

## WHERE IS GOD AS PEOPLE STRUGGLE?

By Holoua Stender

You've probably heard a saying like, "the world is going to 'heck' in a handbasket." With the nation's culture wars and political upheaval, growing concerns over climate disasters, poverty, starvation, wars, and a still-raging pandemic that has claimed the lives of millions worldwide, it seems fair to ask: Where is God as His people struggle in the midst of crises and hardship?

Isaiah 41:10 states: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

This bible verse gives me hope and yet, along with countless others, I struggle to make sense of all the prolonged pilikia (afflictions) and pain. Feeling God's presence during these times is difficult. Though, I pray daily for God to intervene in global and personal pilikia, I often have trouble feeling the divine Comforter's presence in my life. Does God hear me? Or, am I just weathering what seems like an unending storm?

It's been a long three and a half years since I left my former job, where I worked for 39 years. To be honest, the emotional strain from my departure still causes me some discomfort. On some days, it's difficult for me to function at my very best. My days are spent in COVID quarantine, where I have a lot of time to question the future of our planet, our country, and ask myself, what shall I accomplish next in my life? Perhaps, a better query may be: How can I make the world better, so that people truly know that I am present, and that I care?

Kim Stiver wrote: "The pattern of scriptures — which can only be seen through the vantage point of the Holy Spirit's enlightenment — makes it clear that God uses the events, trials, and sufferings of our lives to either adjust our direction or, use our pain to administer His love to others."

I've seen many at our church, who give of themselves to improve the lives of others. These folks serve as role models for me. Helping others, I believe, gives one a sense of satisfaction and helps to promote a sense of well-being for others and for one's self.

Matthew 10:29-31 states, "God is actively involved in the minutia of our lives." He knows what path is best for each of us. I would like to feel God's presence again. I want to know that He is present in the midst of my life and guiding my path forward. I have faith, like many of my church 'ohana at St. Clement's, that I will find my personal way to help others and promote well-being and joy. In turn, I hope my actions will cause me to feel God's presence, and foster a sense of well-being that emanates from His love for us all.

# Ke 'Alemanaka

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Want your article or  
announcement published?

Submission Deadline:  
**Third Thursday of the Month**  
October 14, 2021

## STAFF

**Rector:** Rev. Heather Hill  
**Associate:** Rev. George Clifford  
**Head of School:** Jodi Yoshioka  
**Music Director:** Karol Nowicki  
**Organist:** Mark Kennedy  
**Secretary:** Alofa Carpenter  
**Sexton:** Stan Ornellas  
**Sunday School:** Jessica Stack,  
Scott & Gail Suzuki-Jones,  
Michelle Comeau

**Senior Warden:** Beth Fincke  
**Junior Warden:** Gail Suzuki-Jones  
**Treasurer:** Martha Morgan  
**Clerk:** Holoua Stender

## Vestry

Jane Anderson Brian Crow  
Matthew Chapman Pam Fern  
Cathy Overstreet Glenn Moir  
Susan Palmore Amy Schafer

## Church Office Hours

Open Weekdays  
9AM to 3PM

*\*Closed on Holidays*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Clement's is turning 125 in 2023! If you would like to join brainstorming discussions for the celebratory event please let us know!

Stitched Together With Love, St. Clement's newly-formed knitting and crochet group, is meeting every second Saturday (10/9) at 11AM under the church porte cochere.

Our food distribution program is still open to receiving donations of canned soup, corn beef, pork and beans, chili with meat, corn and vienna sausage.

Mahalo to this month's Food Distribution bagging crew:  
Leslie Isaki and Beth Fincke.

Thank you to Holoua Stender for serving as the guest contributor for this month's newsletter!

## ZOOM SERVICE OUTLINE

### SUNDAY

#### **Worship at 8AM & 10:15AM**

ID#: 854 4414 6891

Passcode: 1515

#### **Adult Discussion at 9AM**

ID#: 854 4414 6891

Passcode: 1515

#### **Bible Study (RBTL) at 9AM**

ID#: 661 508 747

Passcode: 1515

### TUESDAY

#### **Compline at 9PM**

ID#: 823 5666 8373

Passcode: 1515

You can join any service with your phone! Just call this number: 1 (669) 900-6833 and enter the meeting ID and passcode when prompted.

