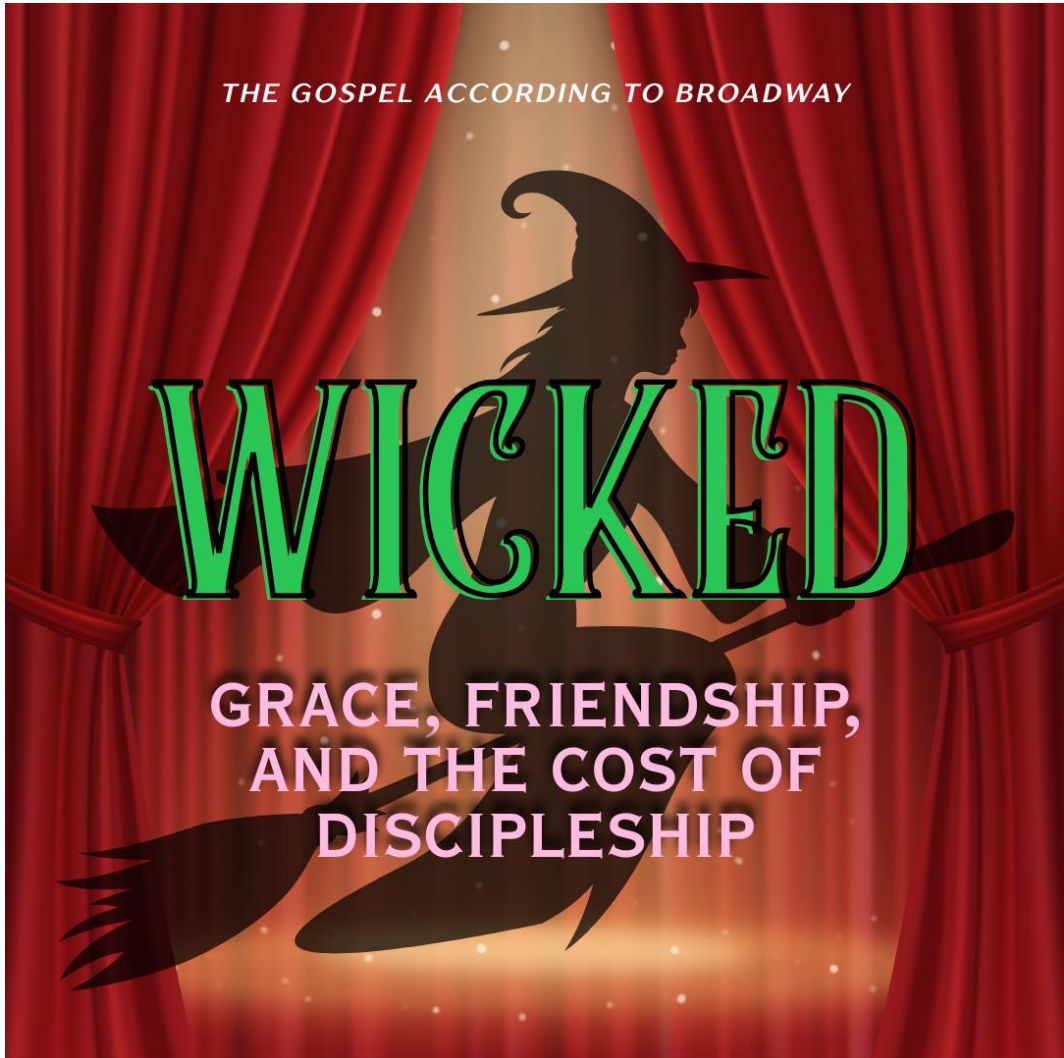


CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 'OHANA

"We Engage and Embrace ALL as we seek to Embody Christ!"



MAY 3, 2026

7 AM SERVICE

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER • COMMUNION SUNDAY

ATHERTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Prelude

Take My Life and Let it Be

Henry A. César Malan

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS...

