



# The Shepherds' Play

a Medieval Passion Play of the Nativity

Come one, come all, once again, to enjoy this family-friendly, reverent, comedic, authentic musical theater experience!

~~~ Free Admission ~ A Holiday Gift to the Community ~~~

**Sunday December 17th 6:00 pm**  
(Choir begins at 5:30 pm)  
Church of the Pacific  
Princeville

**Saturday, December 23rd 6:00 pm**  
in the sanctuary of  
Christ Memorial Episcopal Church  
Kilauea

The Shepherd's Play, a nativity play, along with two other related plays, was discovered by a professor in a community called Oberufer in Austria, on an island in the Danube river in the late 1800s. The plays had been performed in taverns by the townspeople for centuries. In fall, when the harvest was in, the players were chosen regardless of religious affiliation or status, and received their parts from an esteemed farmer who would direct the plays for years, and then pass this honorable responsibility on to his son. The songs and words were passed on by word of mouth for generations.

Charmed by the rustic quality of these plays, the professor shared them with one of his students, the late great philosopher and educator Rudolf Steiner.

In 1910 the first revived performance took place in Berlin, Germany.

From then on, these plays have become part of the Christmas time tradition for many Waldorf Schools, which Steiner founded in 1919, and performed all over the world. They were first translated by Cecil Harwood, from England, who tried to keep intact the medieval way of speaking—the simple beauty of expression, much of it in rhyme.

The Shepherd's Play was first performed on Kaua'i in the late 1980s, after the founding of the Kilauea Waldorf School, by teachers who brought them as a gift to their students. Now, parents and former Waldorf School students continue the tradition as a gift to the community at Christmastime, as they have done for decades.