

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



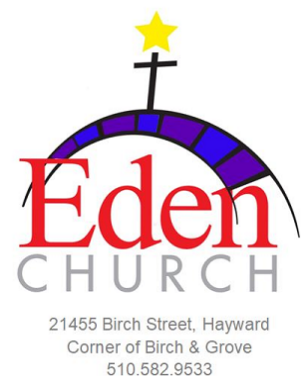
WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS

Dec 18, 2022 | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

Eden United Church of Christ is an **LGBTQ 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.



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OPENING MUSIC | O Tannenbaum by Vince Guaraldi | Jessie Lo

WELCOME | Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE | Jessica, Jacqui, & Audrey Tucker Figueroa

OPENING PRAYER | Pastor Arlene

HYMN | Come, O Long-Expected Jesus | NCH No. 122 | All Verses

BIBLE READING | [Luke 2:1-7](#) | [Español](#) | Keith Smith

CAROL | O Little Town of Bethlehem | NCH No. 124 | All Verses

PAGEANT | “Just a Little Christmas” by Sharon Kay Chatwell | Children & Youth¹

SONG | “Yo Tengo Gozo, Gozo, Gozo” (“I’ve Got Joy, Joy, Joy”)

JOYS & CONCERNS | Pastoral Prayer | Rev. Dr. Marvin Wiser

JESUS’ PRAYER

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.

**CHOIR ANTHEM | And The Glory Of The Lord *from* “Messiah” | G. F. Handel
| Eden Church Choir and Friends**

OFFERING INVITATION & PRAYER | Keith Smith

OFFERTORY | Mary, Did You Know? | Mark Lowry and Buddy Green/Arr. Jack Schrader | Jessie Lo



¹ 2009, Sharon Kay Chatwell Sunday School Center www.SundaySchoolCenter.com

BLESSING | Pastor Pepper

CLOSING SONG | Ding, Dong, Merrily On High | 16th Century French Melody/Arr. Marilynn Ham | Jessie Lo

GO IN PEACE

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister

Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister

Rev. Dr. Marvin Lance Wiser, Designated Term Associate Minister

Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Pianist, Organist

Ken Rawdon, Music Director

Keith Smith, Liturgist

The Tucker Figueroa Family, Advent Candle Lighting

Jessie Shimmin, Greeter-Ushers

John Honerkamp, Trustee on Duty

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please take a moment after worship to sign the **Christmas cards** for our members and friends who are unable to worship with us. This is a special ministry of the church which is much appreciated by those who receive the cards. **TODAY** is the last day to sign!*

***Christmas Pageant and Happy Birthday, Jesus!:** **TODAY** the Eden Church children and youth will present an in-person Christmas Pageant for the first time since Dec 2019! We'll celebrate the return of the Pageant with our traditional Happy Birthday, Jesus celebration after worship with hot soup, birthday cupcakes, and a round of congratulations for our cast.*

*In addition, the Estudio Bíblico will be offering **Tamales to go TODAY** from 11 am - 12 pm in exchange for a free-will donation to help support Eden Church and Estudio Bíblico member Vicente Flores' funeral expenses.*

*This year, you are invited to make a **Happy Birthday gift of diapers** in honor of baby Jesus. You can bring a box of diapers to Church or you can use our online giving portal to make a donation to our "**Happy Birthday Jesus - Diapers**" fund. All diapers donated or purchased with donations will be distributed at Comida para Cherryland. Diaper sizes 5 and 6 are especially needed.*

***Estate Planning:** Eden's Planned Giving Committee is pleased to provide "**Your Estate Planning Record**" to help you get started. We also encourage you to*

consider including Eden Church and the EAF in your estate plans. As always, be sure to consult your tax or financial planner to determine the best options for your particular financial situation and goals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS — Ongoing Events

Our Time to Shine! Window Replacement Campaign: Last Sunday at the Semi-Annual Meeting, the Congregation unanimously approved the launch of a \$100,000 capital campaign to replace the 73-year old opaque windows in the Sanctuary. Thanks to the leadership we have already collected **\$65,650** in pledges and gifts. Additional pledges are needed to reach, and ideally exceed the goal, by **Dec 15, 2022** so that the process of ordering the custom built windows can begin as soon as possible. Pledge forms are included in today's bulletin. Or click [here](#) to access a fillable pdf. Pledge forms are confidential and should be returned to [Jan Bass](#).

