’u ai ‘ihe ta’u ko eni, ko’e ‘e tau ‘ilo’i ‘oku ‘ikai ke ‘i ai ha me’a ia ‘oku fu’u fakapapau’i

‘ihe ‘e tau fononga. Koe taimi kotoa pe ‘oku ou mamata ai ‘ihe ongoong, ‘oku ou ‘osi ‘ilo’i lelei ‘e kau mai ‘ihe ongoongo ‘ae penetemika, ka ‘oku ‘ikai keu ‘ilo’i pe koe ongoongo lelei pe koe ongoongo kovi. ‘Oku ou ‘ilo’i fakapapau teu hiki mei heni hili ‘eku ako, ka ‘oku ‘ikai teu faka-papau’I pe ko ‘eku hiki ki fe. Pea ‘ihe ‘eku fai ‘ae vahe vahe ‘oe ‘aho ko eni, ‘oku ou ‘ilo’i fakapapau ‘oku ‘ikai ke pau pe te tau foki ‘a fe’ia ‘o lotu ‘i ho tau fale lotu pe ko ‘e tau hoko atu ‘ihe lotu online.

‘Oku lahi ‘aupito ‘ae ngaahi me’a ‘oku ta’e pau ‘ihe ‘e tau fononga pea faingofua ke tau puputu’u ai ho tau loto, ka ‘oku fiema’u ‘ehe ‘Otua ke ‘oua te tau manavahē. ‘Ihe ‘e tau veesi folofola ‘oe ‘aho ni, ‘oku faka-tokanga mai ai ke ‘oua te tau manavahē. Koe ha hono ‘uhinga ? Koe ‘uhi ko Kalaisi na’e ‘alo’i pea tene pekia ma’aki tau tolu koe kau angahala, koe me’a ia ‘oku ‘osi pau mo’oni.

Ashleigh Houff

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.

While many artists have created paintings titled “Adoration of the Shepherds,” I chose this one by Caravaggio because it feels like a more realistic depiction of what I think the scene looked like. (Do an online search of “Adoration of the Shepherds” and check out the many depictions!) This one does not have any angels, no grand halos. There is not a lot of light at all. You can barely see the donkey and the cow in the background behind Mary and the baby. Mary is not gazing on Jesus with a smile on her face. Rather, she looks tired and weary as she reclines on the feedbox (manger). Joseph is not a young man as he is depicted in many nativity scenes. The shepherds are dirty, rugged looking men.

This painting appeals to me because it is not all cleaned up. This is real life. This is what it means for Jesus to be born as a human in a place for the livestock since there was no room in the inn. The shepherds heard the message from the angel of the Lord and rushed to the manger. They did not stop to clean themselves up before going to see Jesus. After they saw Jesus, they spread the word that they had been told. This is the message for us. We don’t have to worry about how little we have because Jesus did not have much when he was born. We don’t have to clean ourselves up before we come to Jesus because the shepherds did not. And we should follow the shepherds’ example and tell everyone about our experience of Jesus.

Caravaggio

Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Luke 2:17-18: *Pea ‘i he‘enau mamata ki ai, na‘a nau fai ‘enau fakamatata 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.*

Neongo ‘ae lahi ‘oe ngaahi tā valivali ‘oku ui koe “Adoration of the Shepherds” pe ko ia ‘oku ‘iloa koe Lotu ‘ae Tauhisipi, na’aku fili ‘ae tā valivali ‘ae tangta ko ia ko Caravaggio koe ‘uhi ne ongo koe tā valivali ka ‘oku te ongo’i ‘ae fa’ahinga mafana ‘oku ma’u me’ihe ‘ete mamata ki he tā valivali ko eni ‘a Caravaggio (‘e lava pe keke ma’u ‘ae tā valivali ko eni “Adoration of the Shepherds” ‘ihe intaneti). Koe tā valivali ‘oku ‘ikai ke ‘asi ha ‘āngelo ai pea ‘ikai ke fu’u maama ‘ene ‘asi. ‘Oku ‘ikai ke fu’u ‘asi maama mai ‘ae ngaahi monumanu ‘ihe ‘ai ‘anga kai ‘oe manu, pea pehe foki kia Mele pea moe ki’i tamasi’i. ‘Ihe tā valivali ko eni ‘oku ‘i kai ke mali mali ‘a Mele, ka ‘oku lava pe ke tau sio ‘o ‘ilo’i ‘ae mata’i hela’ia ‘a Mele. ‘Oku ‘asi foki ‘a Siosefa ka ‘oku ‘ikai ko Siosefa ko ia ‘oku tau fa’a fanongo ai. Pea pehe foki ki he kau tauhi sipi.



