

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Gift of Being Present

An Advent/Christmas Worship Series

WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS
DEC 10, 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.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

OPENING MUSIC | “Do You Hear What I Hear?” | Noel Regney/Gloria Shayne/Arr. Mark Hayes | Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP | “O Holy Night” | arr. Tom FettkeL | Eden Church Choir & Friends

WELCOME | Rev. Brenda Loreman

A RITUAL FOR ADVENT | Pastor Brenda | Eden Church Choir & Friends | The Vivaldo family

OPENING HYMN | “Who Would Think That What Was Needed” | *NCH* No. 153 | v. 1-3 | *The children may leave for Church School during the hymn.*

CHOIR ANTHEM | “Let Carols Ring” | Swedish Folk Melody, arr. Charles Black | Eden Church Choir & Friends

BIBLE READING | [Isaiah 40:1-11](#) | [Español](#) | Sandra Nachand

SERMON | “Being Present with Peace” | Rev. Dr. Marvin Lance Wiser

SERMON HYMN | “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” | *NCH* No. 140 | v. 1-3

JOYS & CONCERNS | PASTORAL PRAYER | Pastor Arlene

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.

OFFERING INVITATION & PRAYER | Sandra

OFFERTORY | “Savior of The Nations, Come” | Plainsong Melody | Jessie



BLESSING | Pastor Marvin

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

**CLOSING SONG | “Let There Be Peace On Earth” | Sy Miller/Jill
Jackson-Miller/Arr. Mark Hayes | 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

Sandra Nachand, Liturgist

Stephanie Spencer, Greeter

Bob Turner, 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

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 through **Dec 17**.*

Excuse the Mess and Dust: *At long last, our sanctuary window replacement project is underway! Work will begin in the sanctuary on **Monday, Dec 11** and (hopefully) be completed within five days. We are deeply grateful for all the members and friends who contributed to the “Our Time to Shine” window replacement campaign, making this important sanctuary upgrade possible. 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](#).*

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 Continue: All children whose families will be present in worship on **Dec 17** are invited to participate in our annual **Christmas Pageant**. Rehearsals will continue during Church School **today**, 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.

Special Comida Distribution: Our second regularly-scheduled Comida distribution of December (27th) will be canceled. In its place we will have a very special Tres Reyes distribution Saturday **Jan 6** with toys and tamales. This event is sponsored by Las Compañeras and EUCC Community Resilience Programs. Contact [Pastor Marvin](#) if you would like to volunteer.

Craft Auction Continues: We still have many unsold items from the craft auction, and will be offering them for sale **after worship today**, in the Fireside Room. 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.

Baptism & Reception of New Members: We celebrate baptism with persons of every age from infants to elders, and we welcome into membership youth and adults who seek a deeper relationship with God in a caring community and a desire to make a difference in the lives of others. Please speak with one of the pastors if you desire baptism for yourself or a family member, or if you would like to become a member of Eden Church. We will receive new members next Sunday, **Dec 17**, during morning worship. We schedule baptisms in accordance with family needs and the church program.

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. On **Dec 14**, the English group is invited to meet in person at 6:30. 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.

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.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

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 noon Fellowship | Craft Sale | Courtyard & Fireside
11:00 — 11:45 am Choir Rehearsal | Music Room

Tuesday, Dec 12

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

Wednesday, Dec 13

10:00 — 11:00 am Seekers | Online
1:30 — 3:30 pm Comida para Cherryland

Thursday, Dec 14

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

Sunday, Dec 17

10:00 — 11:00 am Worship & Pageant (Reception of New Members) | Sanctuary & Online
11:00 — 12:00 noon Fellowship (Happy Birthday Jesus Party) | Courtyard & Fireside
11:00 — 12:00 noon Choir Rehearsal | Music Room

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Dec 17 Sunday Worship & Pageant, Reception of New Members |
 Happy Birthday Jesus Party | Third Sunday of Advent
Dec 21 Unhoused "Longest Night" Memorial Service
Dec 24 Sunday Morning Worship (10am) | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dec 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (7pm)
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
Website: www.edenucc.com