

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY



WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS

Nov 26, 2023 | 10 am

Watch Live on [Facebook](#) or [Vimeo](#)

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.

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

OPENING MUSIC | “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” | Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo

WELCOME | Rev. Brenda Loreman

OPENING PRAYER | Pastor Brenda

OPENING HYMN | “Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us” | *NCH* No. 267 | V. 1-3

BIBLE READING | [Matthew 25:31-46](#) | [Español](#) | Mike Foster

SERMON | “Be the Sheep” | Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

SERMON HYMN | “Community of Christ” | *NCH* No. 314 | V. 1-4

JOYS & CONCERNS | PASTORAL PRAYER | Rev. Dr. Marvin Lance Wiser

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.

DUET | “If It Had Not Been the Lord” (Psalm 124) *from* “Songs of Ascent” | Shawn Kirchner | Jose Avalos and Seth Mijares

OFFERING INVITATION & PRAYER | Mike

OFFERTORY | “We Gather Together” | Kremser/Netherlands Folk Hymn | Jessie



BLESSING | Pastor Arlene

CLOSING SONG | “Now Thank We All Our God” | Johann Crüger | Jessie

GO IN PEACE

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Marvin Lance Wiser, Associate Minister

Rev. Brenda Loreman, Designated Term Associate Minister

Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Pianist, Organist

Ken Rawdon, Music Director

Mike Foster, Liturgist

Susie Newman, Greeter-Usher

Russ Newman, Trustee on Duty

FLOWER DEDICATION

For more info and to sign up to bring flowers for a specific Sunday, click the [link](#) to go to our Online Flower Calendar or call the Office at (510) 582-9533.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preparing Our Spirits for Advent: As Advent begins on Dec 3, we turn our attention to this season of preparation as we await again the birth of the Christ into the world. Advent can be filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gifts. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... our very presence. Our new worship series for the season of Advent and Christmas, "The Gift of Being Present," celebrates the idea that the best gift God ever gave us was the presence of the Divine in the person of Jesus... and that the best gift we can give the world is our presence in the places and to the people who need it most.

The worship team has prepared some suggestions for using the Advent season to reflect on the gift of presence. One is to use a guided journal throughout the season. **Special printed journals are available today** and throughout Dec on the lectern in the back of the sanctuary, and [can be downloaded and printed here](#). Another suggestion is to attend the virtual "Praying Through Advent" series offered by the United Church of Christ. This four-week prayer program brings current events into the Advent stories and provides a way to pray through them. The **series begins this Thursday, Nov 30**, at 12:30 pm PST. [Click here to learn more and register](#).

Pageant Rehearsals Begin Dec 3: All children whose families will be present in worship on **Dec 17** are invited to participate in our annual **Christmas Pageant**. Rehearsals will happen during Church School on Dec 3 & 10, and will be held upstairs in Pilgrim Hall (the former FESCO office). Reach out to [Pastor Brenda](#) for more information.

Online Craft Auction Preliminary Results: The Crafters' online auction ended on Nov 16. Thanks to your generous bidding and buying, we raised \$535 during the auction. Added to the \$290 made at our presale, we've exceeded our \$800 goal! We still have many unsold items, and will be offering them for sale **after worship on Dec 10**. If you purchased an item online, please write a check for the item and see [Pastor Brenda](#) or [Jan Bass](#) to pick up your items.

Remembering World AIDS Day: World AIDS Day is a global movement to unite people in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Since 1988, every **Dec 1**, communities have stood together to show strength and solidarity against HIV stigma and to remember lives lost. This year, the theme for World AIDS Day is "Let Communities Lead." To find out more about World AIDS Day, [click here](#), and to visit the UCC HIV & AIDS Network, [click here](#).