# CREATION CARE

Are you interested in becoming the church contact?

The Diocesan Creation Care Task Force is putting together a contact person from each parish to help spread the news about how all the Episcopal Churches in Hawai'i are working to help our environment. This person would communicate to the Task Force about how St. Clement's is working to care for the earth and to St. Clement's about what the Diocese and other churches are doing. Would you be interested in helping the earth through this communication role in our parish? Please speak to Pastor Heather

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## NEW DINNER & DISCUSSION GATHERING

Meeting Oct. 28 - Discussing *In My Grandmother's House*

Join Pastor Heather for a picnic and faith discussion on Thursday, October 28. At 5:30, we will gather for dinner under the music building (next to the playground). You may purchase dinner from our Farmer's Market or bring your own picnic meal. Around 6PM, we will discuss *In My Grandmother's House* and talk story about our faith.

*In My Grandmother's House* by Yolanda Pierce, she shares the stories of growing up going to church with her grandmother. Dr. Pierce is now the dean of Howard University School of Divinity and an excellent storyteller. She reflects on how she reconciles some of the beliefs of her grandmother with her own and on how she decides which of her grandmother's beliefs to put aside in her own faith journey. Join us as we share the people in our own lives who have shaped our faith and beliefs. Which of your childhood beliefs have you chosen to set aside?

Details:

- Books are available from the church office for \$10.
  - Parking is limited because of the market, so please try to park on the street if possible. Street parking opens at 5:30. Some spots will be available by the playground fence, please let us know if you are coming.
  - Kids are welcome to come, share dinner, and enjoy the playground. Please let us know if yours are coming so we can try to have some folks to keep an eye on them while we gather.
  - These gatherings will take place every other month, with a new book each time.
- Next gathering date: December 9.

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## ANIMAL BLESSING

Sunday, Oct. 3 and Thursday, Oct. 7

Join us during our 8AM or 10:15AM worship services on the first Sunday in October (10/3), to get your pet blessed! We will offer animal blessings both in-person and via Zoom, for those joining us from home. If you can't make it on Sunday, we'll be blessing animals at the Makiki Farmers Market on October 7 at 4:30PM as well.

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## SCHOOL BOARD

Join the St. Clement's School Board!

Did you know that our preschool is overseen by a board of church members, parents, and community members? Would you be interested in helping our school to flourish by being a member of the school board? The School board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 5 PM mostly on Webex (like Zoom, we can help you get on). We are currently looking for a member of the church to join the board. Please speak with Pastor Heather if you are interested.

# October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Clergy Sabbath 8:00 PM Strivers for Sobriety	2 9:00 AM Altar Guild 1:00 PM NAMI Program
3 Blessing of the Animals 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 9:00 AM Bible Workbench 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 2:30 PM Tongan Church	4 8:00 AM SCS Chapel – Pet Blessing 1:00 PM Parish Staff Mtg.	5 Picture Taking 5:00 PM Labyrinth Open 9:00 PM Compline HAPPY BIRTHDAY RAY TAMURA	6 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 5:00 PM Na 'Ohana Meeting HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHRIS HACSKAYLO	7 4:30 PM Farmers Market 5:00 PM Animal Blessing HAPPY BIRTHDAY HARRISON ISHIDA	8 Clergy Sabbath 8:00 PM Strivers for Sobriety	9 9:00 AM Altar Guild 11:00 AM Knitting Group 1:00 PM NAMI Program
10 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 9:00 AM Bible Workbench 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 1:00 PM Prayer Chain Mtg. 2:30 PM Tongan Church	11 No School Office Closed Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day HAPPY BIRTHDAY HELENA SCHAEFER	12 5:00 PM Property Committee Mtg. 9:00 PM Compline	13 8:00 AM SCS Chapel	14 4:30 PM Farmers Market HAPPY BIRTHDAY JAESON TAMURA ERICA YAMAUCHI	15 Clergy Sabbath 12:00 PM Kūpuna Box 8:00 PM Strivers for Sobriety HAPPY BIRTHDAY BONNIE RICE	16 9:00 AM Altar Guild 10:30 AM Food Distribution HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMELIA LEVY
17 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 9:00 AM Bible Workbench 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 2:30 PM Tongan Church HAPPY BIRTHDAY DANNY SCHOEN	18 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 1:00 PM Parish Staff Mtg. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TAU'EVA LINO	19 5:00 PM SCS Board Mtg. 9:00 PM Compline HAPPY BIRTHDAY SALLY MCDERMOTT	20 8:00 AM SCS Chapel HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANDREW CARPENTER	21 4:30 PM Farmers Market	22 Clergy Sabbath 9:30 AM Dioc. Con. Education 8:00 PM Strivers for Sobriety	23 7:30 AM Diocesan Convention 9:00 AM Altar Guild
24 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 9:00 AM Bible Workbench 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 2:30 PM Tongan Church HAPPY BIRTHDAY MIKE TOWN	25 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 1:00 PM Parish Staff Mtg. 5:30 PM NAMI WOW	26 6:00 PM Vestry Meeting 9:00 PM Compline	27 8:00 AM SCS Chapel 11:00 AM Yo! House Cooking	28 4:30 PM Farmers Market 5:30 PM Dinner + Discussion	29 Clergy Sabbath 8:00 AM EnvironControl Check 8:00 PM Strivers for Sobriety HAPPY BIRTHDAY HEW REYNOLDS	30 9:00 AM Altar Guild
31 Halloween 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Adult Discussion 9:00 AM Bible Workbench 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 2:30 PM Tongan Church HAPPY BIRTHDAY KINGSLEY WONG						



