



St. Elizabeth's

Episcopal Church



720 North King Street • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
808.845.2112 • stelizabethhawaii@gmail.com

stelizabeth720.org

WHO WE ARE

Saint Elizabeth's is known for its warm welcome to all—and for connecting the faith we profess in church to what is going on in the public square.



The church sits smack in the middle of an area where the needs of the community are writ large in the quality of housing that surrounds it, and the numbers of houseless residents who are drawn to the church, if not by faith, then by the relief of being able to rest and find food for body and soul at Saint Elizabeth's. The generosity of members of the congregation who have deep roots in the church over several generations supports the church's vital ministries to those in need.

This church lives out her life of worship and service grounded in the love of God and God's call to love one another as God loves us. The church has its origins in 1902 when it responded to the needs of immigrants struggling to find their footing in a new land. Those needs and the ethnicity of immigrant communities have

evolved over the years and Saint Elizabeth's has adapted to address those changes.

Saint Elizabeth's diverse congregation affirms its varied cultural roots and shared faith through the involvement of the parishioners in the church's many ministries and through their participation in the liturgy in the languages spoken by the various communities.

The parish is financially on solid ground. It is blessed with a \$2.3 million endowment and \$150,000 in annual rental income from the Kalihi Pālana Health Center that shares its grounds. Generous pledges from the congregation also help keep the church financially sound. Out of a total of 34 congregations in the diocese, Saint Elizabeth's ranks third with an operating income of \$451,383.

RECTOR QUALITIES WE SEEK

- Builds on Saint Elizabeth's tradition of joyfully expressing our faith in the public square through a willingness to bear witness on behalf of, and in solidarity with, those whose needs are many but whose voices are seldom heard in the corridors of power.
- Responds to the needs of people on the street, some of whom struggle with alcohol and drug addiction and/or mental illness.
- Finds strength in contemplation, sustenance in sacramental worship, focus in doctrine, and purpose in social action.
- Proclaims Jesus' radical message of love not only through words but through actions.
- Inspires and motivates us, not through grand theological arguments but by simple relatable messages that touch our hearts.
- Has the patience to listen and the ability to gently guide us in our journey of faith.
- Provides comfort and a ministry of presence to those experiencing conflict, uncertainty, or loss.
- Is grounded in the rites, ceremonies, and traditions of our Anglican heritage, and applies those elements to our communal worship.





OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY

Saint Elizabeth's is actively involved in social justice organizations and causes. It has often been the public voice of the clergy in Honolulu on issues such as the drive for a living wage, the need for affordable housing, and better services to aid the houseless. The parish has held public forums, with state legislators and city council members, to discuss the issues of alcohol and drug addiction, crime, and mental illness. The parish has also participated in demonstrations at the state capitol calling for repairs to the hot water system in the neighboring Mayor Wright public housing complex. It has organized monthly marches to the federal building to press for Medicaid coverage for our Micronesian brothers and sisters.

CATHOLIC WORKER HOUSE

Saint Elizabeth's hosts Hawai'i's only Catholic Worker House. It was established in March of 2018, and first managed by members of an Anglican religious order, the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis. It is named Wallyhouse, in honor of one of the prime movers behind its inception, Wally Inglis. In keeping with the goals of the Catholic Worker Movement, Wallyhouse offers hospitality to all. Kay's Café, named for Kay Inglis, serves

hot lunches at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. Joining in this effort is an ecumenical corps of volunteers and supporters from Chaminade University, Newman Center, the Quakers, the Cathedral Church of Saint Andrew, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., Wallyhouse serves as one of the hubs for River of Life Mission and its ministry of providing meals for those in need.

"This church of ours is open to all - there will be no outcasts - the convictions and hopes of all will be honored."

The Most Rev. Edmond Lee Browning
2nd Bishop of Hawai'i and 24th Presiding Bishop
to The Episcopal Church

FOOD PANTRY

The parish maintains a food pantry which has been a source of needed nutrition for thousands of people in our community. Volunteers assist weekly with picking up provisions from the Hawai'i Food Bank and then packing them into bags for distribution to needy families and individuals through Wallyhouse. The food pantry is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. Approximately 5,000 bags of groceries are given out monthly.

LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY

Every Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m., volunteers from the parish and elsewhere prepare a hot breakfast for the houseless and others in need. Community groups, like Wai'anae High School ROTC, 'Iolani School, and O'ahu Contractors' Association, have provided additional manpower in the past. Organizations like Aloha Harvest, neighborhood bakeries, and commercial lū'au companies have occasionally donated food items to supplement parish purchases from Hawai'i Food Bank and Costco.



THANKSGIVING DAY MEALS

A ministry begun by the Langi family, with subsequent support from other parishioners, involves the preparation of Thanksgiving Day meals for the houseless. Over 200 individual takeout meals are prepared in the parish hall using donated food supplies. Because those who are houseless fear theft of their possessions should they leave their encampments, volunteers deliver meals directly to them where they live.

SEEING THE HOUSELESS

Senior Warden Cathy Malia Lowenberg has taken numerous moving portraits of the houseless to help people see their humanity. Her beautiful portraits have been welcomed by those who agree to be photographed for the dignity it helps restore to them. The project has received positive coverage on Hawaii Public Radio.

SHELTERING THE HOMELESS

A converted shipping container sits on church grounds, providing emergency housing for an individual or a couple as the need arises. It has been occupied without interruption since being first offered.

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

The parish worked closely with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and Hawai'i Department of Human Services' First-to-Work Program (FTW), to provide part-time work-based job training and community service for older Americans and individuals from needy families. The parish also participated with the Circuit Court's Community Service Division to offer opportunities for individuals fulfilling volunteer community service work hours.





WORSHIP, LITURGY & MUSIC

WORSHIP

There are two English-language services during the week – a Mass on Sunday at 9:00 a.m., and a Service of Holy Communion and healing prayers on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. Special services are also held on Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sunday Mass had an average attendance of 170 people. In-person attendance now numbers around 80, with another 120 people attending via Facebook/Zoom. The Wednesday service has a weekly attendance of about a dozen people. In addition to the English-language services, there is a Tongan service for 25-35 people on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. An Ilokano Mass is held on the first Sunday of every month at 11:00 a.m. The 20 or more participants follow the Ilokano translation of the Eucharist, from the Book of Common Prayer, authorized by the bishop for diocesan use. Until the recent retirement of our Chinese priest associate, there was also a small Chinese-language service following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.



LITURGY

The liturgy used during worship honors the traditions, rites, and ceremonies of the Anglican Church. This structured liturgy is defined by the American 1979 Book of Common Prayer. As a general practice, the contemporary language of Rite II is followed. In years past, the Shakespearean verse of Rite I was favored during Lent. Worship at Saint Elizabeth's is participatory. The recitation of prayers, the Creed, the general confession, and psalmorial responses are done in unison to reaffirm our identity as one Body united in Christ. To reflect the diversity of our congregation, scriptural readings, offertory hymns, and closing benedictions are presented in a variety of languages. Many of our congregants are drawn to Saint Elizabeth's for different reasons, with many having been raised in another faith tradition. It is important that the new rector helps congregants understand the symbolism behind our liturgy and what makes our Anglican heritage unique. Parishioners have demonstrated an openness to high church ritual with the occasional use of



incense on feast days. This requires someone with the necessary knowledge to educate parishioners and acolytes in this aesthetic expression of liturgy.

MUSIC

Processional, gradual and sending hymns are selected from the 1982 Hymnal and other licensed music catalogs. Worship is further enhanced by the joyful chiming of our wonderful handbell choir, the voices of Sunday school students raised in song, or the rotation of musical offerings from our Chuukese, Ilokano, and Tongan parishioners. The Queen's Prayer composed by Hawai'i's last reigning monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani, and the doxology are sung in Hawaiian by the congregation. They are a reminder every Sunday that those of us, who have made Hawai'i home, owe a debt to the indigenous people of Hawai'i who remember how their reigning monarch lost her throne, and how native lands were ceded under duress. The church's many ministries are a small contribution towards discharging that debt even as we live out our faith.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION & EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The parish has a small Sunday school with a volunteer staff of four teachers. Weekly attendance fluctuates, but numbers seven to eight students per week. Students are separated into two classrooms – one for children in preschool to second grade; and the other for youths in third grade to middle school. Instruction utilizes Feasting on the Word, a standard curriculum prepared by the Episcopal Church, and Children’s Worship Bulletins. Lessons follow the gospel readings for each Sunday.

