

NU‘UANU CALLER

A monthly newsletter of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church
2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817



VOL. 65, NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2022



Anthems and Psalms

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

It is February, and so I know I am supposed to be writing about love. However, all I can think of to write about is something that happened about a year ago. Last year, like many others on the planet, I became aware of a young poet whose name is Amanda Gorman. I, and most of the world, saw her for the first time when she stepped up to the microphone at President Biden's inauguration and began to read her poem, *The Hill We Climb*, which she wrote specifically for the event. Like all the others that heard her that day, I was astounded by the strength and beauty of her words.

Composed to the rhythm and rhyming pattern of rap, Ms. Gorman began by speaking of struggle and shade, but quickly segued to pride and perseverance, faith and conviction. She called all listening to be *convicted*, to be committed, despite the slow, often painful upward climb - it is always an upward climb - toward righteousness and a particular quality of peace: one that only justice can deliver.

The Hill We Climb is nothing less than an invitation to faith and action. It is an anthem, a hymn of praise and gladness that we are to sing even in the face of exhaustion, weariness, and loss. We are to sing such words because, very often, speaking them is not enough.

Ms Gorman is not the only poet to bring together words that touch the heart and reveal both the beauty and the pain of human healing. The Holy Bible is filled with such poets and such words. Many of them were once songs that were sang in Temple worship. We know them as the psalms and God has given them to us so that we may turn to them in times of trial and suffering - they were written for times such as these.

When our own capacity for words fail us, we know that the psalmist can and has taken up our struggle, can and does step into our suffering, names it fully, eloquently, and offers it to God as prayer. Psalm 88 is one of those and is often referred to as "the saddest psalm in the bible." Yet, even though it speaks of deep sadness and misery, God is also known to the singer as the "God of my salvation" [v.1]. Somehow, hope is not excluded from the psalmist's heart and life even in this moment and lament.

We may also turn to the psalms when we are at a loss for words of praise and thanksgiving, when our hearts are brimming with adoration and the desire to bless as we are blessed. Or we may turn to the psalms when we can allow ourselves a moment to marvel at the world around us and our own place within it as in Psalm 8 (one of my favorites).

(cont'd on page 5 - Anthems)

Nu‘uanu Caller is a monthly publication of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church, founded in 1885 and organized in 1892 (United Church of Christ, a 1957 union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Churches). Rev. Jeannie Thompson, *Pastor*; Mairi Manley, *Administrative Coordinator*; Nelson Fujinaga, *Custodian*; Le Huynh, *Groundskeeper & Security*.

Web site: nuuanu.org • Email: nccadmin@hawaiiintel.net • Phone: (808) 595-3935



Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

1st Sunday of the month:

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Beautifying the Church

Andrew M. Nakatsuka, son of Craig H. Nakatsuka and Claire Loo Nakatsuka, spent his holidays working on the church grounds beautifying the yard. Andrew dug up flowers and replanted them in efforts to improve the landscaping around the sanctuary. He collected pink ginger and heliconia, some from his own yard, and placed them artistically. His years of lifting weights and exercise came in handy since digging into the dirt takes a lot of muscle.

Sturdy flowers are highly valued in a church setting since flower arrangements are needed weekly for the altar at the front of the church.

Andrew is thankful to Nu'uanu Congregational Church for allowing his Scout Troop 201 to use the facilities for their meetings. It was at Nu'uanu Congregational Church, during one of the Sunday services that Andrew was presented with his Eagle Scout rank. Andrew is also thankful to the Church and its people for supporting him during his college years with scholarships.



Flow

Adrian and Linda Kim donated pink ginger plants, plus an assorted collection of other plants for the beautification of the church. Adrian has been nurturing his plants for decades.

Now, his plants have been planted on the church grounds. His pink ginger and red and yellow heliconia are especially appreciated, as they can be used in making flower arrangements. Currently, his flowers are decorating the perimeter of the church. Thank you, Adrian and Linda, for your kind donation to our church!

YMCA Update

Due to the high number of COVID case counts, the YMCA and Nuuanu Congregational Church has decided to postpone the start of Kupuna Lunches and activities until March.

