

Fourth Sunday of Advent



WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS

Dec 20, 2020 | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

Today's hashtags are: #EdenUCC #BendtheCurve

Eden United Church of Christ is an **LGBTQIA+ Open & Affirming** and a **Sanctuary** congregation.

We believe that all people are children of God; that persons of all ages, races and sexual orientations are part of our increasingly diverse culture. We welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of this church. *Creemos que todas las personas son hijas e hijos de Dios; que personas de todas las edades, razas y orientaciones sexuales son parte de nuestra cultura diversa. Damos la bienvenida a todas las personas al ministerio de esta iglesia.*

Children's bulletins are available from the ushers and nursery care is available during worship. We encourage the posting of worship to social media, just kindly mute devices. Thank you for not bringing food or beverages into the Sanctuary other than sacramental elements or water.



21455 Birch St, Hayward, CA
Corner of Birch & Grove
(510) 582-9533

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

The “+” indicates times when we are invited to stand, in body or spirit, as we are able.

**OPENING MUSIC | Adeste Fideles (O Come, All You Faithful) |
18th Century English Melody**

WELCOME & UPDATE | Rev. Pepper Swanson

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE | Amy & Rachel Rios-Richardson

BIBLE READING | [Isaiah 7:10-16](#) | [[Español](#)] | Jessie Shimmin

MESSAGE | “Give Us a Sign” | Rev. Dr. Arlene Nehring

HYMN | Joy to the World | No. 132 (v.1) | Rob Parrish

OUR PRAYERS | Joys & Concerns | Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser

Submit your prayers digitally to the clergy. Digital prayer requests are sent directly to the pastors and remain confidential. You may also share your prayer requests with others during our Fellowship time at 11 am.

JESUS’ PRAYER | Unison

Our God, in whom is heaven, blessed be your name. Your presence come, your will be done, both here and everywhere. May your realm of peace and freedom sustain our hopes and come on earth. May we be fed today with the bread that we need, and may forgiveness be ours in the same measure we give. In times of temptation, strengthen us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

[ONLINE OFFERING](#) | Jessie



OFFERTORY | Mary, Did You Know? | Mark Lowry

BLESSING | Pastor Arlene

CLOSING MUSIC | Alfred Burt Carol Medley | arr. Mark Hayes

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister

Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister & Video Editor

Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser, Designated Term Associate Minister

Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Organist & Music Director
Jessie Shimmin, Liturgist

UPCOMING EVENTS

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship: On Christmas Eve, we will worship **online** in keeping with the needs of our times. We invite you to join us in our celebration of Christ's birth and the glory of God's light in the darkness with our traditional Lessons (the reading of the Christmas story from Matthew and Luke) and Carols service. Special organ prelude and guitar music by Jesse Acker-Johnson. Links to the service will be emailed to All Members and to our e-chimes list by 7 pm on Christmas Eve.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Celebration of Holy Communion: Join Pastor Arlene & Stephanie Spencer live online from the Eden Church Sanctuary for a Bi-lingual (English-Spanish) Candlelight Christmas Eve Celebration of Holy Communion. Bring elements from your kitchen that you have on hand, such as juice, wine, water, tortillas, bread, soda crackers, or rice chips, and trust that God will be glorified and the people will be fed. We'll begin with the lighting of the Christ candle in the Advent wreath, recite the Eden eucharistic liturgy, say prayers, receive a blessing, and light candles in each of our homes. Links to the service will be emailed to All Members and to our e-chimes list by 7 pm on Christmas Eve.