Spring Fiesta Planning: Are you interested in contributing your time and talent to help raise funds for the replacement of the opaque Sanctuary windows? Eden's Stewardship Committee and our Compañeras leaders are sponsoring a Spring Fiesta on **Saturday, Mar 18** and need volunteers to plan, organize, and work the festival. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [Pastor Pepper](#) or [Pastor Marvin](#).

Festival de Primavera: ¿Está interesado en contribuir con su tiempo y talento para ayudar a recaudar fondos para el reemplazo de las ventanas del Santuario? El Comité de Administración de Edén y líderes de compañeras está patrocinando un Festival de Primavera **en sábado, el 18 de marzo** y necesita voluntarios para planificar, organizar y trabajar en el festival. Si está interesado en ser voluntario, comuníquese con [Pastor Pepper](#) o [Pastor Marvin](#).

Eden Church Choir Rehearsal each Sunday: Come join us! 11:00 am in the Music Room.

English Language Bible Study: The Daytime group meets every Thursday at 10:30 am and the Evening group meets every Monday at 8 pm. Both groups are on a Christmas break until the week of Jan 23. Contact [Pastor Pepper](#) for more info.

Estudio Biblico: Our Bible Study in Spanish is held every Thursday at 6 pm. To join, send an email to [Pastor Marvin](#). We are exploring the book of Esther.

Seekers Book Club: We are currently reading, "The End of Bias: A Beginning: The Science and Practice of Overcoming Unconscious Bias." Join us on Wednesdays at 10:30 am on Zoom. Email [Pastor Pepper](#) for information.

COVID-19 Testing at 20095 Mission Blvd remains open. To make an appointment, click [here](#).

Sanctuary & Accompaniment Appeal: Newcomers to the US face numerous challenges. Paramount among them is the challenge of finding affordable housing. If you know a landlord who is able to rent a room or an apartment at an affordable price, please speak with one of our pastors. If you are able to fund a night of lodging or subsidize rent for a family whose members are not yet eligible for a work permit, please use the QR code to make a digital gift, or deliver your offering to the church office. (Please reference the Sanctuary / Accompaniment Ministry in the online, drop-down menu, or the memo of your check.) If you are able to help with a fundraiser, please email yuliana@edenucc.com. And pray without ceasing for the healing of the nations and a safe and sound home for every child of God.

Comida para Cherryland: Digital donations can be made online using [our giving portal](#). Please use the dropdown to select "Comida para Cherryland." Checks can be made payable to Eden United Church of Christ. Please be sure to note the donation is for "Comida para Cherryland" and mail to the Church's address, 21455 Birch Street, Hayward, CA 94541.

Church Center: Church Center is our centralized member and community tool for digital connection. It's available for download from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#). Register with your mobile number, and request to join the small groups. See Pastor Marvin for more details.

JOYS

Our \$100,000 "Our Time to Shine!" Capital Campaign was unanimously approved last Sunday. To date, **\$66,250** in pledges have been received.

[Our COVID Story](#) of community resiliency is now a published page on our website. Please read and reflect during this season of remembering and thanksgiving.

Franklin Lopez, an asylum-seeker from Columbia, for whom we raised funds for legal aid, just received notice that his I-589 has been lodged, and that he will be eligible for a temporary green card in April 2023. Many thanks to all who contributed prayers and funds!

