

**Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ
187th 'Aha Pae'aina
Community Church of Honolulu
Thursday, June 11, 2009**

**OPENING WORSHIP
SERVICE OF INSTALLATION AND BLESSING**

PRELUDE

Young Pak, Organist, Community Church of Honolulu

+ CALL TO WORSHIP*

Ronald Williams, Pastor, Community Church of Honolulu

One: All who thirst, come to the water.
Come, all who are weary, all who yearn for forgiveness.

Many: **The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ has washed over us, and our gracious
and holy God beckons and blesses us.**

One: Drink deeply of these living waters.

Many: **You are the fountain of life: refresh us.
You are the cleansing spring: heal us.
You are the well from which we drink and never thirst: fill us.**

+ HYMN "Heaven and Earth, and Sea and Air"

New Century Hymnal 566

Joachim Neander, translation ©1993 Madeleine Forell Marshall; CCLI License # 1159040;

Heaven and earth, and sea and air all their Maker's praise declare.
Wake, my soul, awake and sing, with creation praises bring!

See, at dawn, the rising sun, show the wonders God has done!
Moon and stars with silvery light praise God through the silent night.

Look around this earthy ball, God has richly dressed it all,
Urban lights and canyons deep, forests, fields, with cows and sheep.

Waters surge and windstorms blow, thunder, lightning, hail, and snow;
Through their frenzy, even these, God would praise and God would please.

All these things with curious force, find them drawn to praise their source;
Wake, my soul, awake and sing, to your Maker praises bring.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

Kealahou Alikea, Tri-Isle Association President

Mauka: **Have mercy on us, God. All creation is subject to our futility and folly which
spoil, pollute, and poison. As your children, grant us that glorious liberty
which can set all creation free. Let clean water come forth from the desert and**

fresh streams in the wastelands until the trees of the fields clap their hands and the floods lift up their voices, in the praise of your name.

Water is poured from a bowl.

Makai: Have mercy on us, God. We pray for all human beings, your creatures, who thirst for life and who are often close to dying from thirst. Grant them courage and hope in you until that time when justice flows down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Water is poured from bamboo.

All: Have mercy on us, God, as we gather together as the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ. Remind us that we have passed through the waters of baptism. Drown in us all that leads to division, prejudice, and pride. Refresh us by your Holy Spirit so that we may become a sign of reconciliation and peace for the world.

Water is poured from a coconut shell.

+ BLESSING OF THE WATER*

One: Blessed is our God, now and always and to the ages of ages. Let us pray to our God:

Many: **We pray that this water may be sanctified by the power of the Holy Spirit; that this water may be a fountain, welling forth unto life eternal; that this water may be for the healing of souls and bodies of all those who, with faith, shall draw and partake of it. To you we give all glory, both now and forever.**

+ BLESSING THROUGH THE WATER*

Leaders sprinkle the altar and then move down the aisle, sprinkling the community, symbolizing the blessing of the nations and the world.

Throughout the 'Aha Pae'aina, you are invited to touch the water when you pass by the baptismal font.

COLLECT

Unison

Creator of all, flow within our midst this day, flood our souls, part our differences, gush within our creativity, satisfy the places that are parched, heal ourselves and the nations. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Mark 6: 45-52

Charles Buck, Conference Minister

SERMON "Passing By"

Charles Buck

INSTALLATION OF THE REVEREND DIANE WEIBLE AND MR. SHERMAN HEE**

Caroline Belsom: Diane Weible, seeing that you are called to ministry by the grace of God and baptism in Christ's name, and that the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ has been led to call you as Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship, are you willing to enter this covenant with the members of this Conference?

Diane Weible: I am willing, and I promise to serve this Conference faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, and fulfilling the administrative and pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

David Hirano: Sherman Hee, seeing that you are called to ministry by the grace of God and baptism in Christ's name, and that the Hawai'i Conference Foundation has been led to call you as Executive Director, are you willing to enter this covenant with the members of this Conference?

Sherman Hee: I am willing, and I promise to serve this Conference faithfully, pledging to be God's steward, heeding God's word, and fulfilling the administrative office according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Caroline Belsom: Members of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ, will those who are able please stand? Let us affirm our covenant with our sister and brother whom we are calling to ministry among us.

All: **We gather with you, Sherman and Diane, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

David Hirano: Let us pray. Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in the Hawai'i Conference and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name.

All: **Amen.**

DECLARATION

Charles Buck: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the delegates and members of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ, I declare that we have dedicated ourselves to the ministry of Jesus Christ, and have installed Diane Weible as Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship and Sherman Hee as Executive Director of the Hawai'i Conference Foundation.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

OFFERING FOR THE HENRY OPUKAHA'IA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Neal MacPherson, Director, Henry Opukaha'ia Center

OFFERTORY

Chad Williams, Community Church of Honolulu

+ DOXOLOGY

Ho'onani i ka Makua mau, Ke Keiki me ka 'Uhane no,
Ke Akua mau ho'omaika'i pu, Ko keia ao, ko kela ao. Amene.

+ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Neal MacPherson

Gracious and eternal Creator: We are aware of the blessings that we have in Hawaii. We give thanks for the multitude of climates, of plants, of cultures that reflect the beauty of creation in our islands. We are rich indeed! We pray that these gifts, which we return to you for your use, will flow into the lives of those who are touched by the Henry Opukaha'ia Scholarships. Amen.

+ **HYMN** “Like a Tree beside the Waters”

New Century Hymnal 313
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Like a tree beside the waters, nurtured by your loving care,
We, O God, your sons and daughters, your enduring witness bear.
In each passing generation may your voice of love be heard.
Bless, we pray, this congregation with your holy, living Word.

Like a tree beside the river, drawing life from holy streams,
Fill us with your love for ever, recreate our hopes and dreams.
Through the storms of life sustain us by the wisdom of your grace.
May the changing of the seasons find us in your warm embrace.

We, beside the living waters, drink from your eternal life.
Give to all, your sons and daughters, faith that rises over strife.
O Loving God, most glorious, strengthen us for life today.
By the hope of timeless promise guide your church upon the Way.

+ **BENEDICTION**

Diane Weible

+ *All may stand as they are able.*

**Adapted from Worshipping Ecumenically: Orders of Service from Global Meetings with Suggestions for Local Use, WCC Publications, Geneva, 1995). The services used during this 'Aha Pae'aina are based on services prepared by the World Council of Churches.*

*** The installation service is adapted from Book of Worship United Church of Christ, UCC Office for Church Life and Leadership, Cleveland, OH, 1986.*