Epiphany/Tres Reyes Magos Worship & Fiesta: Since the unfurling of the pandemic in the Bay Area, Eden Church leaders have resolved to adhere to the Public Health Orders issued by our local officials. Plans for Tres Reyes are being made based on the Dec 4, 2020 PHO. If that order changes, plans may need to be adjusted. With that proviso, the current plan is as follows:

- ★ **Tres Reyes Online Worship**, Pastor Marvin preaching with special guest appearances, Sunday, Jan 3, 2021. Links to the service will be emailed to All Members and to our e-chimes list the previous evening.
- ★ **Tres Reyes Online Celebration of Holy Communion**, Pastor Arlene presiding, Sunday, Jan 3, 2021, 11 am. Links to the eucharistic celebration will be emailed to All Members and to our e-chimes list the previous evening.
- ★ **Tres Reyes Drive-Thru (and Walk-Up) Fiesta**, Oliver Hall Parking Lot, Sunday, Jan 3, 2021, 12-2 pm. Traditional Mexican New Year's Food will be served in accordance with county public health and environmental health guidelines. Small gifts, sweets, and public health information will be shared with each family that participates.

Christmas Offering: The Stewardship Committee, chaired by Keith Smith, invites you to contribute financially to our annual Christmas Offering, which benefits Eden Church's operating fund. Your special offering to Eden Church will support our Church's need for heating, cooling, security & fire protection, insurance, and cleaning as well as the many traditional ministries of Eden Church, including our weekly worship, music, Church School, and fellowship. This year, we will receive your Christmas offering via our online giving portal found [here](#) or by mail to the Church Office on the Fourth Sunday in Advent, Dec 20, on Christmas Eve, and on the First Sunday After Christmas Day, Dec 27.

ANNOUNCEMENTS —Ongoing Events

New Eden UCC Logo Apparel Store: Looking for the perfect polo, vest, or jacket to wear as you volunteer or participate in outreach events for Eden Church? How about replacing that broken coffee cup? Or buying a gift for a hard-working employee? Look no further than Eden's new [Lands End business storefront](#) where you can select your item, in your size, in your color, and apply either a dark or light rainbow logo. To get started click this [link](#). If you have questions, contact [Pastor Pepper](#).

COVID-19 Testing @ Eden: Walk-Up testing ended Dec. 12. New Drive-Thru Testing in the Oliver Hall parking lot for teens and adults will be conducted M, T, Th, F, Sat. Click [here](#) to make an appointment.

Music Weekly Online on Fridays at 3 pm - BRING YOUR VOICE & FEEL THE SPIRIT! Music offers great comfort and spiritual support in times good and bad. Starting September 18th, Eden UCC is offering online music meetings every Friday at 3 pm (3 to 4), led by Music Director Dr. Jessie Lo. There will be a voice warm up, hymn sing, a variety of song selections, and a music Q&A. Participants have the option of joining the music meetings with or without participating in the monthly recorded Anthem musical offering. Everyone - all levels & all ages - is invited to join! Please email the Music Director, Dr. Jessie Lo, at jessie@edenucc.com to get the Zoom link and the music materials required for the music meeting.

Children's Storytime: Please join us online at 10:15 am on Sunday, immediately prior to Fellowship for show & tell, a story about People in the Bible or a storybook touching on Christian themes, and Children's Prayers. Contact [Pastor Pepper](#) for more information.

Comida para Cherryland: Comida para Cherryland now serves the community as a drive-through distribution. Please consider a donation or forward this information to anyone who is looking for a way to help local residents in need of groceries. Since the COVID-19 crisis unfurled, participation in the Comida has expanded geographically and clients served has tripled, due to widespread unemployment and the closure of other area food pantries.

Seekers Book Club: The Seekers continue discussion of their new book, **Wilding: The Return of Nature to British Farm** by Isabel Tree on Wed, Nov 11.

Cherryland Computer Café Hours: **Physical location CLOSED until otherwise noted**, but persons may schedule online tutoring help via the [Facebook page](#) or by contacting CCC Director, [Denise Cuevas](#). Due to the impact of the pandemic on our community's educational life, the CCC will **remain virtually OPEN** throughout the winter break to continue to help students catch up and remain on track with their classes, and to assist residents in Unincorporated Alameda County apply for rent relief.

