



*The Episcopal Church
of West Oahu*



"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord-- the King of Israel!"

Aloha to The Episcopal Church of West Oahu

It is a true privilege to address you all as we begin Holy Week this year. It is a sacred time for all Christians, a time of prayer and reflection. The events we commemorate complete the transition from Old Covenant to New Covenant. I hope to see each of you at the services planned throughout the week.

Seasons and changes continue for us as a region and as individuals. This past week I received a call to serve as Rector of Ascension Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas. While it was not easy decision, after prayerful consideration I accepted this call.

The region has made tremendous progress over the last year and a half. I have been blessed by your grace and trust as we established a new entity and a new way of doing ministry together. I have learned a great deal while serving among you. The commitment demonstrated from members at large and from the leadership has helped cultivate relationships across the region and helped me to develop as a priest.

My leaving does not undo our progress. The shared ministry was never about "Paul". In the coming weeks some of you may feel as though you have been wandering in the desert, as the Israelites followed Moses. This wandering serves a purpose. The desert was a place where the Israelites changed their understanding of life and relationship to God before they entered the Promised Land. The sense of wandering now may help the region complete the transition of an old "one-priest one-church" model, into a "team ministry" model. The structure and staff remain in place as the region begins a search for a Regional Dean.

The future of the region is bright. As I complete my time with you I look forward to our continued prayer and worship together. I hope that Holy Week will afford us the time and space to prayerfully consider the transition. I know we will continue to share joy and sorrow with one another as our relationship continues, even as I complete my time as your Priest.

You will hear from your Bishop's Committee and the Regional Council in the coming weeks, as you plan your next steps as a community of faith. The staff and leadership have already begun plans for a farewell event on Sunday May 3rd. My first Sunday at Ascension will be on May 10th, while the timing feels sudden it is in part due to the upcoming Bishop Election in the Diocese of Dallas. My family will remain on island through the school year, I hope you will keep me and my family in your prayers during this transition, as you remain in ours.

May God's love and grace overwhelm you this day. May this Holy Week afford you space and time to engage with God's word and with our brothers and sisters of faith. May God's Holy Spirit guide you this Easter Season, that our ministry together may grow and flourish in the days ahead.

God's Blessing be with you today and always,

Fr. Paul