From many places we gather here. This is a high point of our week. We see our friends. We make new friends. And we spend time with the loving Christ who meets us where we are, as we are. In this Sanctuary we worship, and through worship the courage within us is kindled to inspire courageous living beyond this place.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray

* Sharing Aloha

Call to Worship *(responsively)*

Jodee Farm

One: God does not see as the world sees.

Many: The world looks at appearances, but God looks at the heart.

One: God calls us beyond easy labels of good and wicked, friend and foe.

Many: God calls us to see one another with mercy.

One: Jesus invites us to love without limits.

Many: To love even when it is hard. To stand for what is right. To choose grace over fear.

One: Come, people of God who are seen, known, and loved by God.

Many: Let us worship the One who looks at the heart and teaches us how to love.

* Opening Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;

teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.

Be present, Lord, among us and Bring us to believe:

we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life

we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.

Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some,

to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us so that we may be moved

in living situations to do the truth in love;

to practice your acceptance until we know by heart

the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

**Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!**

Words: Fred Kaan. Copyright © 1975. Hope Publishing Company. Permission to reprint obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-728809. All rights reserved. Tune: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley. Public Domain.

*** Prayer of Invocation** (*in unison*)

Jodee Farm

**Loving God, you see us as we truly are. Open our hearts to your truth,
our eyes to your grace, and our lives to your love. Teach us to see one
another as you see, and to love as Jesus loves - with courage, compassion,
and mercy. Be present with us now. Amen.**

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

Scripture

1 Samuel 16:7
Luke 6:27-36

Jodee Farm

Music for the Day

For Good from *WICKED*

Stephen Schwartz

Sermon

WICKED: GRACE,
FRIENDSHIP, AND THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Sinnaduray

TO RESPOND IN FAITH...

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Rev. Sinnaduray

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Holy Communion

*We practice open communion here at Central Union Church, which means that **all**
are welcome to gather at Christ's table and to share in this meal – a symbol of our
connectedness to each other, to all of creation and to God. If you have questions
about the ingredients of our gluten-free bread, please ask us!*

Communion

Music Arioso (Largo from Clavier Concerto in F minor)

J.S. Bach

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(in unison)*

We give thanks that we have gathered together in this sacred place, and been refreshed at this table. We rejoice in the giftedness of each person here. We are grateful for who we are for each other. May we go forth into the world in courage and peace to share the unfailing love that we have experienced in this meal. Amen.

AND GO FORTH IN LOVE.

God's love cannot be contained within the walls of this Sanctuary.

Take the love of Christ from this place into your homes, neighborhoods, and communities.

*** Hymn**

How Great Thou Art

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!**

**E ke Akua nani kamaha‘o,
Nau no i hana ka honua nei,
Me na hoku, ka uila ka hekili
Ho‘ike ana i Kou mana e.**

Hui:

**E mele au I ka Ho‘ola e,
He nani no, He nani no.
E mele au I ka Ho‘ola e,
He nani no, He nani no.**

Words by Stuart K. Hine. Copyright ©1953, Renewed 1981 Manna Music, Inc. CCLI License #3179231. Hawaiian translation by Albert Nahale‘a. From *Na Himeni O Ka Ekalesia*. Copyright © 1999 Hawai‘i Conference United Church of Christ. Used with permission.

*** Closing Prayer** *(in unison)*

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Adapted from Ephesians 3:20-21)

*** Benediction**

Rev. Sinnaduray

* Congregational Response

Then let us go to serve in peace, the Gospel to proclaim.

God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner. Copyright © 1993, Delores Dufner. Published by OCP. Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-728809. All rights reserved. Tune: AZMON, Carl Gläser, Public Domain.

Postlude

Amazing Grace (New Britain)

Traditional

/ arr. Brent Edstrom

Our WORSHIP is ended...our SERVICE now begins.

