

CHRISTMAS DAY



WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS

Dec 25, 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.



CHRISTMAS DAY | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

OPENING MUSIC | O Come All Ye Faithful | John Wade | Jessie Lo

WELCOME | Rev. Dr. Marvin Lance Wiser

OPENING PRAYER | Pastor Marvin

CAROL | Good Christian Friends, Rejoice | *NCH* No. 129 | All Verses

BIBLE READING | [Isaiah 52:7-10](#) | [Español](#) | Stephanie Spencer

CAROL | Joy to the World! | *NCH* No. 132 | All Verses

HOMILY | “Sentinels for Joy” | Rev. Pepper Swanson

CAROL | God Reigns o’er All the Earth | *NCH* No. 21 | All Verses

JOYS & CONCERNS | Pastoral Prayer | Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

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.

SOLOIST | Mary, Did You Know? | by Mark Lowry | Vanessa Bonner, Soloist

OFFERING INVITATION & PRAYER | Stephanie

**OFFERTORY | Born in the Night, Mary’s Child | Geoffrey Ainger
| Jessie Lo**

BLESSING | Pastor Pepper

CAROL | Who Would Think What Was Needed | *NCH* No. 153 All Verses

**POSTLUDE | ‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime | Huron Carol/16th century
French-Canadian Melody/Arr. Marilyn Ham | Jessie Lo**



GO IN PEACE

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister

Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister

Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser, Designated Term Associate Minister

Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Pianist, Organist

Ken Rawdon, Music Director

Stephanie Spencer, Liturgist

Alliene Turner, Greeter-Ushers

Daniella Prym & Bob Turner, Trustee on Duty

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Being inspired by the teachings in Matthew 3: 1-12, we each can prepare the way, make the path straight. We can both clear the way and lighten the load of others. Like "the voice crying out in the wilderness," we can trumpet the good news of God's love for all. Despite the pandemic, the generosity of the Eden Church community has prepared the way, aiding many in the Eden area. Programs such as our just-in-time food bank, La Comida para Cherryland, our COVID Health Education & Vaccination Clinics, and the Eden Area Scholarship Programs, all highlight just how committed we are to lightening the load of our neighbors.

Your special Christmas Offering this season will maintain the Church's heating and cooling, security and fire protection, cleaning and insurance, as well as traditional ministries such as English and Spanish Bible Studies, Children's' Sunday School, music and weekly worship. You may make your Christmas Offering via our online giving portal <https://edenucc.churchcenter.com/giving>, mail it directly to the Church Office, or place it in the Offering plate as you leave today. Thank you!

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

Please join us on New Year's Day for Sunday Worship. We will celebrate the New Year's with beautiful music, a sermon by Pastor Marvin, and Holy Communion. We hope you can join us at 10 am in the Sanctuary or online.

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 \$70,000 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](#).*

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.*

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, **\$70,000** 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 all to everyone who contributed to the Estudio Bíblico's Tamales-to-go fundraiser for funeral expenses for late member **Vicente Flores**. We raised **\$1,600** after the tamales expenses.*

*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 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 25 — Christmas Day

10:00 — 10:45 am Worship | Sanctuary & Online

10:45 — 11:00 am Courtyard Conversations

Monday, Dec 26 — Campus Closed

Tuesday, Dec 27 — Campus Closed

Wednesday, Dec 28

Thursday, Dec 29

Sunday, Jan 1

9:00 — 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal | Music Room

10:00 — 10:45 am Worship & Holy Communion | Sanctuary & Online

10:45 — 11:00 am Courtyard Conversations

Monday, Jan 2 — Campus Closed

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Jan 2 Eden Campus Holiday — Campus Closed

Jan 8 Tres Reyes Magos Celebration

Jan 16 MLK, Jr. Holiday — Campus Closed



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