



KE AHIAHI KALIKIMAKA

THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS

MANA'OLANA - HOPE

“Christ is Our Manaola: Our Power of Life and Healing”

By Dr. Kerri-Ann Hewett Fraser
Education Officer, Kealakūlia, Kūamahi Community Education

Heluhelu Baibala / Scripture Reading

Luka 2: 1-12

Eia kekahi mea ia mau lā, ho'olaha 'ia a'ela ke kauoha a Kaisara 'Augusato, e kākau 'ia i ka palapala ko ke aupuni a pau. I ke ali'i kia'āina 'ana o Kurenio ma Suria, ka ho'omaka 'ana o kēia kākau mua 'ana. Pau nō i ka hele i kākau 'ia ai i ka palapala o kēlā mea kēia mea i kona kūlanakauhale iho. 'O Iosepa kekahi i pi'i a'e, mai Galilaia a'e, mai loko mai o Nazareta ke kūlanakauhale a hiki i Iudea, i ko Dāvida kūlanakauhale i kapa 'ia 'o Betelehemā, (no ka mea, no ka hale ia a me ka 'ohana a Dāvida,) I kākau 'ia ai me Maria ka wahine i ho'opalau 'ia nāna, e kōkō ana. A 'oiai lāua ma laila, hiki kona manawa e hānau ai. Hānau ihola 'o ia i kāna makahiapo kāne; wahī ihola iā ia i ke kapa keiki, a ho'omoe ihola iā ia ma kahi hānai holoholona, no ka mea, 'a'ole wahi ka'awale no lākou ma loko o ka hale ho'okipa.

Aia i kēlā 'āina he mau kahu hipa e noho ana i ke kula, a e kia'i ana i kā lākou mau po'e hipa i ka pō. Aia ho'i! Kau maila ka 'ānela o ka Haku i o lākou lā, a ho'omālamalama maila ka nani o ka Haku iā lākou a puni, a maka'u loa ihola lākou. A 'ōlelo maila ka 'ānela iā lākou, Mai maka'u 'oukou, no ka mea, eia ho'i, ke ha'i aku nei au iā 'oukou i ka mea maika'i, e 'oli'oli nui ai e lilo ana no nā kānaka a pau.

No ka mea, i kēia lā i hānau ai, ma ke kūlanakauhale o Dāvida, he Ola no ‘oukou, ‘o ia ka Mesia ka Haku. Eia ho‘i ka hō‘ailona no ‘oukou, e loa‘a auane‘i iā ‘oukou ke keiki ua wahī ‘ia i ke kapa keiki, e moe ana ma kahi hānai holoholona.

Luke 2: 1-12

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths, and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Mana‘o / Thoughts

“Ah, Manaola is finally here!” The soft, crackly voice on the other end of the phone was Kahu Abraham Akaka who was announcing the name of my newly born baby nephew – a name that Kahu chose for this long awaited new born, a gift from God sent for the purpose of returning the power of life and healing to our ‘ohana.

“Manaola, the power of life, the power of healing. That is his name!”

I ran back to the delivery room to exclaim with joy the name of this beautiful baby that was only five minutes old—“Kahu said his name is the power of life, the power of healing for all of us.” “Manaola is his name!” “M-A-N-A-O-L-A, Manaola,” I said.

There was an amazing joy that prevailed. The grief of the loss of my brother was no longer with us. Manaola was finally here. There he was, in a swaddling soft white blanket and my dad was holding him. We went close to adore him and to welcome Manaola to the world, specifically to our family.

God presented this perfect little creature to us with his eyes open wide and a semi frown on his brow – sweet, smooth, soft chubby marshmallow cheeks and silky dark brown hair – a square face such as the Hewett mo'okuauhau would dictate – he wasn't even crying; he just remained quiet – my heart was exploding with love. I observed my family – sister, dad, mom and myself – all of us were drowning in an overwhelming joy! We were delivered from our grief. We were consumed in love. Manaola was gifted to us to heal us and to give us life.