There are two major challenges facing Sunday school. For some of our immigrant and lower-income families with no car, attendance is dependent upon available transportation. The parish does have a donated van which picks up children and families but is dependent upon the availability of a volunteer driver. The other challenge for the Sunday school is that some of our immigrant children have limited or no English-language skills.

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

From its earliest years, Saint Elizabeth’s has nurtured the faith of individuals and assisted them with discerning God’s call to the ordained ministry – whether it be to the vocational diaconate or priesthood. Several individuals from Saint Elizabeth’s have answered God’s call, and later distinguished themselves in ministering to the faithful.



One such individual is the Rev. Daniel G. C. Wu (1883-1956), who labored as a missionary priest among the Chinese in California. He is now commemorated on April 6 of the Episcopal Church’s liturgical calendar, A Great Cloud of Witnesses. The last ordination to the priesthood of a Saint Elizabeth’s parishioner occurred in 2019.

In the past, discernment committees at Saint Elizabeth’s were formed as the need arose. The parish must now consider Commission on Ministry (COM) guidelines for the formation of an ongoing discernment committee, to assist individuals discerning God’s call to lay as well as ordained ministry.

INTERNSHIPS

Saint Elizabeth’s provides transitional deacons with an opportunity to train under an experienced priest, as they prepare for ordination to the priesthood. Deacons are involved with the planning of services, serving at Sunday Mass, and even delivering a homily or two. Depending on their availability, they also assist parish ministries during the week at Wallyhouse, the Loaves and Fishes Ministry, or the Wednesday morning healing service.

BIBLE STUDY

Scripture is one of the foundational components of our Anglican faith, in addition to tradition and reason. As such, it forms the basis of weekly Sunday school lessons and homilies preached from the pulpit. Throughout the year, the rector has historically conducted a Bible Study. Sessions have focused on the coming week’s gospel lesson, and how we can apply it to our lives here and now.

LENTEN SERIES

The rector has traditionally presented a Lenten study series. Topics were selected for their relevance to living our faith in today’s world.



YOUTH

The youth programs of the parish provide an entry point into the church and a safe place for neighborhood youth. Programs included a youth basketball league that drew at-risk teenagers; and an after-school tutoring program. These programs relied on volunteer assistance from parishioners and the outside community. In recent years, the youth programs have declined for several reasons: The COVID-19 pandemic; relocation of immigrant families to other areas; and youth maturing with few incoming children taking their places. The recruitment of youth and the revitalization of our youth programs are necessary, if we are to grow the church and sustain it into the future.



PASTORAL CARE

The rector and priest associates provide pastoral care to parishioners through personal counseling sessions and home and hospital visits. They offer instruction for those desiring to receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and marriage as well as provide comfort for those experiencing loss. The Ilokano and Tongan priest associates officiate at scheduled worship services in their native language and minister to their respective communities. At one time, a team of lay eucharistic ministers brought Holy Communion to parishioners confined to their homes, hospitals, or care facilities. Due to the advanced ages of these lay ministers, responsibility is currently undertaken by parish clergy. To provide temporary financial assistance to those in need, the rector has access to a discretionary fund.

PARISH OPERATIONS

STAFFING

Parish clergy include the rector and two priest associates who minister to the Ilokano and Tongan parishioners, respectively. There are other staff members employed on a part-time basis: a parish administrator overseeing daily operations; a choir director conducting the handbell choir and directing the parish music program; an organist providing music for Sunday worship and special services; a sexton handling repairs to buildings and grounds; and a videographer filming Sunday worship for livestreaming via Zoom and Facebook. Stipends are also given to a few individuals helping with our outreach ministries.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Saint Elizabeth's and its grounds occupy an entire city block in the Pālama district of Honolulu. The property is located on King Street, which is one of the main thoroughfares of the city running from east to west. Pālama is a multi-cultural working-class neighborhood characterized by low-rise apartment buildings, multi-generational homes, and small businesses. Nearby is a public housing complex that has long suffered from municipal neglect. It is home to some of our parishioners. Located in central Honolulu, Pālama lies a short distance away from Honolulu Harbor to the south; Chinatown and the city's historic and financial center to the east; Bishop Museum, the state's premier natural and cultural history museum, to the west; and the Kamehameha Schools, a private school for indigenous Hawaiian students, to the north.