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Marlene Patton, piano

*Today's flowers have been lovingly arranged by **Dona Hanaike**, with assistance from **Gabi Bedlion**, and have been provided by **Joe & Barb Elm** and **'Ohana**, in loving memory of Joe's mother, **Willida Elm**, who was a Sokakyo-level ikebana master. Willida, who would have been 102 today, May 3rd, passed away at 98 in 2022.*

TODAY IS PACIFIC ISLANDER AND ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY



PAAM (Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries)

Sunday is observed in the United Church of Christ (UCC) on the **first Sunday in May** to recognize and celebrate the gifts and contributions of Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans in the life of the UCC. PAAM is part of the UCC's Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM) which advocates for the racial and ethnic concerns within the United Church of Christ.



TODAY WE ALSO CELEBRATE LEI DAY

Hawaiian lei are known as symbols of aloha. The first lei contest, referred to as Lei Day, was held on May 1, 1928. Poet laureate, Don Blanding, originally from Oklahoma, came to Hawai'i in 1915 after seeing a play in Kansas City called "The Bird of Paradise" that depicted a romantic (and completely fictional) Hawai'i. In 1927, Blanding and a fellow "Honolulu Star-Bulletin" newspaper writer named Grace Tower Warren came up with the idea of honoring the tradition of the lei, which they thought to be in decline. The first Lei Day was held on May 1, 1928, and was a resounding success. It took place in the lobby of Bank of Hawai'i and the official judges that day were: Princess Abigail Wahiikaahuula Campbell, Elizabeth Lahilahi Webb (lady-in-waiting for Queen Lili'uokalani) and Ali'i Lucy Kalaniki'eki'e Davis. The festival included a lei competition in which lei were judged based on the appropriate



use of flowers and colors of islands as designated in 1923 by Hawai‘i’s Territorial Legislature’s Joint Resolution #1. Ever since this inaugural lei competition in 1928, we continue to celebrate May Day in Hawai‘i as being synonymous with Lei Day. It is our unique and special way to celebrate our shared traditions. (source: Kamehameha Schools website - ksbe.edu)

NEW MEMBER MEETING – TODAY AT 10 AM

Interested in becoming a member of CUC?! Join Pastor Rushan, TODAY, at 10 AM, in the Rewick Board Room (in the Admin Building) to learn more about church membership!



JAZZ VESPERS: TONIGHT!

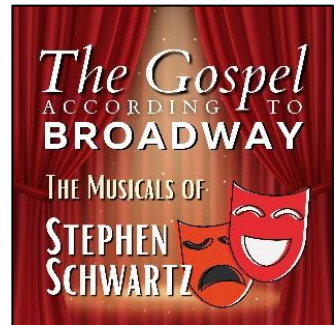


Join us in the Atherton Courtyard from 5:30 to 6:30 PM, tonight, May 3, 2026, as we bring together amazing musicianship and holy inspiration for a service of prayer, meditation, silence and music.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO BROADWAY

A Sermon Series • April 19 – May 17, 2026

In the next few weeks, we invite you to experience the good news in a fresh way through *The Gospel According to Broadway: The Musicals of Stephen Schwartz*. Drawing on beloved Broadway shows, this series explores how faith, grace, justice, and purpose are revealed through modern storytelling and song. Rooted in the United Church of Christ’s belief that **God is Still Speaking**, this series echoes Pastor John Robinson’s reminder to the Pilgrims that “the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth from his holy Word.” We listen for God’s voice not only in Scripture, but also in the culture and stories that surround us today. Join us as we discover how God continues to speak—on the stage, in community, and in our lives.



Sermon Schedule:

- **Today** – *Wicked: Grace, Friendship, and the Cost of Discipleship*
- **May 10** – *The Prince of Egypt: Deliverance and Divine Calling*
- **May 17** – *Pippin: The Search for Meaning*

REGISTER FOR COMPASSION CAMP 2026

Kids ages 3-11 are invited to **Compassion Camp** hosted by our Children's Ministry from **July 20-24**. Suggested donation is \$65. Space is limited. Learn more and register online: bit.ly/cuc2026compassion.