Na’aku fili ‘ae tā valivali ko eni ko e ‘uhi na’e ‘ikai ke fu’u lahi ‘ae ngaue ke faka-sanisani na’e fai ki ai. Na’e ‘ikai toe fai ha tanaki atu pe toe fakalahi ke ‘ata lelei mo faka’ofa’ofa ‘ae ‘aiangakai ‘oe manu. Koe tā valivali ko eni, koe fotunga totonu pe ia ‘oe ‘aho ko ia. Na’e fanongo ‘ae kau tauhi sipi ki he fekau ‘ae ‘Otua pea na’a nau faka-vave vave ke nau a’u ki he ki’i tamasi’i ko Sisu. Hili ‘e nau a’u kia Sisu, na’a nau ‘alu ‘o talaki ki mamani ‘o hange pe ko ia na’e fakahino hino kia ki nau tolu pea koe fekau ia ma’a ki tau tolu. ‘Oku ‘ikai totonu ia ke tau ‘ilifia. Tau ‘alu ‘o kumi ki ai neeongo ‘ae tu’unga ‘oku tau ‘i ai ‘ihe mamani, he tene fai ho ta faka-ma’a. Tau muimui ‘ihe kau tauhi sipi pea tau ‘alu ‘o tala ki mamani.

Pastor Kim Houff

December 27—3rd Day of Christmas

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

It is hard to believe that my twin daughters, Marina and Sierra, are in college now. I look back and reminisce about all of the wonderful and amazing things that have happened, especially when they were infants. Like Mary, Becky and I truly treasured those days and pondered them in our hearts.

When the girls were about a year old, we went to the memorial service for one of Becky's cousins. I remember one of the people at the service coming around our double stroller marveled at the twins, and then said, "I hate to say it, but this is the best it's going to be."

I have never forgotten that and occasionally worried if that was true. But we have found that every stage in the girls' lives has had its own "best times." And we have continued to treasure and ponder these precious moments.

Mary marveled at the events around the infant Jesus. But these moments would not end at Jesus's infancy but even become more amazing when he put the weight of the world on his shoulders on the cross, died, was buried, and then was resurrected in glory and triumph. For all of us, this is a message that in Christ, the best is always yet to come!

Prayer: God of eternal and precious times, may we trust that you can bring amazing times at any point in our lives, because of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

‘Oku ofo ma’u pe ‘eku mo’ui ‘ihe ‘eku ongo mahanga ‘a Marina pea mo Sierra. ‘Oku ou fakatumutumu ‘ihe vave ‘ae ‘alu ‘ae taimi, kuo na hu ‘o kolisi pea kou nofo hifo ‘o faka kaukau ki he taimi na’a na kei vale vale ai pea ‘oku ou tuku loto’i ‘ae ngaahi me-meniti mahu’inga ko ia ‘i hoku loto pea pehe kia Becky pea mo Mary.

‘Oku ‘ou kei manatu’i pe, ‘ihe ta’u taha ‘ae ongo mahanga, na’a mau ‘alu ai ki he putu ‘ae famili pea ‘ihe fou mai ‘ae kakai ‘o sio ki he ongo mahanga ‘ihe loto saliate, ko ‘e toko lahi ia ki nau tolu na’a nau pehe mai kia au “‘Oku ou faka-me’a pango ‘ia, ka koe taimi pe ‘eni ‘oku nau faka’ofu’ofa ai”.

