



KA PULE 'ELUA O KA HIKINA

THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

“E Ho'omākaukau 'Oukou I Alanui No Iēhova – Prepare the Way of the Lord”

By KS Maui Kahu Kalani Wong

It's the holiday season. A great time for parties and getting together with family and friends. My wife and I tend to keep our home pretty clean but if we were to have friends over, there's a whole other level of clean.

We'll go through a whole container of wet wipes and several Swiffer pads to be able to pass the white glove test. Since it's Christmas, all the decorations need to come out to create a festive mood. Of course, you gotta have food and it can't be just chips and canned dip. So much goes into preparing for guests coming over.

What if that guest were an ali'i? What more would you do? This is also the season of Makahiki. It was a time when a truce was called and all warring ceased. It was a time for the ali'i to visit his people. On Maui, King Pi'ilani built a trail that stretched around the entire island so he could easily make his way around on his annual visit. Folks would hurry before him clearing the path of any obstacles and filling in any holes so the mō'ī's journey would be smooth.

The maka'āinana made a variety of preparations to welcome the ali'i to their ahupua'a and to ho'okupu (offer) their tributes. In various places the edges of the ponds were

decorated so that when the ali'i drink, the petals of the 'ōhi'a lehua would tickle their faces. They would decorate nā hale with fragrant vines such as maile to scent the air. The people would kālua the pua'a and chew the 'awa so that when the ali'i arrived all is ready on time and there was little to no waiting. Even nature played a role in greeting ke ali'i. As one approached Wai'ehu, ka makani kili o'opu carried the scent of broiled fish, a favorite of the mō'i. Or in Kaimū, Puna, people would bend down the niu so that they seem to be bowing down in honor of the ali'i. Much went on to prepare for the coming of the ali'i.

Heluhelu Baibala / Scripture Reading

In Isaiah 40:3-5, the prophet Isaiah tells of the preparation needed for the coming of Ke Ali'i o Nā Ali'i:

Ka leo o ka mea e kala ana, ma ka wao nahele,
E ho'omākaukau 'oukou i alanui no lēhova,
E ho'opololei ho'i ma ka wao akua,
I kuamo'o no ko kākou Akua.

E ho'opiha 'ia ana nā awāwa a pau,
A e ho'oha'aha'a 'ia ana nā mauna a pau, a me nā pu'u;
E lilo nō ka mea keke'e i pololei,
A me kahi pu'upu'u i laumania.

E hō'ike 'ia mai nō ka nani o lēhova,
A e 'ike pū aku nō nā kānaka a pau;
No ka mea, na ka waha o lēhova i 'ōlelo mai.

A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Mana’o / Thoughts

In preparation for the coming of Ke Ali’i o Nā Ali’i, the way would be made clear. Roads in those days followed the trade routes, weaving from city to city. The voice calls us to make the way straight for Ke Ali’i. Forget the turns and the twists. Go right through the desert. The valleys would be filled in and the mountains made low. Nothing would impede His coming.

The season of Advent marks the coming of Jesus, Ke Ali’i o Nā Ali’i. The birth of the Christ-child, Emmanuel, means God is with us. Yet do we live as if God is with us? What road blocks do we put up to keep Ke Akua from being in our midst? Within the last several weeks, I’m sure we put a lot of effort into making a list of all those we need to get gifts for, researching the best gift for each person, checking out the ads, maybe even parking ourselves on the couch shopping online, waiting for the lightning deal to go live.

Are we missing out the true meaning of Christmas? In the midst of your party or gift giving preparations, take time for your heart preparation. Clear the pathway to your mind daily to see the gift of life in Christ that we have been given. Start off each day by waking up ten minutes earlier and spend that time in prayer asking Ke Akua to open your eyes so you might see His presence around you. During the day, share the gift of Iesu Kristō with others in real and genuine ways. When you lay down to sleep, say a prayer thanking Ke Akua Manaloa for His watchful presence over you.

Make a way in the wilderness for the coming of the Lord, let the valleys be filled and the mountains made low. Let Ke Akua rule in your lives so you might see Emmanuel, God with us.

Pule / Prayer

E pule kākou. Forgive us E Ke Akua when we clutter our lives with stuff that keep you second. Help us to pause to know that without your love and grace, we would not have the life that is ours today and the life to come. Let us find a way to use each moment to make your love known to those in our midst so they may know that you are Emmanuel. Ma ka inoa o Iesū Kristo, 'Āmene.

Keiki Activity

Help your 'ohana to remember what Christmas is really about. Make your own nativity scene with baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the animals, and angels. You can even include the shepherds and wise men. Have your parent search online for "nativity cutouts to print". Color in the different people and animals. Be sure an adult helps you as you cut out the shapes and glue them together. Set this nativity scene up in your home where everyone can see it each day. Around the dinner table, share about one special thing that God did for you that day. Remember to thank Ke Akua for that special moment.

Ka Wikīo Hīmeni / Video Hymn

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Chase Fevella, KSM '19, brings his own touch to the traditional hīmeni "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". Use this as a background each morning to pule as you offer up the day as an offering to Ke Akua, that you might share his aloha with those you meet. Use it as a background in the evening as you offer a pule mahalo for the way that you have been blessed because Ke Akua was with you throughout the day.