

CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 'OHANA

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



Artwork: Mark Norseth

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

9 AM SERVICE

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SANCTUARY

Gift of Music (8:45 AM)

What a Wonderful World

Thiele/Weiss

Try to Remember (the kind of September)

Jones/Schmidt

In My Life

Lennon/McCartney

Rachel Gonzales, vocals/guitar

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

Rev. Sinnaduray

Call to Worship *(responsively)*

Nathan Wong

One: We gather today, bringing our good intentions and our well-rehearsed words.

Many: **But the Divine calls us beyond the safety of our speech, urging us into active service.**

One: We are invited to the fields, not merely to admire the harvest, but to turn the soil.

Many: **It is simple to pledge our devotion with our lips, yet difficult to do the grueling labor of liberation.**

One: Let us lay down our polished appearances and our empty agreements.

Many: **We come to worship the God of genuine power, asking for the grace to let love move our hands and feet.**

* Opening Hymn

Bring Many Names

**Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!**

**Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!**

**Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!**

**Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!**

**Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!**

**Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!**

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

Nathan Wong

God of the harvest, you call us into the active labor of your creation. We confess that we often possess the proper language of faith while avoiding the actual work of justice. We make polite promises but hesitate to risk our comfort for the vulnerable. Move among us today. Break our desire to merely appear righteous. Grant us the fierce courage of the outcast. Teach us to be like those who stumble at first but ultimately step into the vineyard to do your will. Guide our hands into the soil of genuine commitment. Transform our empty words into tangible mercy. In the name of the One who challenges us, we pray. Amen.

Time for Keiki

Cayanna Herrera

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

Scripture

Matthew 21:23-32

Susie Field

Music for the Day

God Be In My Head

Andrew Carter

Ke Aloha Pau 'Ole ~ Sarah Young, director

Sermon

HOLY HUSTLE AND PIOUS PRETENDERS: Rev. Sinnaduray

FINDING REAL AUTHORITY IN A FAKE-IT-TILL-YOU-MAKE-IT WORLD

Hymn for Reflection

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so!

Little ones to Him belong: they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, he who died, heaven's gate to open wide;

he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me all the way;

he's prepared a home for me, and some day his face I'll see.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Words: Anna B. Warner. Music: William B. Bradbury. Public Domain.

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Alleluia

Randall Thompson

Ke Aloha Pau 'Ole ~ Sarah Young, director

To give online to support our mission and ministry, scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera OR type bit.ly/give2cuc into your web browser and select "General Fund" from the drop-down menu.



*** Doxology** (*sung in Hawaiian*)

Ho‘onani i ka Makua mau,	Praise God,
Ke Keiki me ka ‘Uhane nō,	From Whom all blessings flow;
Ke Akua mau, ho‘omaika‘i pū,	Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Ko kēia ao, ko kēlā ao.	Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
‘Āmene.	Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
	Amen.

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Sinnaduray

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.*

*** Closing Hymn**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

No. 353

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

Rev. Sinnaduray

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**

**Christ beside us, Christ before us, Christ behind us—king of our hearts;
Christ within us, Christ below us, Christ above us—never to part.**

Postlude

Jesus, Lead Thou On

arr. Paul Manz

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

***Please rise in body and/or spirit.**

Margaret Lloyd, organ

*Today’s flowers have been lovingly arranged by **Dona Hanaike**, with assistance from **Marty Lum** and **Clyde Whitworth**, and have been provided by the **Frances Kay Brossy Memorial Flower Fund** in memory of **Frances Kay Brossy**, a faithful and active member of Central Union Church who loved life and loved flowers.*

LEARNING TREE: TODAY!

GET TO KNOW THE WELCOME & ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY



You're invited to a Learning Tree gathering **Today, starting at 10 AM**, in the **Women's Building!** Join us as Tom Kiyabu speaks on 'The Vital Role of our new Welcome & Engagement Ministry at CUC'. Tom has had a long career as a business leader in Honolulu, as statewide head of UPS, and is also a well-known Realtor. Since joining CUC in 2016, he has assumed key lay-leadership roles in our Church, and currently co-chairs our Welcome & Engagement group. Learning Tree is open to all.

PETS, PAINTINGS, & POTLUCK PARTY!



OCTOBER 4TH is World Communion Sunday and the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. We will be celebrating with a **blessing of pets after each worship service** and a **pupu potluck from 10 to 11 AM in the Women's Building**. There will also be an art show in the Women's Building – featuring work by CUC artists – to feast your eyes on! Come for the Pets, Paintings, Potluck... and people of course. Bless your pet, check out our talented CUC artists, and make a plate!

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER IS WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

World Communion Sunday is a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. This year, on October 4th, we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. At CUC we practice open communion, which means that all are welcome to share in this meal, a symbol of our connectedness to each other, to all of creation and to God. **All are invited to partake.**



OCTOBER 4TH IS ALSO THE NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING



NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

Consider giving to the NIN fund! Checks can be made payable to Central Union Church with "NIN" in the memo line.



JAZZ VESPERS - OCTOBER 4!

Join us in the Atherton Memorial Chapel from 5:30 to 6:30 PM on **October 4, 2026**, as we bring together amazing musicianship and holy inspiration for a service of prayer, meditation, silence and music. **(Coming up: October 4, November 1, December 6).**

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

If you would like to commemorate a birthday, anniversary or other occasion with flowers at a Sunday worship service, please contact Dona Hanaïke, through Natasha at (808) 440-3004, or flowers@centralunionchurch.org.



GIVE ALOHA DURING SEPTEMBER AT FOODLAND!



Go to any Foodland cash register with your Maika'i card (free at any Foodland service counter) during the month of September to make a donation with cash, check, or credit card, naming **Central Union Church #78511** or **Central Union Preschool #78270** as a recipient. You can donate any amount, up to a total of \$249 (per person, per organization). You can submit your receipt (which will list your Maika'i number, our organization's name, and the donation amount) to the church office by mail, or in the collection plate, to get credit on your giving statement. PLEASE consider paying your September pledge, or give an extra donation, through *Give Aloha* this month!

A GATHERING FOR BOOMERS & BEYOND



If you're a senior interested in connecting with others over activities, attend the gathering of ***Boomers & Beyond*** every Tuesday, from 11:30 AM to 1 PM in the Women's Building. Bring a sack lunch for yourself and a board game if you like. Beverages will be provided. Please RSVP by calling/texting Ronny Lynn at (808) 391-2733.

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 be going to Dave & Busters for lunch and arcade fun.

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 'Ōhana
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

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