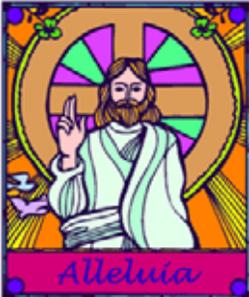


"I am the vine, you are the branches; abide in me and you will bear much fruit." John 15:5



Vine & Branches

News from St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 720 N. King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817



May
2006

The Right Reverend
Richard S. O. Chang,
Bishop

The Reverend
Jodene S. Hawkins,
Priest-in-Charge

The Reverend Dr.
Gerald G Gifford
Rector Emeritus

The Reverend
Peter S. M. Fan,
Chinese Language
Priest

Lyn Jeffers
Interim Choir Director

Marie Wang
Organist

Katherine Crosier
Parish Administrator
Graphic Design

Stuart Ching
Senior Warden

Francis Kau
Junior Warden

Caren-Jean Esaki
Secretary

Bill Eng, Treasurer

Sue Yap, Contributor

Website:
www.
stelizabeth720.org

From Mother Jodene

Aloha Beloved in Christ,

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed! On Easter morning, freshly blessed by a shower of sweet rain, our tower bells rang out at St. Elizabeth's Easter greeting to the sun bursting through the clouds. A moment later our new Easter candles were lit by one of the young people from our neighborhood who participates in our reading program at our Children's Outreach Center.

Next, from our new organ, came a carillon playing of Jesus Christ is Risen Today, followed by our 'Easter Parade' into church. Our young people took lead roles in carrying crosses, banners, the gospel book and candles to our altar. It was a joyful sight to behold. Little children peeked over the edge of pews, perhaps dreaming that one day they would carry a cross in the Easter Parade. It was fabulous to have 211 people in the church, even overflowing into the chapel.

As Jordan River water was poured and blessed at our baptismal font the four little ones fresh were drenched in the waters of new life. Later the newly baptized children would join the second Easter Parade to the altar, clutching fresh flowers to tuck into the cross which would suddenly bloom right before their eyes. Their small hands reached out for the life giving communion of God. To see their uplifted hands, to see their eager sweet faces, to 'feed' them the bread of life is a remarkably touching experience.

Some years ago a friend gave me a poster with words boldly splashed across a picture of a beautiful sunrise declaring, "We are an Easter People, and Alleluia is our Song." *We are an Easter People.* What in heaven's name does that mean? Jesus proclaimed that he came to bring us not just life everlasting, but abundant life—here on this earth—now. Easter's message is that all of our life is framed with the good news, that though we die, yet shall we live. Alleluia! Easter's message is framed with the good news that life is not meant to be 'just one darn thing after another.' Easter's message is that God

has gifted us with life that is abundant, blessed, filled with newborn freshness, and with a peace and a joy that the world cannot give. Easter's message to each and everyone is that God has framed all of life in love, drenched all of life in hope and enlivened each and every new day with the freedom of God's forgiveness.

If we are an Easter People, perhaps we can begin to consider that each new morning is a kind of resurrection. We rise from sleep to a newborn day. By the grace of God we may begin again. Our slate is clean. As we wash ourselves, we can remember that we were washed in baptism and because of our baptism we belong not just to this world, but we eternally belong to God. Every new day awaits our hopes, our dreams, our schemes, our plans. Every new day awaits our devotion and our courage. Every new day awaits our expectation that God is up to something purposeful in our life, whether we can see that purpose this day or that purpose is yet to be revealed. It took the darkness of the cross and the tomb to bring forth the blindingly glorious light of THE new day on which Christ rose victorious for us.

Yes, life does have Good Friday's. But, whether we struggle with some dark sadness—or whether we dance with Easter delight, God's promise is that though 'weeping may tarry for the night, joy comes with the morning.' (Psalm 30 verse 5.) May God open every tomb we endure and embrace us not only with love, but with Easter joy that makes us an Easter People whose song is, or will become, Alleluia! Alleluia!

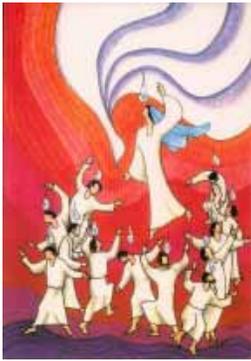
With the love of our Risen Christ,

Mother Jodene +

"In the morning let me know your love for I put my trust in you. Make me know the way I should walk; to you I lift up my soul."