The **Eden Crafters** raised an additional \$500 for Comida para Cherryland at their most recent auction of handmade items, bringing their total for this fall to over \$1,500.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to **the Mario Lopez Family Fundraiser** (Nicaraguan Take-Out) last Sunday! Together with the family we raised **\$825** toward this asylum-seeking family's first and last month's rental deposit.

Between Mar 16, 2021 and Nov 28, 2022, Eden UCC and Padres Unidos de Cherryland's ERAP Teams have processed 2,278 rent relief applications, which has resulted in the awarding of **\$22,607,267.74** in **rent relief** for **1,575** tenants and **1,575** landlords.

Thanks to our good friends, **Julie Greenfield** and **the Turney family**, our newest family in the accompaniment program, **the López-Ochoa family**, has had a roof over their heads, nutritious food to eat, and a hospitable home base from which to pursue their asylum cases.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Countless families in our county are 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 **Afghan Refugees**, who are moving into our community and country, and for the many thousands left behind who are living under the oppression of the Taliban.

For **Ruth and Mike Baratta's 2-year old grandson Jack** who is ill with RSV.

For Pat Payne's brother **George Clifford** who is undergoing chemotherapy.

For the family and friends of **Vicente Flores**, who died on Monday afternoon, Nov 28, 2022 at Highland Hospital. Visitation and funeral will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward 9am-12pm Monday, **Dec 19, 2022**.

For **Mel Lewis**, and his wife, **Lynn Albert-Lewis**. Mel is recovering from surgery and outpatient cancer treatments.

For **Charlotte Lusschen** who has been a patient in the ICU at Stanford University Hospital since Sep 20. Prayers, calls, and cards are also invited for her mother, **Janna Lusschen**, who is receiving respite care at Carlton Senior Living in San Leandro.

Jeannie, Tony, and Erica Schumann, who have all been experiencing health challenges. Cards and calls are welcome.

For **Allie & Bob Turner**, as Allie prepares to begin chemotherapy treatments.

For **Becky Wilson**, who suffered a broken kneecap on Oct 22, and who is on an estimated 9-month road to recovery.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, Dec 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 — 9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal Music Room
10:00 — 10:45 am	Worship & Christmas Pageant Sanctuary & Online
10:45 — 11:45 am	Happy Birthday, Jesus Celebration — Hot Soup & Cupcakes
11:00 — 11:45 am	Choir Rehearsal Music Room

Monday, Dec 19

Tuesday, Dec 20

Wednesday, Dec 21

10:30 — 11:30 pm	Seekers Book Club Online
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Thursday, Dec 22

6:00 — 7:00 pm	Estudio Biblico Online
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Saturday, Dec 24 — Christmas Eve

7:00 — 8:00 pm	Worship & Holy Communion Sanctuary & Online
8:00 — 8:45 pm	Sparkling Cider & Cookies Courtyard

Sunday, Dec 25 — Christmas Day

9:00 — 9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal Music Room
10:00 — 10:45 am	Worship Sanctuary & Online
10:45 — 11:00 am	Courtyard Conversations
11:00 — 11:45 am	Choir Rehearsal Music Room

COMING ATTRACTIONS

<i>Dec 24</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Worship & Holy Communion - Sparkling Cider & Xmas Cookies</i>
<i>Dec 25</i>	<i>Christmas Day Worship</i>
<i>Dec 26 & 27</i>	<i>Eden Campus Holiday — Campus is Closed</i>
<i>Jan 1</i>	<i>New Year's Day Worship</i>
<i>Jan 2</i>	<i>Eden Campus Holiday — Campus is Closed</i>
<i>Jan 8</i>	<i>Tres Reyes Magos Worship & Celebration</i>



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.



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

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

Jennifer Vetrovec | Moderator
Carlos Londoño | Vice Moderator
Rev. Robert Parrish | Treasurer
Jan Bass | Associate Treasurer
Jana Aloo | 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