Na’aku fu’u tokanga ‘aupito na’a hoko eni ‘o mo’oni. Na’a hoko ‘ae lau ‘ae kakai, ko ‘e na faka’ofu’ofa ‘e ngata pe ia ‘ihe ‘e na kei vale vale. Ka na’aku faka-tokanga ‘i he ‘e mau fononga mai, ‘oku ‘i ai pe ‘ae ngaahi lelei ‘ihe ‘e na mo’ui ‘o faka-tatau ki he taimi pea mo ho na ta’u.

Na'e ofo 'a Mele 'ihe ki'i tamasi'i ko Sisu. Ka na'e 'ikai ke ngata pe 'ihe taimi na'e vale vale ai 'a Sisu, ka na'e toe faka tumu tumu 'a Mele 'i he 'ene fua 'a mamani 'i hono uma, 'ihe funga kolosi, pea telio ia pea ne ikuna 'a mate 'ihe 'ene toe tu'u.

Koe popoaki 'oe 'aho ko eni, 'oku 'i ai 'ae ngaahi lelei 'oku hanga mei mu'a.

Lotu: 'Otua 'oe ta'engata pea moe taimi, tuku mu'a ke mau falala kia te koe, 'a koe 'oku ke foaki 'ae ngaahi lelei kotoa pe 'iho 'Alo ko Sisu Kalaisi.

Pastor Tom Choi



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.

Isaiah 9:6 is a prophecy about a Future Child who would bear the responsibility of governing the people and be called by titles that could only rightfully assign to God. Christ's position is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Father forever. Jesus gives us peace that the world can never give. Thank you Jesus for a peace that passes all human understanding, Amen!

Marine Anien

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 Fakafo - 'ene-fale'i, ko e Helo-'Otua, Ko e Tamai Ta'engata, ko e 'Eiki 'o e Melino.

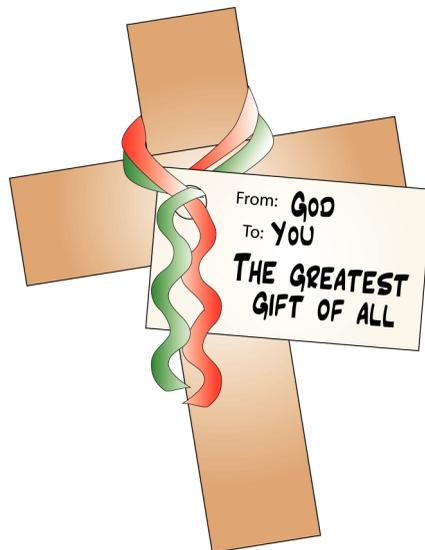
Koe tohi ko ia 'a Aisea 9:6 koe palofisai 'oha tamasi'i tene fua 'i hono uma 'ae kakai pea 'e faka huafa 'aki 'ae hingoa koe 'Otua pe 'e taha 'oku 'a'ana 'ae huafa ko ia. Koe tu'unga o Kalaisi ko ho tau Fale'i, 'Otua mafi, Tamai ta'engata. 'Oku 'omi 'e Sisu 'ae melino ki mamani. Malo mu'a Sisu 'ihe tuku mai 'ae melino ki he fa'ahinga 'oe tangata. Emeni!.

Marine Anien

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.

Without the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for us to understand how powerful this message is. My heart is filled with such a warm, yet joyful feeling when I think about the Word of God. It has so many answers and truths that has saved me from time to time again! I'm sure we all have encountered a time in our life where there was little to no hope left and we were on the verge of giving up, but then something happened that made us realize that we are not alone. That, my friends, is the Word of God that became flesh! Where God's glory and His grace is sufficient and enough to get us through our troubled and hard times and save us from all our sins.



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.