Psalm 143 verse 8





**St. Elizabeth's and St. Luke's
join together for
Pentecost International
Festival Day**

Sunday, June 4th
Worship Service 9:00-10:00 am
Festival International Foods Potluck,
10:15 am

Friends and family of both St. Luke's and St. Elizabeth's are invited to share a reunion of our joint history and the Birthday of the Christian Church. The Birthday of the Church is called Pentecost or Whitsunday. We will celebrate with a combined Holy Eucharist, inspiring music, the wearing of traditional red or national dress if desired, some special surprises for the children and an indoor-outdoor international potluck at St. Elizabeth's. Please sign up through the church office or after church on Sundays.

The Season of Easter

*Easter is not just a Day
but a Season
Why we do what we do
And why we don't do
what we don't do..*

Easter is not just one Sunday in spring on which we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is a whole season of the Christian year that lasts fifty days.

Easter is a fifty day season where we are invited to delight in new life and rebirth, and is marked by joy and celebration. The Christian life is a life of balance and of rhythm centered on the stories of sacred scripture. As we follow the life of Jesus and our ancestors in the Hebrew Scriptures we follow cycles of fasting and feasting, of penitence and celebration, of work and of Sabbath rest.

The Easter Season is the cycle where we feast, celebrate and enjoy Sabbath rest. We rejoice in the good news of Jesus' resurrection and celebrate Jesus gift to us of salvation and eternal life. The alleluias which disappeared in Lent reappear in our worship service. In these fifty days we set aside fasting and penitence which were the hallmarks of the Season of Lent.

In the Season of Easter worship takes on a tone of jubilation. Altars are vested in white, symbolic of purity and resurrection. Hymns with Alleluias return. The confession and absolution are omitted in the Season of Easter as the people of God rejoice that even though we continue to stray like lost sheep, Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection have bestowed upon us forgiveness and pardon for our sins. When the body and blood of Christ is broken and blessed, Alleluia's ring forth. The Queen's Prayer with its tone of sadness and forgiveness waits for the season of Pentecost to reappear in worship.



The Season of Easter concludes with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, fifty days after the Day of the Resurrection, Easter. May each of us experience the joy and wonder of our risen life in Christ our Savior in the Glorious Season of Easter.

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7 Ways to Rejoice in the Resurrection

1. Re-Joice...He is Risen...indeed!
2. Re-New... friendships and habits of health and hope.
3. Re-Deemed... know that you are loved forever by God.
4. Re-View...your past lumps and bumps...and be assured you are forgiven.
5. Re-Late...talk and listen closely to those around you!
6. Re-Focus... on all the great gifts God has given you.
7. Re-Member...those special people in your life.

*Adapted from Dr. Rich Bimler
and the Joyfulnoiseletter*

Church Attendance April 2006

Palm Sunday	116
Easter Day	211
Average April attendance	131
Chinese language service	6

Four Holy Baptisms Celebrated on Easter



Rayn Alaitamalii White
Aadriana Sky White
Shaienne Yuk Jun Sunagawa
Ethan Keolakahiaeloahilo Zhong Qin Anderson

'You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.' (Sacrament of Holy Baptismal, Book of Common Prayer) Four children ages 7 weeks to 6 years old were baptized in waters from the Jordan River in St. Elizabeth's historic baptismal font. Ethan was the youngest, a babe in the arms of his parents Caroline and Mark Anderson. Without a peep as the waters of baptism washed over his tiny forehead, he basked in the loving gaze of his grandparents Frank and Sue Yap. Frank and Sue and Caroline had all been baptized in the same baptismal font as Ethan!

Aadrianna and Rayn daughters of Janyra Tanoa and Otega White, and whose grandfather is Sau Tanoa, held each others hands as they processed to the baptismal font. They each spoke up with a delightful 'yes' to the question 'do you want to be baptized?' The Tanoa family has been a member of St. Elizabeth's for many years.

Shaienne Sunagawa, the granddaughter of Kui On Won, who was born to eternal life in March. Shaienne was baptized in the same font her grandfather, mother, and father were baptized. Shaienne stood up tall and ready for this great event in her life. When asked 'do you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior,' She responded with her clear 'I do!.'

Certainly there must have been singing in the courts of heaven on Easter Day as these four children were officially adopted into God's kingdom. St. Elizabeth's church family welcomed each one with the welcoming affirmation, 'We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.' (Book of Common Prayer)



Baptism of Ethan Anderson.

Loaves and Fishes Successfully Helps the Needy

River of Life Food Bank at St. Elizabeth's received hundreds of pounds of canned meats and vegetables and fruits, as well as cereal and rice during Lent as our focus of almsgiving. Mahalo to all who generously donated to help families in need.

Mother Jodene will be on study leave

May 1-13. She will be studying in Iona, Scotland, one of the most ancient Christian pilgrimage sites in the world. From Iona and other islands of Scotland and Ireland, mainland Europe was Christianized by the missionary passion for Christ.

