



KA PULE 'EHĀ O KA HIKINA

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE

"Ka Waihona 'Oli'oli: The Reservoir of Joy"

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Advent is a time of transition where the coming of Jesus is escorted by a multitude of angels showing brightly in the majestic heavens with glorious fanfare. Jesus' life brings light into our own lives and the presence of darkness has no power. We celebrate with great joy in our hearts and minds the blessing of the Christ.

Heluhelu Baibala / Scripture Reading

Habakuka (Habakkuk) 3:17-19

I ka manawa e pua 'ole mai ai ka lā'au kū, 'A'ole ho'i he hua ma nā kumu waina; A e mae ka hua o ka lā'au 'oliva, 'A'ole ho'i e hua mai nā kīhāpai i ka 'ai; A e 'oki 'ia aku ka po'e hipa mai ka pā hipa aku, 'A'ole ho'i he bipi ma loko o nā wahi hānai bipi; E 'oli'oli nō au i loko o lēhova, E hau'oli nō au i loko o ke Akua o ku'u ola. 'O lēhova ka Haku, 'o ia ko'u ikaika, A e ho'ohālike mai ia i ko'u wāwae, me nā wāwae o nā dia, A e ho'ohēle nō ia ia'u ma luna o ku'u mau wahi ki'eki'e. Na ka luna mele ma nā mea kani.

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

Mana'o Haipule / Scriptural Insight

You may have heard that “the joy of the Lord is our strength.” It’s beyond being hau’oli but being ‘oli’oli. When Ke Akua delivers us out of our pōpilikia (hardships), we are so full of ‘oli’oli that we yearn to share it in testimony with others. We are filled with an overwhelming desire to let others know of how His light overcame our darkest moments and how His mana reigned victorious over our life’s circumstances. As we witness His power in our lives and testify of His grace and mercy to others, not only is our faith and hope strengthened, but the faith and hope of everyone who has the opportunity to hear such an awesome testimony.

Habakkuk was a prophet who was troubled upon seeing what seemed to be the wicked nations winning and succeeding. He went as far as to ask Ke Akua, “How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen?” Habakkuk was in a very dark place, he was probably afraid, felt hopeless and ready to give up. But then Ke Akua responds, “Look at the nations and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told... Although the situation didn’t change right away, Habakkuk rejoices in knowing that Ke Akua is in control of the situation and finds confidence in who Ke Akua is and what He can do. And He can and will do the same for each and every one of us!

This ‘oli’oli is something that we (Hau’oli and ‘Ekela) share and is perhaps recognizable to many who have witnessed our onstage antics! What you may not know is that our ‘oli’oli has a common foundation. We’ve both dedicated our lives to faithfully worship and serve Ke Akua in our respective churches. In our personal lives, we strive to support and nurture our ‘ohana and community through sharing Christian and Hawaiian cultural values and preserving ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i through our keiki and mo’opuna. We’ve also chosen careers in education to raise the status of our lāhui in our kulāwi. We share in each other’s joys, sorrows, pains and deliverance. When one is down, the other is quick with a reminder that Ke Akua is always working out a good “ha’ina” for our mele!

Mana'o Kuana'ike / Cultural Insight

The nineteenth century Hawaiian patriot, Timoteo Ha'alilio (1808–1844) comes to mind as we ponder on a kanaka 'ōwi Hawai'i who, like Habbakuk, experienced adversity in his life and faith journey, yet remained ever loyal to Ke Akua and to his ali'i. Ha'alilio was one of the most intimate companions and associates of King Kamehameha III, Kauikeaouli from their childhood. Ha'alilio served as the royal secretary during the king's reign. He was commissioned by Kamehameha III in 1842 as the first diplomat of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. He is best known for helping our Hawaiian Kingdom in gaining recognition from Britain, France, and the United States as an independent sovereign nation. This effort took almost two and a half years to accomplish on the historical date, November 28, 1844, the day we recognize as Lā Kū'ōko'a, or Hawaiian Independence Day.

Along that fateful journey, Timoteo Ha'alilio was accompanied by an American Missionary named William Richards, who served as the official government translator to King Kamehameha III. Reverend Richards was one of the co-founding missionaries of Lahainaluna School and a principal interpreter of the Hawaiian Bible. Theirs was an amiable relationship.