Kapau na'e 'ikai 'ae Laumalie Ma'oni'oni, he 'ikai ke fu'u mahino 'ae popoaki 'oku 'omi 'ehe veesi folofola ko eni. 'Oku mafana 'a hoku loto pea ma'u 'ae fiefia koe 'uhi koe folofola 'ae 'Otua. 'Oku ne 'omi 'ae ngaahi tali pea moe ngaahi mo'oni pea lave ai 'eku mo'ui 'ihe taimi lahi. 'Oku ou tui kuo tau 'inasi kotoa pea 'i he 'e tau fononga, hange pe na'e 'ikai ke 'iai pea hange pe 'oku 'ikai ke 'i ai ha faka-tua'melie'anga pea ngali kuo 'ikai ha 'amanaki 'anga. Koe taimi ia kainga 'oku hoko mai ai 'ene Folofola 'o kakano. 'Oku fe'unga 'anoa pe 'ene kelesi ke hoko koho tau malu 'anga 'ihe taimi 'oku tau fepaki ai pea moe fili.

Sita Vaivao

December 30—6th Day of Christmas

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

The winner of "America's Got Talent" 2020 was Brandon Leake, the first spoken word poet to appear on the show. Today, enjoy the spoken word talent of Jimmy Needham: "Who Is This King of Glory?" <https://youtu.be/daGoP-PnMII>

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

Koe toko taha na’ane ma’u ‘ae fe’ahu ‘a Amelikani ‘oku ‘iloa koe “American Got Talent” ‘ihe 2020 ko Brandon Leake. Teke lava pe ‘o mamata ki he polokalama ko eni ‘o kau ai ‘ae tangata taletini’ia ko Jimmy Needham: “Who Is this King of Glory” <https://youtu.be/daGoP-PnMII>

December 31—7th Day of Christmas

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

Meditate on what new song you will sing in the new year as you listen to this song based on Psalm 98:1. <https://youtu.be/1tfpnTqrtFk>

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

Faka-laulau loto ‘ihe fo’i hiva ko eni he ‘oku talanoa ai ki he Saame 98:1, hiva hā hiva fo’ou ‘ihe ta’u fo’ou kuo tau tu’uta mai ki ai. <https://youtu.be/1tfpnTqrtFk>



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.”

Happy New Year; Ta’u Fo’ou Fiefia, and Hau’oli makahiki hou! This is a great passage of adventure and expectation with which to start 2022! The immediate image that came to mind when I read this passage was a sign that is often posted outside of churches (on their message boards) during advent that reads “Wise Men still seek Him.” The beginning of a new year is like a blank slate on which we strive to do better and be wiser as we journey into the unknown. Certainly for 2022, we are in expectation for a much better year than 2020 or 2021. The wisdom found on the church sign as well as from this passage in Matthew are a good place to start to help us with wisdom and to guide us—much like the biblical star—on a good path for 2022. Let us pray for God’s wisdom and guidance as we strive to make 2022 the best we can.

Mark Houff

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.

Happy New Year; Ta‘u Fo‘ou Fiefia pea Hau‘oli makahiki hou! ‘Oku kau eni ‘ihe potu folofola ‘oe halanga fononga ‘oku ne ‘omi ‘ae ‘amanaki lelei ki he ta‘u 2022. Koe ‘imisi ‘oku hanga ‘ehe potu folofola ko eni ‘o ‘omi kia au ‘ihe taimi ‘oku ou lau ai ‘oku manatu ai ki he ki‘i fanongonongo ‘oku fa‘a faka-pipiki ‘iho tau ‘api siasi ‘ihe fa‘ahi ta‘u ‘oe etiveni ‘oku pehe “Oku kei fekumi pe ki ai ‘ae kau Maki”. Koe ta‘u fo‘ou foki koe taimi ‘oe kamata fo‘ou pea ‘oku fai ‘ae ‘amanaki ‘e toe lelei ange ‘ae ta‘u fo‘ou pea ‘oku fai ho tau lelei taha pea moe tukuingata ‘ihe hala fononga ta‘e ‘iloa ke toe leleiangē. Ko hono mo‘oni, ‘oku tau ‘amanaki atu ‘e toe leleiangē ‘ae 2022 pea moe me‘a hono kotoa pea ‘e toe laka hake ia ‘ihe 2020 pea moe 2021. Koe ki‘i popoaki ko ia ‘oku fa‘a ‘asi ‘iho tau fale lotu ‘ihe fa‘ahi ta‘u ko eni ‘oe etiveni na‘aku lave ki ai ‘i ‘oluhnga, fakataha ia pea moe veesi folofola ‘oe ‘aho ni, ‘oku kau ia ‘ihe fakamanatu lelei ki he ‘e tau fononga. Koe eni ‘e tau ongo fetu‘u ke kamata ai ‘e ta fononga pea ke tau lotu ki he ‘Otua kene tataki ‘e tau fononga ‘oe 2022.