It's Time to Stay Protected: The CDC, CDPH, and ACPHD recommend that all persons 6 months and older receive the newly updated COVID-19 vaccine, just authorized last month. This new monovalent vaccine targets the more recent dominant circulating strains of Omicron, and will help boost our immunity that attenuates with time. If it has been more than two months since you received the previous (last year's bivalent or any previous) COVID-19 vaccine, you are eligible now. Contact your primary care provider for questions and appointments or contact our own vaccine navigation hotline numbers: (510) 214-2855 (English) or (510) 214-2256 (Español).

Texts & Contexts Bible Study: The "Bible & Migration" study series continues on Thursday nights through Dec 14, 6:00 pm in Spanish and 7:30 pm in English. For more info, [find the groups on our website](#), or connect with [Pastor Marvin](#).

Choir Rehearsals & Performances: Choir rehearsals continue on Sundays at 11:00 am, in the Music Room; the Eden Choir sings in worship two Sundays a month throughout the program year. For more information, [connect with our Music Director](#), Ken Rawdon.

Eden Crafters: The Crafters meet on Zoom at 9:30 am every Tuesday. Check us out in [Groups](#) on Church Center or contact [Pastor Brenda](#) for more information.

Seekers Book Club: The Seekers meet on Zoom every Wednesday at 10:00 am. We are currently reading [Overthrow](#) by Stephen Kinzer. Find us in [Groups](#) in Church Center, or contact [Pastor Brenda](#) for more information.

Please Wear Your Name Tag: Wearing a name tag is a good way to offer welcome and hospitality to new and returning worshippers. Many of the name tags of regular worshippers are hanging on the net at the entrance of the

sanctuary; if yours is missing, or you never had one in the first place, send an email to our office manager, marianne@edenucc.com, and request a replacement.

Sanctuary & Accompaniment Appeal: Newcomers to the US face many challenges, especially 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 a pastor. 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, email yuliana@edenucc.com.

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.

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.

Our Time to Shine! Window Replacement Campaign: Thanks to everyone's support we have now collected **over \$114,535** in pledges and gifts. If you haven't begun your pledge payments yet, we ask that you begin payment now, according to the preferences you indicated on your pledge form. The contractor for the work was awarded to Best Construction of Sacramento. The windows have been manufactured, and are ready for delivery and installation as soon as we receive our permit from AC Public Works. Pledge payments and new contributions can be made online using the dropdown menu on the church website, or by sending a check to the church, Attn: Jan Bass, made payable to Eden UCC. Haven't pledged yet but would like to contribute to the window campaign? Click [here](#) to access a fillable pdf windows pledge form. Pledge forms are confidential and should be returned to [Jan Bass](#).

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, Nov 26

10:00 — 10:45 am Worship | Sanctuary & Online
10:45 — 11:45 am Fellowship | Courtyard & Fireside
11:00 — 11:45 am Choir Rehearsal | Music Room

Tuesday, Nov 28

9:30 — 10:55 Crafters | Online

Wednesday, Nov 29

10:00 — 11:00 am Seekers | Online

Thursday, Nov 30

6:00 — 7:00 pm Estudio Biblico | Fireside & Online
7:30 — 8:30 pm Bible Study | Fireside & Online

Friday, Dec 1

9:00 — 11:00 am *Nacimiento* Construction | Narthex

Sunday, Dec 3

10:00 — 11:00 am Worship | Sanctuary & Online
10:15 — 11:00 am Church School | Pilgrim Hall (upstairs)
11:00 — 12 noon Fellowship | Courtyard & Fireside
11:00 — 11:45 am Choir Rehearsal | Music Room

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Dec 1 World AIDS Day
Dec 3 Sunday Worship & Holy Communion | First Sunday of Advent
Dec 10 Sunday Worship | Second Sunday of Advent
Dec 17 Sunday Worship & Pageant | Happy Birthday Jesus Party
Dec 24 Sunday Morning Worship | Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Dec 31 Sunday Worship | Bring your "Grands" to Church Sunday

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

Carlos Londoño | Moderator
Jana Aloo | Vice Moderator
Rev. Robert Parrish | Treasurer
Jan Bass | Associate Treasurer
Melissa Josue | Clerk

OFFICE HOURS

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