Church Center: Church Center is our centralized member and community tool for digital connection. If you have been checked into any event or service, you've already been using it. It's only a click away on our new websites home page and is available for download from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#). Register with your mobile number, and request to join the groups that you are already a part of or that you would like to be a part of. We are using this app for communications, check-ins, groups, forms, volunteer management, payments, etc. See Pastor Marvin for more details.

Eden UCC Mobile Alerts: Be in the know wherever you go! Text “**EdenUCC**” to **33222** to opt into our text message service so that you can stay informed of important happenings as they occur on our campus and in our ministry together.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS — Opportunities to Give or Serve

Remember to Use the Dropdown Fund Selector: A quick reminder that when you make a digital gift through Planning Center, either online or through the app, use the drop down menu to select your fund designation for your gift. For those who pledge, please use the fund called My Pledge. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Associate Treasurer Jan Bass at jan@sebastian9.com.

“My Giving” in Planning Center: Your contributions to Eden UCC and its many ministries are much appreciated. You may access your giving record in the “My Giving” section of your Church Center App. If you have any questions about using Church Center for digital giving or about viewing your giving history, please contact our Associate Treasurer [Jan Bass](#).

Donations are being accepted for the Deacon’s Fund “COVID-19 Relief.” To make a tax deductible, secure, online donation click [here](#) and choose “COVID-19 Relief” in the drop down menu. Other forms of payment may be mailed to Eden United Church of Christ, 21455 Birch Street, Hayward, CA, 94541. Please make checks payable to “Eden United Church of Christ” and write “COVID-19 Relief” in the memo line. These costs are solely supported by donations from members and friends (not the church’s annual budget).

ANNOUNCEMENTS —Services Available in Our Community

Meals For Seniors -- Delivered: If you are 60+ you have access to the “senior meal program” which delivers meals, cheese, milk, eggs and fresh fruit, so that you do not need to leave your home to buy food. In Alameda County call: 510-577-3530. Ask for the “senior meal program” They will return your call to verify your age. Volunteers leave the food at your door. For more information, see their website by clicking [here](#).

SOS Meals on Wheels is offering free home delivered meals to all seniors in the Oakland and Central County areas. The Home-Delivered Meals Program provides nutritious meals, nutrition education, nutrition risk screening and nutrition counseling. Participant contributions are welcome, *but not required.* Call the SOS Meals on Wheels Site Contact: Charline Deterline at 510-582-1263 or email tara@sosmow.org

JOYS

Our annual Christmas Pageant is amazing! Many thanks for acting, singing, creating, video-taping, and being the best cast & crew go to all the Storytime Children, the Johnson-Lo Family, the Malloy Family, the Vetrovec Family, the Johnson-Jonsue Family, the Honerkamp-Shimmin Family, the Smith-Wilkinson Family, the Choir, Pat Payne, Bob Turner, Julie Booher, Suzie Hasselkuss, and Jan Bass.

Daniella Prym is all moved in at Baywood Court!

Congratulations to **Carlos Londoño**, who received a "Hidden Heroes 2020" recognition, as one of 10 Colombians throughout the US who has helped Colombia, and the Colombian and Latino communities in the US this past year. The recognition will be broadcast live on Facebook from the Colombian Embassy in Washington, DC.

For **Linda Sheppard** is home recovering from heart valve replacement surgery and the insertion of two new stents and has a great support system in place.

Congratulations to our compañera, **Juliana Tejada**, who was recognized earlier this month by the Alameda County Board of Education for providing 1000 COVID-19 masks for the Cherryland Elementary School community.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For all of our **Contact Tracers** who are contacting community members testing positive for COVID-19, assisting them with Isolation and Quarantine protocols and local resources.

For families in need of **affordable housing**. If you have a lead on a room, an apartment, or a house to rent, please contact Pastor Arlene.

For our **children and youth** as they adapt to new learning environments and especially for our high school and college seniors as they contemplate their next steps.

For **Kay Crosby**, who is living with several health challenges.

For **Deivy Flores' parents**, who evacuated from their home when hurricane Eta hit landfall, have been reunited in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and hope to begin recovery work soon.