Mother Jodene will be offering special prayers for everyone along the journey of study and prayer. Father Tom Yoshida will be the guest celebrant and preacher May 7th. Mother Jodene will be back 'home' at St. E's, Sunday, May 14th. Please keep her in your prayers as well. For pastoral emergencies, please call Fr. Sasaki at 735-5892. Dr. Gifford at 396-2621 or Senior Warden, Stuart Ching, 955-3535.

Memorial Gifts: Two marble Holy Water fonts were blessed in loving memory of Wallace Shim on Sunday. The beautiful gift was a donation from the Shim family.

The new Circle of Life Easter Candle set is the gift of an anonymous donor in memory of Wilfred Tai Chin Wong.

May their souls and all the souls of the departed rest in peace.

HOLY BAPTISMS TO BE CELEBRATED ON PENTECOST, JUNE 4TH AT 9:00 am.

Please see Mother Jodene to make an appointment for Baptismal preparation.



Reading Program Launched

Sixteen elementary school-age kids, and even younger kids, sitting cross-legged on lauhala mats, hands on chins, listening intently to a story...and munching on goodies. St Elizabeth's first outreach effort for our Palama neighborhood launched on Wednesday afternoon, April 5th.

A big mahalo to all St. E's folks who transformed our former junk collecting garage into a bright and cheery place for our little neighbors. And guess what? Some are starting to attend Sunday services! So if you see a youngster alone or with an adult you don't recognize, it could be one of our young readers. Be sure and give them a big St. E's welcome and ask them back

The Marine Corps recruiters will be studying our methods! Mother Jodene and intrepid St. E's folks like Liesl Eng were seen rushing out the open garage door and collaring passing kids and the adults caring for them, "inviting" them inside. They even walked over to the adjacent apartments recruiting kids to "come on over, we're having stories and fun!" It's working!

We launched with a team of Kamehameha high schoolers reading to the kids. But for the last three weeks when the Kamehameha students couldn't come...we improvised and had the kids and St. E's adults read. Turned out to be great fun..

Want to be around well-behaved and appreciative little ones? Come over to the former garage, Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:00 PM. The kids love having our adults around giving loving attention and reading stories. Bring a favorite children's story. You'll have a big smile on your face when you head home.

We can also use refreshments that kids love. Popcorn in snack baggies is a big hit. They demolish Capri Sun fruit juice packets. Rebecca Kleinschmidt baked delicious brownies that the kids got to before Kit did!

Rumor has it that a mystery St. E's Auntie, whose husband's name is Uncle Jimmy, is getting wonderful Hawaiian children's stories ready, with props even!

Next as our mustard seed grows?...Ukulele lessons ...learning games....??

Questions: Call Kit Hawkins at 255-4476.



Children's Wisdom

When the family came back to their pew after communion the youngest boy asked,

"Mom, what is the body and blood of Christ?" His older sister answered, "I know! It's what makes you sing inside.!"

Via Joyful Noiseletter

May Birthdays

- 5/3 Taylor Venenciano
- 5/4 Evelyn Tyau
- 5/4 Gerald Gifford
- 5/10 Margie Leong
- 5/10 Jessie Hayashi
- 5/12 Felicidad Bueno
- 5/13 Harold Shak
- 5/14 Liesl Eng
- 5/15 Rowena Blaisdell
- 5/15 Leslie Mitsuka
- 5/15 Inoleen Eichy
- 5/18 Chase Pacupac
- 5/19 Tim Chong Young
- 5/22 Shirley Lau
- 5/24 Ruby Au
- 5/25 Dwight Kokubun
- 5/26 Helen Tom
- 5/26 May Chock
- 5/28 Marjorie Tyau
- 5/31 Dorothy Jung



Enchanted Garden

Bracelet Making Class

Jennifer Watanabe will teach a class on Sunday May 7th and May 14th after church in the conference room. Each participant will create a beautiful bracelet to take home for their collection or for gifting. Cost is \$22. There is still room available on May 14th.



Born to Eternal Life
Kui On Won
Ren Zhi Chen

St E's Easter Egg Hunt



Heavenly Humor

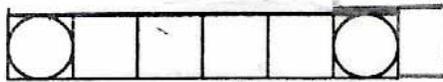
After the Sunday service a man approached the priest and asked about transferring in and joining the church. The priest asked what church he was transferring from.

"I'm transferring from the Municipal Golf Course," the man replied.
Via Joyful Noiseletter

Church Scramble

Unscramble the worlds shown below to name two items always used at church on a Sunday morning. Answers are below.

SDLACEN



NAHMLY



Answer: Candles, Hymnal



St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
720 N. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

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