# HOSPITAL UPDATE

A message from the Ahli Arab Hospital in Palestine

The director of the Ahli Arab Hospital, Suhaila Tarazi, sent her thanks to the Parish of St. Clement; and included this update in her message:

Across the Gaza Strip, psychological trauma, poverty and environmental degradation have had a negative impact on residents' physical and mental health. Many, including children, suffer from anxiety, distress, and depression. At Ahli Hospital we have succeeded in providing health-care services to the vast majority of the poor. Ahli has increased its capacity to treat children and adults suffering from trauma. We have placed new psychosocial counselors to support children and their caregivers dealing with a range of problems, including fear of violence, sleeplessness and a lack of motivation in school. In Gaza pain is real, needs are endless, nevertheless we are determined to let the light of hope always enlighten the souls of those lost in the darkness. Thanks to our American friends for not forgetting Gaza. I am deeply grateful.

المستشفى الأهلي العربي  
غزة - Gaza  
Ahli Arab Hospital

20 August 2021,

Rev. Heather Hill,  
Rector, Parish of St. Clement,  
Honolulu, HI,  
USA

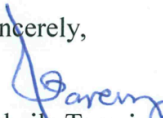
Dear Rev. Heather Hill,

On behalf of Ahli Hospital in Gaza I thank you for your generous donation of US\$ 8,490. We value your support as it comes in the right time. The needs and demands for health care in Gaza have become significant and our means limited after latest May 21 assault.

We at Ahli are working with the most vulnerable and oppressed women, children and men who have lost all hope of having a healthy decent life. We appreciate your tremendous spirit and compassion for our patients. Indeed it empowers us to accomplish great things together.

Once more thank you for your kind support.

Sincerely,

  
Suhaila Tarazi  
Director General  
Ahli Arab Hospital Gaza



# SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS

A sneak peek into a school day at St. Clement's



Students of B1 during Friday Assembly saying the Pledge of Allegiance.



B2 started off the Preschool 4 Spirit Week by wearing polka dots and/or stripes.



Students of C2

playing in the  
sandbox during  
their playground  
time.



## SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY	MONDAY
<p>Holy Eucharist 8AM and 10:15AM</p> <p>Adult Discussion 9AM</p> <p>Bible Study 9AM</p>	<p>Office Open 9AM to 3PM</p>
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>Office Open 9AM to 3PM</p>	<p>Office Open 9AM to 3PM</p> <p>Assistance Available 10AM to 12PM</p>
THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Office Open 9AM to 3PM</p> <p>Farmers Market 4:30PM to 7PM</p>	<p>Office Open 9AM to 3PM</p> <p>Third Fri. (10/15) Kūpuna Box 12PM to 1PM</p>
SATURDAY	SPECIAL EVENTS
<p>Second Sat. (10/9) Knit/Crochet Group 11AM to 1PM</p> <p>Third Sat. (10/16) Food Distribution 10:30AM to 12:30PM</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED Indigenous Peoples Day (Mon 10/11)</p>