For **Betty Livesy**, who is rehabbing in the skilled nursing at Stoneridge Creek in Pleasanton. Please reach out to Dan or Pastor Arlene if you need temporary contact information for Betty.

For **Charlie Smith**, who is rehabbing at Windsor Post Acute Care Center in Hayward for the next couple of weeks. The current plan is that he will be returning home tomorrow, Monday.

For our **first responders, health care workers, households in quarantine, and all other essential personnel** including those delivering groceries to homebound residents and teaching children online.

For our **homebound members and friends**.

For **leaders in our communities**, both local and national, to lead with integrity, siding with the most vulnerable.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, Dec 20 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00—10:45 am Worship | Online
10:30 — 11:00 am Children's Storytime | Online
11:00 — 12 noon Fellowship | Online

Monday, Dec 21

1:00 — 2:00 pm English Language Bible Study | Online
1:00 — 6:00 pm COVID-19 Testing | Oliver Hall Parking Lot
4:00 — 7:00 pm Cherryland Computer Café | Online

Tuesday, Dec 22

10:00 — 12:00 pm Eden Crafters | Online
1:00 — 6:00 pm COVID-19 Testing | Oliver Hall Parking Lot
4:00 — 7:00 pm Cherryland Computer Café | Online

Wednesday, Dec 23

1:30 — 4:00 pm Comida para Cherryland | Oliver Hall Parking Lot
1:30 — 4:00 pm Cherryland Computer Café | Online

Thursday, Dec 24

1:00 — 6:00 pm COVID-19 Testing | Oliver Hall Parking Lot
7:00 — 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship | Online

Friday, Dec 25 — Christmas Day — Eden Church Holiday — Offices Closed

Sunday, Dec 27

10:00—10:45 am Worship | Online
10:30 — 11:00 am Children's Storytime | Online

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Dec 23 Comida para Cherryland
Dec 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Dec 25 Christmas Day | Church Office Closed
Dec 28 Christmas Holiday | Church Campus & Office Closed
Jan 1 New Year's Day | Church Office Closed
Jan 3 Tres Reyes Magos Worship, Fellowship &
 Drive-Thru Fiesta



MISSION, VISION, & VALUES | What We Believe

MISSION STATEMENT | What are we about here and now?

The members of Eden Church worship God and strive to follow Christ's example by providing a welcoming and safe environment for all, seeking God's wisdom, growing spiritually, caring for each other, enriching our neighborhood, and sharing the good news of God's creative and unfolding work in the world.



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VISION STATEMENT | What do we want to become in the next 3 to 5 years?

The vision of Eden Church is to grow in spirit, fellowship, and number by offering many opportunities for spiritual growth; by becoming a more culturally diverse congregation; by strengthening our capacity to serve our neighbors, by caring for each other as Christ cares for us; by inviting others to be a part of our community of faith; and by working to transform individual lives and our community through the power of God's love in human action.

VALUES STATEMENTS | What are the ideals and behaviors that we need to express to fulfill our mission and realize our vision?

In order to fulfill our mission and realize our vision, Eden Church strives to embrace and express the following core values:

- Worship and spiritual practices that are both traditional and contemporary
- Religious education and spiritual practices that are grounded in a progressive theology
- Caring relationships that honor differences and foster unity and growth
- Enriching experiences for children and youth in our church and community
- Programs and partnerships that serve those in need while addressing the root causes of social problems
- Being a true sanctuary that nurtures and protects all participants, especially the most vulnerable among us

OFFICERS

Jana Aloo | Moderator
Jennifer Vetrovec | Vice Moderator
Rev. Robert Parrish | Treasurer
Jan Bass | Associate Treasurer
Kim Shuss | Clerk

OFFICE HOURS

Monday -- Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm
(After hours, please call for appointment)
Phone: 510-582-9533
Fax: 510-200-9635
Email: office@edenucc.com
Website: www.edenucc.com