I imagine this experience to be the same for the shepherds that Christmas night. They came to see the baby Jesus and found him asleep on the hay. These shepherds, the same who were told of his name by the angels, observed and adored, and were completely taken by this beautiful, perfect little creature. This was the Christ, the *manaola* – the power of life and of healing that the prophets of our biblical past told of as the coming of the Savior, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, the King of the world!

I can only imagine the excitement and joy, the overwhelming love, all consuming, as they were amazed to see and welcome the baby Jesus to their family and to the world. I'm certain that they cried "Hosana!" as they praised God for what they were witnessing.

Christ is our *manaola*. He is our power of life and healing. Gifted to us as God's only begotten son, we are consumed in His love every day. This beautiful baby with the humblest of all beginnings came to us to be the king in our life. The love that a new born baby overwhelms us with is liken to the same love that God has for each of us unconditionally.

To drown in the love of Christ is to know and understand that He is our power of life and healing. It is a love that is deep and soothing; warm and comforting; joyful and exciting; endless and great; amazing and infallible; forgiving and free!

When I equate that experience of Manaola's birth night and the magnificence of the love that I felt for him, to that of Christ's love for me and you, I am over-the-moon happy! Just thinking of it makes me shiver with happiness and excitement. To know and understand the love of Christ is to know that we are loved. You and I know the capacity we have to love and to be loved. We need to also understand in full that God's love to us through His son, Jesus Christ, is greater than anything.

We celebrate Christ tonight as we sing *Away in a Manger* so that we are reminded that our *manaola* – our power of life and healing was born in a humble manger and lay asleep on the hay. We sing “Hosana Nui lā Iesū” with the shepherds who cried, “Hosana” when they praised God for the coming of their Savior. We praise God on this Christmas Eve for His deep and abiding love sent to us as *manaola* – the power of life and healing.

Questions to Ponder

- What does manaloa – the power of life, the power of healing mean to you?
- Can you explain what it means to know and understand the love of Christ?
- Are there any special details and circumstances of your own birth mo'olelo?
- What mo'olelo and mana'o do your inoa (Hawaiian, other given names) convey?

Pule / Prayer

Mahalo e ke Akua for gifting us with *manaola*—the power of life and healing. On this Christmas Eve, we are reminded of your love sent to us in the form of a beautiful baby lying asleep on the hay. Bless us all to know your aloha (love), and to be consumed by your lokomaika'i (grace) and hau'oli (joy) every day. Give us your aloha, and maluhia (peace) and hau'oli (joy). Ma ka inoa o Iesū, In Jesus' name, 'Āmene.

Keiki Activities

- Have a conversation about the birth of Jesus and the birth of your keiki or haumāna while coloring the image below. Talk about those special ‘ohana, time, place and circumstances of their birth and naming. Other coloring images can be found on Sermons4kids.com.
- Sing both hīmeni posted – “Away in a Manger” and “Hosana Nui ‘Ia Iesu” – together as a family.
- Think of a creative opportunity to make a mini-nativity diorama out of simple, natural materials from the ‘āina and around the hale.



Nā Hīmeni / Hymns

“Away In A Manger” (He Kapu Hānai)

By James Murray

He kapu hānai, ‘o ia ka moe
No ke kama iki e hiamoe ai
Nānā mai la nā hōkū mai luna mai
Iā Iesū ka Haku e moe la‘i ana

Away in a manger, no crib for his head
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

Source: Text "Little Children's Book for Schools and Families 1885, Translated by Mary Pukui

“Hosana Nui Iā Iesū” (Hosana To Jesus)

By Makua Laiana

Hosana me ka ho‘omaika‘i
Iā Iesū ko ke ao mōhai
Kaulana e mai ‘ō a ‘ō
Ko ia la aloha ano hou

Hui:

Nani nani mele pū
E ko ka lani ko ke ao
Hosana, hosana
Hosana nui iā Iesū

Hosana, give praise
To Jesus, the world's savior
He is famous, from the ends of the earth
His holy love is known

Chorus:

Glory, glory, sing
On Heaven and on earth
Hosana, hosana
Hosana to Jesus