HELP US BRING SCRIPTURE TO LIFE—JOIN OUR TEAM OF READERS!

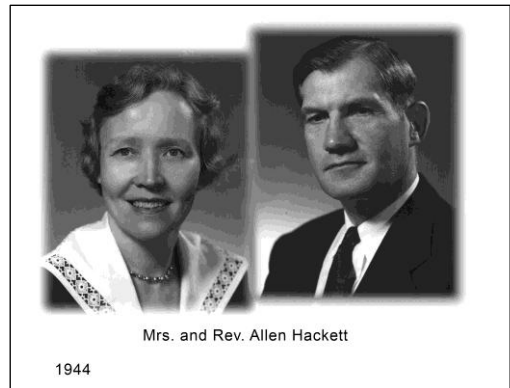


If you are interested in reading in a worship service, please join our pool of readers! We are always in need. To learn more and/or to sign up, use this QR code or type this link into your browser: bit.ly/readcuc.

CUC HISTORY WEBSITE

Visit the CUC History Website... cuchistory.org.

Under Sermons... [Reverend Allen Hackett stepped up to our pulpit in 1944](#). You will enjoy learning about our 18th Senior minister and how, from the beginning, he infused new vitality into the life of Central Union Church...



HELP WITH SERVING ALOHA FOOD DISTRIBUTION



The **Serving Aloha** weekly food distribution can always use volunteers! There is a wide range of tasks that cover a range of physical abilities (bagging food, distributing to guests, registering guests for walk-in and drive-through distribution, and clean-up).

Volunteers should **check in between 9-10 AM** at the registration desk in the Women's Building. Wear close-toed shoes. Sunscreen and bottled water are also recommended. The distribution finishes at 1 PM, although "work shift" times are flexible. Questions? Contact Martha Balkin at mecbalkin@gmail.com. Groups are encouraged to schedule their visit.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTRAL UNION CHURCH



Thank you for joining us in worship today. Your presence and participation are an important part of shaping this experience of worship for all of us. **Know that whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey of life and of faith, you are welcome here!**

If you are a guest here today, we would love for you to become a regular part of what God is doing in and through this church community. Let us know you visited today by completing this brief form here: bit.ly/cucguest, or by using this QR code,



so that we can reach out to you and welcome you to our community.

Large Print Bulletins: Large print editions of the worship bulletin are available; please let an usher know if you need one.

Nursery: A staffed Nursery is available during the **9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services**. Children, ages birth through three years, may be left in the Nursery where they will be cared for during the service.

Sunday School: We offer a Sunday School program for children, age 3 through 5th Grade, during the **9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services**. Children participate in the first part of the service and will leave for Sunday School following the Time for Keiki.

Youth Group: We offer a Youth Group for young people in grades 6 through 12. This week, the Youth will meet **between Noon and 1:30 PM** in the Youth Room.

Young(ish) Adults: We have a Young(ish) Adult ministry here at CUC for Generations X, Y, Z. We gather monthly and would love to connect with you! For more information, please email youngish@centralunionchurch.org.

Our Ministers are Every One of Our Members!
Senior Minister, The Rev. A. Rushan Sinnaduray

Please note: By attending events on campus, you may be included in photos and videos recorded by church representatives. Your presence grants your permission to be in these photos or videos, which may be used for communications or archival purposes. If you do not wish to be photographed or included in communications, you may let a church representative know. Mahalo!

Central Union Church — A United Church of Christ 'Ohana
Celebrating transforming lives since 1887!
“We Engage and Embrace ALL as we seek to Embody Christ!”
1660 South Beretania Street – Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826 • 808-941-0957
38 Kāne'ohe Bay Drive – Kailua, Hawai'i 96734 • 808-254-3802
cuc@centralunionchurch.org • centralunionchurch.org

Sign up to receive the
CU Weekly by email:
E-blast of news &
announcements sent
each Thursday
bit.ly/getcuweekly