We will update you information as the information comes to us!

2021 Donation Statements

The 2021 Donation Statements will be mailed out on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. For those who didn't pick the statements up or have them dropped off to you, please keep an eye out in the mail for them.

If you don't receive one or need something to be fixed, please call Mairi at (808) 595-3935 or email Howard at nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

NCC's Vision Statement

Nu'uanu Congregational Church is a diverse, open congregation of faithful Christians who seek to:

- *affirm all persons as children of God;*
- *respond to the needs of the community and congregation;*
- *respect all views and ideas;*
- *make and nurture disciples; and*
- *spread God's word using our talents and resources.*

(Approved September 16, 2007 at the Special Congregational Meeting.)

Tonga Relief

January 26, 2022

Dear Partners in Ministry,

As you are aware, the Kingdom of Tonga is in the Midst of “an unprecedented disaster” due to the eruption of Hunger Tonga - Hunger Ha’apai on January 15, 2022. There is damage from the ash and tsunami waves which severed the optic cable servicing the nation. Reports indicate that the entire population of nearly 105,000 people are impacted with contaminated water as well as collapsed houses on the most devastated islands.

Danny Tengan, HCUCC Disaster Ministries Coordinator, has secured water to ship to the stricken nation. The Conference Office is partnering with Lihue Christian Church’s associate pastor Leni Namoa of the Tongan Language Ministry to collect an offering which will be directed to the hardest hit districts of Tonga and its 170 islands.

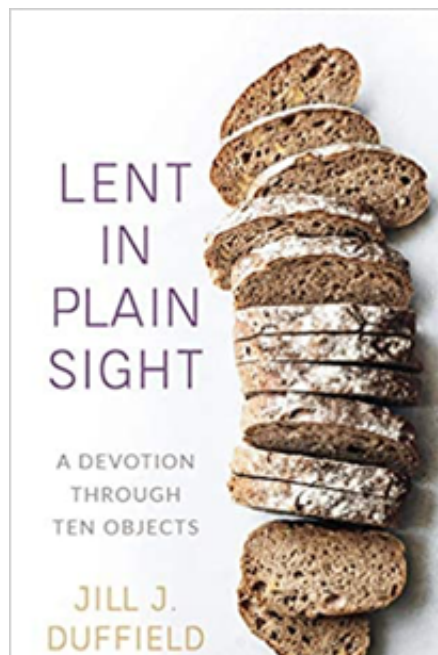
We invite the congregations of the Hawaii United Church of Christ to stand in solidarity with the Tongan people by receiving an offering for Tonga Relief on January 30, February 6, or February 13. One hundred percent of the funds collected will be channeled through the Tongan Language Ministry for direct aid and help to those lives most distressed by the disaster.

Churches may submit relief checks through the Conference Office, made payable to HCUCC with the notation “Tonga Relief.” Also, churches and individuals may make donations online through our Disaster Relief fund, by clicking the “Donate” button, then edit “Disaster Relief” to read “Tonga Relief.”

Our call, as followers of Christ, is to be the light on the hill. May our light shine bright in this time of support and love for those in Tonga.

Aloha, Rev. Dr. David K. Popham
Conference Minister

Lent 2022 Devotional



God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. Very often, it is through the mundane that we hear God’s quiet voice.

In this devotion for the season of Lent, Jill J. Duffield draws readers’ attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus’ final days. Each week, readers encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, *Lent in Plain Sight* reminds Christians to open ourselves to the kingdom of God.

Please call the church office if you would like to order a copy of the book—\$12.50. Pastor Jeannie is working on a reading/discussion schedule—it will be published by February 16.



Ohana Ministry
By Mae Au

If there are needs that Ohana Ministry can help you with, call one of the coordinators:

Ohana Ministry Coordinators

Mae Au, 988-4802
Marge Honjiyo, 550-3075
Mary Ann Saito, 839-0895
Joyce Uyehara, 523-3483
Sybil Seto, 550-3068
Lori Yamashiro, 292-5249

When you pray, remember the following and their caregivers: Kimiko Bristow-Canfield, Marcia Grimsley, Carol Hamada, Preston Iha, Howard Ishihara, Leslie Lum, Craig Oshiro, Matthew Stucke, Lurline Matsumoto (sister of Masa Tabe), Rick Au, Stephen Crosier, Fay Matsuura (Friend of Clifford Lum), Barbara Pierce, Nelson Fujinaga, Ethel Yamaguchi.