SAINT ELIZABETH'S CHURCH

The church stands on the left side of the property. It is a prime example of mid-century architecture, though angle buttresses and Tudor style arches betray architectural elements borrowed from an earlier period. When completed in 1952, Saint Elizabeth's was the first church in Honolulu equipped with air conditioning. The interior of the church is traditional in design. A long center aisle, flanked by rows of pews and lined with clerestory windows above, leads up to

the elevated chancel. Three hanging bronze lamps mark the sanctuary area that features a magnificent stained-glass altarpiece created by Tiffany Studios of New York. This work of art portrays Saint Elizabeth and her son, Saint John the Baptist, receiving a visit from Jesus. Another large stained-glass window above the front entrance depicts symbols of the six major religions woven through the Cross of Christ – an acknowledgment of faith being one of the common denominators of our shared humanity; and Saint Elizabeth's being a haven of tolerance and house of prayer open to all people.

Situated to the left of the main altar is the Lady Chapel which features a bas-relief of the Madonna and Child. A sanctuary lamp nearby indicates the presence of the reserved sacrament in the tabernacle. Intimate worship services are conducted in this area. It is here that parishioners often light votive candles and kneel before the chapel altar during moments of private reflection and prayer.

Besides its sacred spaces, other areas within the church include the Bridal Room, sacristy, parish offices, dressing area, storage rooms, workspace, restrooms, and bell tower.



WALLYHOUSE

Behind the church is the former rectory, a three-bedroom wooden structure built in the 1950s. After undergoing repairs and renovations, it was dedicated in 2018 as Wallyhouse, the only Catholic Worker House in Hawai'i. Adjacent to Wallyhouse is a container residence for emergency housing; an outdoor deck for informal gatherings; and a peace garden.

SHIM HALL

Across the central parking lot from the church and Wallyhouse is Shim Hall. Construction on this concrete brick building began in 1952. When completed, it initially housed Saint Elizabeth's Elementary School. Following the school's closure in 1973, the building underwent periodic renovations, expansions, and repurposing. It now includes a commercial grade kitchen and large hall used by the parish for its internal gatherings as well as for its outreach ministries. The parish hall is also available to outside organizations at a nominal fee. Four Chuukese congregations use it throughout the day on Sunday for worship services. Other community organizations regularly conduct meetings there in

the evenings during the week. A small conference room within the hall is used for meetings of the Vestry and other parish groups. Approximately one third of the building is leased to We Are Oceania (WAO), a social services organization assisting Pacific Islanders.

KALIHI-PALAMA HEALTH CENTER

Although not part of parish operations, the Kalihi-Palama Health Center (KPHC) sits on a leased portion of the church's property next to Shim Hall. A large multi-story building built there by KPHC accommodates the various healthcare and social services it provides to immigrants and the poor. Besides payment of its lease rent, KPHC also pays for parking on the church grounds. This provides another significant source of income for Saint Elizabeth's. Future plans call for further expansion of KPHC with demolition and replacement of Shim Hall. The proposed building will have designated shared spaces to satisfy both parish and KPHC needs. This project has been temporarily placed on hold pending the securing of additional funding.



OUR ISLAND COMMUNITY

The following is a suggested reading list about life in Hawai'i:

Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Hawai'i. Edited by Hōkūlani K. Aikau and Vernadette Vicuña Gonzalez (Durham: Duke University Press, 2019)

<https://www.amazon.com/Detours-Decolonial-Hokulani-K-Aikau/dp/1478006498>

"Many people first encounter Hawai'i through the imagination—a postcard picture of hula girls, lu'aus, and plenty of sun, surf, and sea. While Hawai'i is indeed beautiful, Native Hawaiians struggle with the problems brought about by colonialism, military occupation, tourism, food insecurity, high costs of living, and climate change. In this brilliant reinvention of the travel guide, artists, activists, and scholars redirect readers from the fantasy of Hawai'i as a tropical paradise and tourist destination toward a multilayered and holistic engagement with Hawai'i's culture and complex history. The essays, stories, artworks, maps, and tour itineraries in *Detours* create decolonial narratives in ways that will forever change how readers think about and move throughout Hawai'i."

THE VALUE OF HAWAII 1: KNOWING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE
Edited by Craig Howes and Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2010).

