

BACK IN CHURCH ON PENTECOST SUNDAY 2020



After two months of empty, lonesome churches due to the Covid 19 epidemic, we were finally able to open up St. John's and St. Paul's. Mayor Kawakami's rule to allow church gatherings was approved by Governor Ige, so Bishop Fitzpatrick gave approval for churches to open with a list of conditions. We celebrated morning prayer on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st. Our pre-opening checklist included cleaning the carpets, wiping down all pews and furniture with disinfectant, and cleaning the restrooms. Many cheerful volunteers worked hard to complete the cleaning and disinfecting in preparation for Sunday. Professional cleaners also helped at St. John's. Pews were marked with tape to ensure proper distancing. Extra masks were available and bottles of hand sanitizer were placed throughout the church.

We had a small but joyful celebration of Pentecost. Lynn led morning prayer at St. Paul's, and Greg at St. John's. Ross provided instrumental music, since group singing was not recommended. Father Jerry Shigaki had sent us a written sermon, which was read aloud. We offered prayers for our community, the nation and the world. We will continue to offer morning prayer on Sundays in June, 8:00 at St. Paul's, Kekaha and 10:00 at St. John's. In the month of July, we hope to arrange for clergy to come from the neighbor islands, since interisland travel will be opening up.

Peace and Aloha, Lynn Barker, Bishop's Warden

Clergy Corner with Fr. Jerry Shigaki



Trinity Sunday.

The Trinity is an important doctrine of the church as it reveals the very essence of God. It is an essential expression of our faith. The Trinity shows us a God who can transform us in new and different ways of being and doing. The Trinity shows us that God is love. We are to love.

Martin Luther once said, "God is nothing but burning love and glowing oven full of love." And if God is love, then God cannot exist in isolation. Think about it. To love is to be in relationship, and to love perfectly is to be in eternal relationship. If God is perfect love, then God must be social.

God's relationship with the world is possible because: "God is loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) If we are created in the image and likeness of the Triune God then we are also created to be in loving relationships. God has provided each of us with a precious gift --- the gift of love, which is meant to be shared.

In the past few months three black lives: Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd have been snuffed out by a plague even more vicious than COVID-19.

Minneapolis police were called on George Floyd for supposedly trying to pass a counterfeit bill. They said he resisted arrest. In an excruciating bystander video, Officer Derek Chauvin is seen kneeling, his full body weight on Floyd's neck for many long minutes --- Eight minutes and forty-two seconds:

"I can't breathe," moans Floyd, who is handcuffed.

Still Chauvin kneels.

"I'm about to die," cries Floyd.

Still Chauvin kneels.

"Mama!" howls Floyd.

Still Chauvin kneels.

Floyd is unconscious. He becomes still.

Chauvin kneels, Chauvin kneels, and Chauvin kneels.

With each new incident, we become more outraged, furious, ashamed, discouraged, and depressed that this kind of injustice continues to happen to African-Americans today. It is wrong! It is shocking, appalling, outrageous, and disgraceful to witness the sin of racism running rampant in our society today. We know it makes God sad and it makes us sad too.

People have taken to the streets to protest and demand an end to this kind of inexcusable behavior in every state in America. In the past week there have been several demonstrations in Honolulu. People carrying signs and chanting the slogan: "Black Lives Matter."

If one of us is denied justice, none of us can ignore it. If one of us isn't safe, none of us is safe. And if one of us is singled out because of the color of their skin, all of us lose.

No matter how angry and upset we are about injustice and an unfair system, we can only defeat evil by doing what God tells us to do in Romans 12:21: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good!" Racism, discrimination, and bigotry are powerful forces because they are based on human fear and anxiety. But there is a stronger force --- the love of God that burns brightly inside us. The love of God that surrounds us. The love of God we share with the other.

What is our role in this evil pandemic as we confront the sin racism? How can we share the love of God with our fellow human being?

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents. We believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train: our siblings, strangers, friends, children, people who act and look different, and even the love of our life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize that they vacated their seats! This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, hardships, delights, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

Success consists of giving the best of ourselves in trying to have meaningful and loving relationships with fellow passengers. The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way --- love, forgive, listen, reach out and offer the best of who we are.

It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty --- we know in our hearts that we have left this world a better place as we sought love, justice, and peace among all people, and respected the dignity of every human being.

As we give thanks to God for the journey of life, I thank each you at St. Paul's and St. John's for being a passenger on my train!

In closing as we deal with the double pandemic of Covid-19 and the sin of racism let us pray for humankind:

God of all humanity, you call us to bring about healing and wholeness for the whole world ---

For women and men of all races and cultures and creeds.

Help us to respond to a world that is groaning under the weight of injustice and broken relationships

Remind us that differences are a gift, and interdependence a strength from the same creative God.

Strengthen us to resist the forces that encourage polarization and competition rather than understanding and cooperation.

We know that your reign is not built on injustice and oppression but on the transformation of hearts ---new life, not just reordered life.

Teach us forgiveness, O God, and bring us reconciliation.

Give us hope for the future.

We pray in Jesus' love. Amen



The Episcopal Church on West Kauai

P.O. Box 247
Ele'ele, HI 96705
808.335.5533
ecwk@hawaiiantel.net
www.episcopalkauai.org



St. John's Chapel
322 Mehana Rd., Ele'ele

St. Paul's Chapel
8640 Kiowea Rd., Kekaha

*The Episcopal Church on West Kauai
welcomes all to join us in knowing Christ
and spreading His Good News of hope
through worship, fellowship and community
outreach.*



ECWK is on **Facebook**

A good way to stay in touch is the ECWK Facebook page. It is updated daily with News from ECWK and the Diocese, messages from our resident clergy, Bishop Fitzpatrick and Presiding Bishop Curry, links to virtual worship services around the Diocese and elsewhere, Covid-19 updates, photos, music and humor. We would love for you to visit!

Important Message for ECWK Members

We currently have no 'priests-in-residence' on island due to Covid travel restrictions. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Lynn At (808) 337-9253 or the church office at 335-5533 and leave a message. We will reply asap and contact Pastor Imelda or one of the Episcopal priests on island to minister to you.

ECWK Leadership

Bishop: Robert L Fitzpatrick
Priest-in-Charge:
Ilokano Pastor: Rev. Imelda Padasdao

Priests-in-residence:
Currently on hold due to travel restrictions

2020 Bishop's Committee

Lynn Barker, Bishop's Warden
Greg Williams, Jr. Warden (St. J)
Ross Barker, Jr. Warden (St. P)
Beth Charlton, Clerk
Lincoln Wong, Treasurer
Julie Lagazo
Joyce Sato