Mark Houff

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.

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.

Artwork by Amalia Houff



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.”

Has your father ever told you to do something because he knew it was the right thing for you to do at that very moment? Yes! I am sure we all have experienced this in our life. What captured my heart about this verse is the truth of how loving our God is! His direct message to Joseph was as clear as the blue skies. His instruction was the greatest and his every word was truth. And Joseph knew that it was the right thing to do. After Joseph had done so, his family was safe and his son was saved from Herod, who was out to kill him. What a miracle it must have been for Joseph and his family to experience God’s very word come to life and save them. May we love and trust in God’s every word for it will one day save us.

Matiu 2:13: Pea kuo nau ‘alu, ‘iloange, na’e hā kia Siosifa ha ‘āngelo ‘a e ‘Eiki ‘i ha misī, ‘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

‘Oku ke manatu’i nai ha taimi na’e hanga ai ho’o tamai ‘o fakahinohino’i koe, koe ‘uhi pe ‘oku ne ‘ilo’i ‘ae me’a ‘e lelei ma’au? ‘Oku ou tui pe kuo tau a’u sia kotoa pe ‘ae momeniti ko ia ‘ihe ‘e tau mo’ou. ‘Oku mafana ‘a hoku loto ‘i hono lau ‘ae veesi folofola ‘oe ‘aho ko eni koe ‘uhi ‘oku ne tala faka-hangatonu mai ‘ae ‘ofa ho tau ‘Otua. Ko ‘ene folofola kia Siosifa na’e mahino ‘o ‘ikai toe ‘uli’uli latai. Ko ‘ene faka-hinohino

koe mo’oni pea moe totonu. Pea na’e mahino pe kia Siosefa ‘ae me’a totonu ke fai pea ne muimui ofi ki he ‘Otua ‘o malu ai pea mo hono famili me ia Hēlota. Koe mana ia ‘ae ‘Otua pea moe ivi faka-oto ‘ae ‘Otua na’a na’e lava ke ‘inasi ai ‘a Siosefa pea mo hono famili. Fakatauange pe ke tau tui pea mo falala ki he ngaahi fekau ‘ae ‘Otua pea tau malu mo hao ki ai.

Sita Vaivao



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.*

- Let us also have the heart of God -

King Herod's jealousy in his heart, led him to hatred, anger, and ultimately slaughtering of the innocents. That is just terrible! However, there is Hope for mankind to have the heart of God. As Christians, we can plant the Goodnews in the hearts of all that we come across. In our families, friends, communities and into the end of the earth. Only then, we will have the heart of God.

Matiu 2:16 - Ke tatau hotau lotoo mo e finangalo 'oe 'Otua:

Pea 'I he toki ha kia Helota kuo va'inga'aki ia 'e he kau Maki, na'a ne tuputamaki 'aupito; 'o ne fekau ke tamate'I 'a e tamaiki kotoa pe 'I Petelihema 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.

Na'e hoko 'a e meheka 'I he loto 'oe Tu'I ko Helota 'o fakatupu 'a e taaufehi'a, loto 'ita, 'o ne fakapoongi ai 'a e laui to'utangata, mo'ui haohaoa mo ta'ehalaia.