<https://uhpress.hawaii.edu/title/the-value-of-hawaii-knowing-the-past-shaping-the-future/>

"How did we get here? Three-and-a-half-day school weeks. Prisoners farmed out to the mainland. Tent camps for the migratory homeless. A blinkered dependence on tourism and the military for virtually all economic activity. The steady degradation of already degraded land. Contempt for anyone employed in education, health, and social service. An almost theological belief in the evil of taxes.

"At a time when new leaders will be elected, and new solutions need to be found, the contributors to *The Value of Hawai'i* outline the causes of our current state and offer points of departure for a Hawai'i-wide debate on our future. The brief essays address a wide range of topics—education, the environment, Hawaiian issues, media, tourism, political culture, law, labor, economic planning, government, transportation, poverty—but the contributors share a belief that taking stock of where we are right now, what we need to change, and what we need to remember is a challenge that all of us must meet.

"Written for a general audience, *The Value of Hawai'i* provides a cluster of starting points for a larger community discussion of Hawai'i that should extend beyond the choices of the ballot box this year."

THE VALUE OF HAWAII 2: ANCESTRAL ROOTS, OCEANIC VISIONS
Edited by Aiko Yamashiro and Noelani Goodyear-Ka'opua (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014).

<https://uhpress.hawaii.edu/title/the-value-of-hawaii-2-ancestral-roots-oceanic-visions/>

"How can more of us protect and create waiwai, value, for coming generations?"

"Culturally-rich education. Holistic health systems. Organic farming and aquaculture. Creative and conscious urban development. Caring for one another across difference. Telling our stories.

"Continuing the conversation of *The Value of Hawai'i: Knowing the Past, Shaping the Future*, this new collection offers passionate and poignant visions for our shared futures in these islands. The fresh voices gathered in this book share their inspiring work and ideas for creating value, addressing a wide range of topics: community health, agriculture, public education, local business, energy, gender, rural lifestyles, sacred community, activism, storytelling, mo'olelo, migration, voyaging, visual art, music, and the 'aina we continue to love and mālama. By exploring connections to those who have come before and those who will follow after, the contributors to this volume recenter Hawai'i in our watery Pacific world. Their autobiographical essays will inspire readers to live consciously and lead as island people."

THE VALUE OF HAWAII 3: HULIHIA, THE TURNING
Edited by Noelani Goodyear-Ka'opua, Craig Howes, Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio, and Aiko Yamashiro (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2021).

<https://uhpress.hawaii.edu/title/the-value-of-hawaii-3-hulihia-the-turning/>

"Hulihia' refers to massive upheavals that change the landscape, overturn the normal, reverse the flow, and sweep away the prevailing or assumed. We live in such days. Pandemics. Threats to 'aina. Political dysfunction, cultural appropriation, and disrespect. But also powerful surges toward sustainability, autonomy, and sovereignty.

"The first two volumes of *The Value of Hawai'i* (*Knowing the Past, Facing the Future* and *Ancestral Roots, Oceanic Visions*) ignited public conversations, testimony, advocacy, and art for political and social change. These books argued for the value of connecting across our different expertise and experiences, to talk about who we are and where we are going.

"In a world in crisis, what does Hawai'i's experience tell us about how to build a society that sees opportunities in the turning and changing times? As islanders, we continue to grapple with experiences of racism, colonialism, environmental damage, and the costs of modernization, and bring to this our own striking creativity and histories for how to live peacefully and productively together. Steered by the four scholars who edited the previous volumes, *The Value of Hawai'i 3: Hulihia, the Turning* offers multigenerational visions of a Hawai'i not defined by the United States. Community leaders, cultural practitioners, artists, educators, and activists share exciting paths forward for the future of Hawai'i, on topics such as education, tourism and other economies, elder care, agriculture and food, energy and urban development, the environment, sports, arts and culture, technology, and community life.

"These visions ask us to recognize what we truly value about our home, and offer a wealth of starting points for critical and productive conversations together in this time of profound and permanent change."



St. Elizabeth's

Episcopal Church

CONTACT

The Reverend Canon Alexander (Sandy) Graham, IV

The Office of the Bishop
229 Queen Emma Square
Honolulu, HI 96813

Email: acgraham@episcopalhawaii.org

Tel: (808) 536-7776 Ext. 309

Fax: (808) 538-7194

episcopalhawaii.org