The adversities that Timoteo Ha'alilio encountered on this long, diplomatic mission so far away from his kulāwi and lāhui, were politically, socially, emotionally and physically grueling, as we might imagine. Although they accomplished this mission on behalf of our king and our kingdom, Ha'alilio became very ill along the trip and would never return to Hawai'i, his beloved homeland and 'ohana. He died of tuberculosis while at sea in December 1844.

After Ha'alilio's passing, Richards wrote about his patriotic courage, his loyalty to his country, his king and his 'ohana, and his faithfulness to Ke Akua. He describes Ha'alilio as praying fervently every day and night, along this mission.

"Pleading for relief from suffering, imploring blessings on his mother, on the King and on his countrymen. He prayed also that he might live to reach the Islands; but this prayer was usually conditional, and ended with "Aia nō iā 'oe"—"It is with Thee," or, "Thy will be done."

What an exemplary me'e (hero) we have in Timoteo Ha'alilio, as in Princess Bernice Pauahi and all of our ali'i who served our lāhui well by modeling great courage, resilience and aloha for Ke Akua and mankind throughout their lives' hardship.

Our kūpuna then and we today should see value and beauty even in the nāhelehele (the weeds and junk stuff) that can still be used as lā'au lapa'au with good, healing properties and qualities. We are blessed to live in a beautiful place and stand on the shoulders of our kūpuna. We can draw from ka waihona 'oli'oli (reservoir of joy) and ka waihona 'ike (reservoir of knowledge and understanding) as did our kūpuna, who have modeled for us resilience, loyalty and faithfulness.

Pule / Prayer

'Auhea 'Oe, e lehova, Ke Akua o nā akua, Ke Ali'i o nā ali'i a me Ka Haku o nā haku, Ka Mea Nāna i hana i ka lani a me ka honua a 'ike i nā mea a pau, hāpai mākou i ka leo ho'omaika'i, mililani a hosana i Kou inoa hanohano no Kou aloha a me Kou lokomaika'i.

E Ka Mākua Lani, calm our hearts in the busyness of this holiday season long enough to recognize that You are in control over everything that concerns us. Help us to be confident in Your faithfulness shining brightly in our darkest moments.

We rejoice in Your plans for those who love you because we know that You loved us first. Ho'onani mākou iā 'Oe ma ka inoa o Kāu Keiki hiwahiwa 'o lesū Kristo, ko mākou Ho'ōla!

'Āmene

Keiki Activity

Ask your kūpuna or mākua about a far and distant place that they have visited and their experiences (good and bad) traveling far away from Hawai‘i.

- Find and read an article online or a book together with your ‘ohana about Timoteo Ha‘alilio or Kamehameha III or any other Hawaiian patriot or history-maker.
- Make a list or a collage of all the things, people and memories that bring you joy and comfort whenever you may feel unhappy or afraid.

Ka Wikīo Hīmeni / Video Hymn

Aloha Kalikimaka a me ka Hau’oli Makahiki Hou iā kākou a pau. May you find ka maluhia, ka mana’olana, ka ‘oli’oli a me ke aloha resounding sweetly in the voices of the senior kāne and wāhine of the Kamehameha Schools Kapālama Concert Glee Club, directed by Kumu Zachary Lum and ‘Anakē Kalua Tataipu, singing a familiar Christmas hymn and musical blessing, “Pōmaika‘i Wale Ko Ke Ao” (Joy To The World), the oldest Hawaiian Christmas hymn first translated by Hiram Bingham.

“Pōmaika‘i Wale Ko Ke Ao” – Joy to the World

Composed by Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Hawaiian translation by Rev. Hiram Bingham

(1789-1869)

Pō maika‘i wale ko ke ao	Joy to the world the Lord is come
Ua hiki mai ke Ali‘i	Let earth receive her King
E moe e nā ‘āina a pau	Let every heart prepare Him room
E malu nui mai	And heaven and nature sing
E malu nui mai	And heaven and nature sing
E malu, malu nui mai	And heaven and heaven and nature sing.