Ko e 'aho ni kuo tau pehee 'oku tau fononga'ia 'a e Maama, ka 'oku tau kei fekuki pe mo e kakai 'oe po'uli. Ko e pole ia ki he faha'ita'u 'oe 'Etiveni, ke tau talafi mu'a 'a e Ongoongolelei, pea to ia 'I hotau ngaahi loto, hotau kaungme'a, kaunga pilikimi, komi-uniti 'o a'u ki he ngata'anga 'oe fonua. 'I he 'ene lava iaa, 'oku tau 'amanaki lelei leva ki ha mamani 'oku tatau hono lotoo mo e finangalo 'oe 'Otua.

Paini Harris



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."

This is a context-setting passage in Jesus' life, and I wasn't sure how to approach it as a devotional...so, I thought it might be interesting to provide some background on "Nazarene(s)." Webster's dictionary defines a Nazarene as "a native or resident of Nazareth" (the sense used in this passage); or as "a member of the Christian first century sect of the same name"; or as "a member of the Church of the Nazarene, a Protestant denomination deriving from the merging of three holiness groups, stressing sanctification and following Methodist polity." (By the way, I didn't know that the Church of the Nazarene is a Wesleyan-based denomination or that it is a member of the World Methodist Council prior to this research).

The geographic area Nazareth (or Nazarene) appears about 30 times in various books of the New Testament (mostly as in "Jesus of Nazareth"), but not at all in the Old Testament according to Bible Gateway.com. Interestingly, there is a lot of stuff online about "to what prophecy is Matthew referring" since there is no Nazareth mentioned in the prophets--but that's a whole different devotional for a different time [maybe in the N.T. Wright NT study starting this month!]. Nazareth, as this passage from Matthew says, is a part of Galilee, which is in the northern part of the modern-day State of Israel.

According to the online Encyclopedia Britannica, the first century Judeo-Christian sect of Nazarenes "accepted the divinity of Christ, and his supernatural birth" while maintaining a strict observance of Jewish laws and customs as well as using a version of the Gospel in Aramaic called "The Gospel of the Nazarenes"....Today, Arabs and Jews use the term "Nazarene" as a general designation for those of the Christian faith."

Finally, according to the denominational website nazarene.org, the "Church of the Nazarene is the largest denomination in the classical Wesleyan-Holiness tradition (note: about 2.6 million members worldwide in 2020 vs. about 12.7 million UMC members worldwide) . The doctrine that distinguishes the Church of the Nazarene and other Wesleyan denominations from most other Christian denominations is that of sanctification. Nazarenes believe that God calls Christians to a life of holy living that is marked by an act of God, cleansing the heart from original sin and filling the individual with love for God and humankind." I pray you found this interesting.

Prayer: Almighty God, thank you for your word that inspires us to greater knowledge of your Son and the world around us. Thank you also for the technological tools that allow us to learn more about you in quick and thorough ways, Amen.

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.

Na’e ‘ikai ke fu’u mahino kia au pe’e founa fēfe ha’aku vahevahe ‘ae veesi folofola ‘oe ‘ahoni. Peau fakakaukau leva keu ki’i fekumi ange ki he ‘uhinga ‘oe hinoga ‘oe kolo ko ia ko “Nāsaleti”. Na’e fai ‘eku fekumi ‘o kamata me’ihee tikisinali ‘ae Webster pea ‘oku ‘asi ai ‘ae ‘uhinga ‘o “Nāsaleti” koe feitu‘u ‘oku fai ai ‘ae nofo ‘o hange pe ko ia ‘oku ‘asi ‘ihe veesi folofola. ‘Oku toe ‘asi pe, koe memipa ‘oe Kalisitiane hingoa tatau ‘o hange koe hingoa‘oe Siasi ‘o Nāsaleti, (Na’e ikai foki teu ‘ilo’i koe Siasi ‘o Nāsaleti, koe tefito’i ‘Uesiliana pea koe memipa ‘ihe Siasi Metotisi ‘o Mamani).

