

December 7, 2025 – Communion Sunday – Date – 10:30A
Bishop's Award – Chrismons

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Prelude – Instrumental

A Word of Greeting and Welcome/Centering Words –

Minister 'Ainise Isama'u

I called home my first semester of college. I told my mom I was fine,
but I was homesick. She must have heard the truth in my voice.
The ache ate at me. It was a long, slow song, a million tiny ants
slurping the juice from a peach. I was tender and bruised,
in the doldrums of it all. But she could hear all of that. So three states away,
she preheated the oven. Three states away,
she tossed blueberries in a thin layer of flour. Three states away,
she dusted a layer of streusel over the soft peaks
of a dozen warm muffins. And three days later,
I unboxed a package from home—
a dozen blueberry muffins, a love letter with my name on it,
a reminder that I was not alone.
If you're running out of hope, count to three.
God is in the kitchen. She's just waiting for yeast to rise.

Opening Hymn – What Child is This UMH#219, v. 1,3

Giving God Glory As We Come to Worship

Call to Worship (L: Leader, **P: People**)

Alan Bone

L: Family of Faith

P: God is healing and creating

L: redeeming and dreaming,

P: calling and sending

L: listening and loving

P: Yes, indeed, God is at work!

L: So we may worship our God who never gives up.

P: May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Alan Bone

God of every new beginning, You meet us in our questions and in our hope. You make a way in
the wilderness and bring life where we least expect it. As we worship today, open our eyes to
Your work, open our hearts to Your truth, and open our lives to Your renewing Spirit. Strengthen
us when we are uncertain, guide us when we are lost, and hold us in Your faithful love. Amen.

Message for the Children (In Us All)

Minister 'Ainise Isama'u

The Word of God for the People of God

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 11:1-11, Isaiah 43:19-21

Alan Bone

Matthew 11:1-11

When Jesus finished teaching his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. **2** Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, **3** "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" **4** Jesus responded, "Go, report to John what you hear and see. **5** *Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them.*^[a] **6** Happy are those who don't stumble and fall because of me." **7** When John's disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: "What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? **8** What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. **9** What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. **10** He is the one of whom it is written: *Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.* **11** "I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Isaiah 43:19-21

9 Look! I'm doing a new thing;
now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?
I'm making a way in the desert,
paths^[a] in the wilderness.
20 The beasts of the field,
the jackals and ostriches, will honor me,
because I have put water in the desert
and streams in the wilderness
to give water to my people,
my chosen ones,
21 this people whom I formed for myself,
who will recount my praise.

Special Music: O Come, Emmanuel

Faith Choir

Sermon – When We're Running Out of Hope, God Is At Work

Rev. Allison Mark

Bishop's Award – Awardee, Doris Shigihara

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Rev. Allison Mark

We Respond to God's Grace

Celebration of Holy Communion

Clergy Team

Communion Hymns – Show Up (Advent Theme Song) show video, instrumental following

Offering Our Gifts and Our Lives

Minister 'Ainise Isama'u

Offertory – You're Still the Hope of Christmas (Chant)

Doxology – Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow UMH#95

Offertory – Prayer of Dedication

Alan Bone

Almighty and gracious God, You make rivers in the desert and reveal Your kingdom through acts of compassion. As we present our tithes and offerings, sanctify them for Your holy purposes. Use these gifts to proclaim good news, to lift up the brokenhearted, and to widen the path of hope for all Your people. Consecrate also our hearts, that we may faithfully serve You with steadfastness and joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Going Forth in God's Holy Name

Faith in Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC

Minister 'Ainise Isama'u

Closing Hymn – O Little Town of Bethlehem, UMH#230, v. 1,2,4

Commission and Blessings

Rev. Allison Mark

Passing of the Peace – Postlude