Reminder: Names are added or deleted in the Prayer Corner by individuals, family members or friend. Please inform the Ohana Ministry coordinators if you want your name included or deleted in the Prayer Corner.

Prayer Corner

By Mary Ann Saito

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Dear God of hope, you are the source of all our blessings and we thank you for the assurance that joy, peace and hope are ours when we trust in you. Help us to grow in faith and in trusting you. As we begin a new year of governance at NCC we give thanks for our members who are able and willing to serve. Be with them and guide them as they carry out their responsibilities. The YMCA/NCC senior program begins this month and we pray for your blessings. Inspire and guide the workers and volunteers as they start a new program. May the seniors who attend find a welcoming home for fellowship with new friends and enjoyable activities. Amen



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Memorial Offering

Ann Ito IMO Dean Buell Junasa, Mary & Thomas Oshiro, May Yap
Anonymous IMO May Yap, Alice Ishihara
Christina Toy-Wilson IMO Robin Lee

Thanks Offering

Charlotte Nakamura, Thanks to Stanley Chong
Doreen Takaki
Muneo Hamada

Birthday Offering

Gloria Gainsley

Deadline for Articles

Nu‘uanu Caller (monthly)
20th of each month.

NCC News (weekly)
Wednesday noon.

Articles will be edited on a space
available basis.



Hawaii Foodbank

The collection date is the first
Sunday every month!

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on
Sunday, Feb. 27

Please help our
volunteers by removing
caps from bottles, rinsing
and separating all
containers. Keep labels
on. Only HI-5¢ items are
accepted. Proceeds go
toward Hui Malama.



Anthems

cont'd from page 1

Most of us remember at least a few words from one or another
of the psalms - perhaps from the most famous of them: the 23rd
Psalm...*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want*... When all other
words are useless these are the words that bring comfort and healing.

This is the role of poet and their poetry. They bring us words
of praise that uplift us, and that can speak for us. When we're weary,
when our own tongues are tied and our throats are dry and unable to
produce an intelligible sound, God has given us poets and their poems
to lead their words to hear, to meditate on, to recite, to pray, and to
proclaim as entreaty or demand, to whisper, to shout, and finally: to
sing.

And God continues to give us poets, like Amanda Gorman. In
the language and measure and cadence a young person, she will bring
us new words to express hope and love, justice and peace. She, and
others like her will give us new words of hope and love.

Hmmmm....It seems I have written about love after all - God's
love expressed through the ages, and still speaking to us through new
psalmists and their new songs of hope, dignity, justice and love.

My hope and prayer for us is that we will listen and learn, that
we will bring the ancient psalms of the Bible along and mingle them
with newer rhythms and rhymes so that we may sing to God a new
song of praise and trust and faith even as we make known God's
timeless faithfulness and goodness to all who will listen and sing
along with us.

Grace and Peace, Jeannie

Happy Valentine's Day

Wear a mask!
Cover your nose and mouth



Wait 6 feet apart!
Avoid close contact



Wash your hands!
Or use hand sanitizer





Nu‘uanu Congregational Church
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February 2022

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Lectionary Readings for February

February 6 (A Surprising Catch): Isa 6:1-8, (9-13) • Ps 138 • 1 Cor 15:1-11 • **Luke 5:1-11**

February 13 (Surprising Teaching): Jer 17:5-10 • Ps 1 • 1 Cor 15:12-20 • **Luke 6:17-26**

February 20 (Love Your Enemies): Get 45:3-11, 15 • Ps 37:1-11, 39-40 • 1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50
• **Luke 6:27-38**

February 27 (Astounding Glory): Ex 34:29-35 • Ps 99 • 2 Cor 3:12-4:2 •
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)