

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS**  
**DEC 3, 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.

# 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

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**OPENING MUSIC** | “O Come O Come Emmanuel” | 15th Century French Melody | Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP** | “Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light” | J.S. Bach | Eden Church Choir & Friends

**WELCOME** | Rev. Brenda Loreman

**A RITUAL FOR ADVENT** | Pastor Brenda | Eden Church Choir & Friends | The Johnson/Josue family

**OPENING HYMN** | “What Gift Can We Bring?” | *NCH* No. 370 | V. 1-4

**CHILDREN’S GATHERING** | Pastor Brenda | *Children may attend Church School after the gathering time*

**CHOIR ANTHEM** | “What Can I Give Him?” | Traditional Carol, arr. Mark Hayes | Eden Church Choir & Friends

**BIBLE READING** | [Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#) | [Español](#) | Jan Bass

**SERMON** | “Being Present with Hope” | Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

**SERMON HYMN** | “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” | *NCH* No. 131 | V. 1- 4

**OFFERING INVITATION & PRAYER** | Jan

**OFFERTORY** | “In The Bleak Midwinter” | Christina Rossetti/Gustav Holst | Jessie



**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** | Pastors & Deacons

**INVITATION**

**PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE**

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

**CHORAL COMMUNION ANTHEM** | “We Gather At Your Table, Lord” | Traditional Irish Melody, arr. Walter Ehret | Eden Church Choir & Friends

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING | Rev. Dr. Marvin Lance Wiser**

### **LORD'S PRAYER | *Unison* | Pastor Marvin**

*Our Father/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

*Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea Tu Nombre; venga Tu reino; hágase Tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy el pan de cada día y perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; y no nos dejes caer en tentación mas líbranos del mal. Amén.*

### **BLESSING | Pastor Arlene**

### **CHORAL BENEDICTION | Ding Dong Merrily on High | arr. Larry Shackley | Eden Church Choir & Friends**

### **CLOSING SONG | "Sing We the Song of Emmanuel" | Boswell/Papa/Townend/Getty/Arr. Mark Hayes | Jessie**

### **GO IN PEACE**

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#### **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*

*Jan Bass, Liturgist*

*Jana Aloo, Greeter*

*Daniella Prym, Trustee on Duty*

*Stephanie Spencer & Mike Foster, Deacons*

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### **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

**Holiday Cards:** 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 that is much appreciated by those who receive the cards. The cards will be available to sign in the breezeway behind the Sanctuary for three Sundays, starting today.

**Preparing Our Spirits for Advent:** As Advent begins today, we enter a 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, "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.

Throughout the Advent season, we encourage you to reflect on the gift of presence. Reflection journals for this purpose are available in the sanctuary or [can be downloaded and printed here](#). Another reflection opportunity is the virtual "Praying Through Advent" series offered by the United Church of Christ. [Click here to learn more and register](#).

**Pageant Rehearsals Begin Today:** 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). Children will begin worship with their families, and then leave for class during the opening hymn. Reach out to [Pastor Brenda](#) for more information.

**Craft Auction Continues:** We still have many unsold items from the craft auction, 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.

**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.

**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](mailto: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, Dec 3

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

### Tuesday, Dec 5

9:30 — 10:55 am        Crafters | Online  
7:00 — 9:00 pm         Trustees Meeting | Online

### Wednesday, Dec 6

10:00 — 11:00 am      Seekers | Online

### Thursday, Dec 7

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

### Saturday, Dec 9

3:30 — 4:30 pm         Bill Moremen Memorial | Online

### Sunday, Dec 10

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

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Dec 10      Sunday Worship | Second Sunday of Advent  
Dec 17      Sunday Worship & Pageant | Happy Birthday Jesus Party  
Dec 24      Sunday Morning Worship  
Dec 24      Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
Dec 31      Sunday Worship | Bring your “Grands” to Church Sunday  
Jan 6        Comida para Cherryland & Tres Reyes Celebration

# 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  
Fax: 510-200-9635  
Email: [office@edenucc.com](mailto:office@edenucc.com)  
Website: [www.edenucc.com](http://www.edenucc.com)