‘Oku ha foki ‘ae kolo ko Nāsaleti tu’o 30 ‘ihe Fuakava Fo’ou, pea koe lahi taha ‘oku ‘asi ‘o pehe “Sisu ‘o “Nāsaleti” kae ‘ikai ke ‘asi ‘a Nāsaleti ‘ihe Fuakava motu’a ‘o faka tatau ki he uepisaiti koe Bible Gateway.com. ‘Oku toe lahi pe foki pea moe ngaahi fehu’i ia ‘ihe intaneti pe koe palofinai fe ‘oku ‘uhinga ki ai ‘a Matiu kapau na’e ‘ikai ke ‘asi ‘a Nāsaleti ‘ihe palofita, ne ongo ia, koe fo’i talanoa kehe ia. Koe Nāsaleti ‘oku ha ‘ihe veesi folofola ‘o e ‘ahoni ‘o faka-tatau ki he hiki ‘a Matiu, ko Nāsaleti koe kongā ‘o Kaleli pea ‘ihe nau tu’u faka-siokalafi ‘ihe ‘ahoni, koe kongā ‘o Isileli.

‘Ihe tohi Encyclopedia Britannoica, ‘oku hä ai ‘ihe ‘uluaki senituli ‘oe lotu faka-Kalisitiane, ko Nāsaleti, na’e ‘aloi ai ‘a Kalaisi lolotonga ‘oku pule’i ‘e he lao pea moe ‘ulungaanga faka-fonua ‘ae Siu pea toe ngaue ‘aki ‘ae “Kosipeli ‘o Nāsaleti”. ‘Ihe ‘ahoni ‘oku ngaue ‘aki ‘eke Siu ‘ae Nāsaleti koe fetu’u ia ‘o nau tolu tui faka-Kalisitiane.

Ko hono faka’osi, faka-tatau ki he lau ‘ae uepisaiti koe nazarene.org, koe Siasi ko ia ‘o Nāsaleti, koe Siasi toko lahi taha ia ‘ihe ngaahi Siasi Uesiliana, ‘oku fe’unga ‘a hono toko lahi pea moe toko 2.6 miliona pea faka-tatau kihe 12.7 miliona ‘ae Siasi Metotisi ‘i mamani. Koe fai kehe kehe ko ia ‘oe Siasi ‘o Nāsaleti pea mo hono ngaahi va’a Uesiliana pea me ‘ihe ngaahi Siasi faka-Kalisitiane ko ‘e nau tui ki he mo’ui haohaoa. ‘Oku tui ‘ae Siasi ‘o Nāsaleti ‘oku ui ki tau tolu ha’a Kalisitiani ke tau mo’ui ma’a pea mo ma’oni’oni he ‘oku ne ma’oni’oni. ‘Oku ou faka-tauange pe na’e tokoni ‘ae ki’i vahe vahe ‘oe ‘ahoni.

Lotu - ‘Otua mafimafi, ‘oku mau faka-malö atu koe ‘uhi ko ho’o folofola. Kuo hoko ho’o folofola koe maama pea moe faka-loto lahi ke mau ‘ilo ai ho ‘Alo pea mo mamani foki. Faka-malo atu ki he ngaahi me’a ngaue ‘oe ngaahi ‘ahoni ‘o malava ke mau toe ‘ilo ange ai ki he ‘Afiona. Emeni.

Mark Houff

January 6—Epiphany

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

“Joy to the World/Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” by Tori Kelly is a fun mix of my 2 favorite songs of joy. Thank you Jesus for we know that joy comes from you alone! We are blessed to know you, we love you & we praise you! Amen!

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

Koe ongo fo’i hiva ko ia koe Joy to the World pea moe Joyfu, Joful We Adore Thee ‘a Tori Kelly ‘oku kau ia ‘ihe ‘eku ongo fo’i hiva ‘oku ou manako ai. Malo mu’ Sisu he ‘oku mau ‘ilo’i koe fiefia kotoa pe ‘oku fou me’ihe ‘Afiona. ‘Oku mau lau tapuaki ‘ihe ‘e mau ‘ilo’i ‘a ho’o ‘ofa. ‘Oku mau ‘ofa atu pea ‘oku mau hiva ‘aki ‘ae ngaahi hiva ke tala ‘a ho langilangi.

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