

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Advent Series



# ON THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM

**WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS**

**DEC 01, 2024 | 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](#)

## Rome: A Place of Longing

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**OPENING MUSIC | “Hold On Just A Little While Longer” | Spiritual |**  
**Rev. Ashley Wai'olu Moore & Eden Ensemble**

**WELCOME | Rev. Dr. Marvin Lance Wiser**

**LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY | Rev. Brenda Loreman**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

We're on our way; we're on our way.  
Dream of the day when hope holds sway.  
With all the earth in all our hearts.  
We're on our way; this is the day.

One: The journey begins, and this candle will help light our way.

**All: We are on our way to more hope.**

One: Decrees and decisions affect our world and our lives as they did in  
Jesus' day.

**All: We are a people who long for Good News.**

One: There are milestones that guide us to a better day.

**All: God's light goes before us; we are not alone.**

**OPENING PRAYER | Pastor Brenda**

**OPENING SONG | "Trust in You" | Lauren Daigle & Michael Farren**

**CHILDREN'S GATHERING | Pastor Brenda | *Children may remain in worship  
with their families following the gathering time.***

**BIBLE READING<sup>1</sup> | [Luke 2:1-5](#) | [Español](#) | Mike Foster**

**SERMON | "Lead Us On Toward The Light" | Pastor Ashley**

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<sup>1</sup> Pew Bible p. 832

**SERMON SONG | "God Will See Us Through" | *Insert* | Bryan Sirchio**

**OFFERING INVITATION & PRAYER | Mike**

**OFFERTORY | Advent Doxology | *Insert* | Marcia McFee**

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



**INVITATION**

**PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE**

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

**COMMUNION MUSIC | Chris Trinidad**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**LORD'S PRAYER | *Unison***

*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 libranos del mal. Amén.*

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE | "Lead Me, Guide Me" | *Insert* | Doris Akers**

Lead me, guide me, along the way.  
For if you lead me I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with you.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

**BLESSING | Pastor Ashley**

**BLESSING SONG | "Soon & Very Soon" | *Insert* | Andre Crouch**

**About Today's Worship Service**

*The "On the Way to Bethlehem" worship theme and worship language are adapted with permission from Dr. Marcia McFee and the Worship Design Studio.*

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

*Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister (on wellness leave)*

*Rev. Dr. Marvin Lance Wiser, Associate Minister*

*Rev. Brenda Loreman, Designated Term Associate Minister*

*Rev. Ashley Wai'olu Moore, Designated Term Associate Minister & Interim Music Director*

*Chris Trinidad, David Belove & Edgardo Cambón, Eden Ensemble*

*Mike Foster, Liturgist*

*Deacons Team, Greeters*

*Deacons Team, Preparing & Serving Communion*

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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**

***Join Us on the Way to Bethlehem:*** As **Advent begins today**, we turn our attention to this season of preparation as we await again the birth of the Christ into the world. Advent is often a time when many of us travel, and we are so often focused on the destination in our travels. But what if it is the journey itself that offers the most memorable moments, both frustrating and delightful? This Advent season, we will pay attention not just to the destination of Christmas, but also to the places where events occurred that led to a starry night on which a child was born who would change the world. Throughout this season, we will visit different places that shaped the path of Jesus' birth narrative: Rome, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, and the Manger. Places shape us and shape our stories, even if we simply journey to and through them for a little while. We are changed as their narratives become part of ours. By focusing on the places that shaped Jesus, we learn more about why his life, ministry, and death became one of the most significant narratives of human history. Join Eden Church as we celebrate this journey through Advent! Throughout the Advent season, we encourage you to reflect on the Advent journey. **Reflection journals for this purpose are available in the sanctuary.** See your eChimes for a downloadable link to the journal and to links to other reflection opportunities from the United Church of Christ.

***Happy Birthday, Jesus Pageant and Party:*** All children whose families will be present in worship on **Dec 15** are invited to participate in our annual **Christmas Pageant**. Rehearsals will happen during Church School on **Dec 8**, and will be held upstairs in Pilgrim Hall. Since we're holding only one rehearsal, it may run a little longer than worship. Parents can go to coffee hour, and the teachers will bring the children down when we're done. Reach out to [Pastor Brenda](#) for more information.

***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. To find out more about World AIDS Day, [click here](#), and to visit the UCC HIV & AIDS Network, [click here](#).

**Planned Giving:** God is the source of all that we have. As Psalm 24:1 says, “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it...” What we own and treasure is not ours alone, but ours by a gift of God. The natural and Christian response to embracing the concept that our lives are gifted is to respond by giving. The [Planned Giving Ministry](#) is here to help you grow into the call to Christian stewardship with your financial assets. [Read more here](#). For more information connect with [Associate Treasurer Bob Turner](#).

**NCNC and Wider Church Events:** Stay up-to-date on the latest goings-on in the Northern California-Nevada Conference (NCNC) through [the Conference newsletter](#).

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

**Seekers Book Club:** The Seekers are seeking ideas for reinventing the book club. Watch for more information here and in the e-Chimes about how you might be involved. Find us in [Groups](#) in Church Center, or contact [Pastor Brenda](#) for more information.

**Texts & Contexts Bible Study:** English Bible Study meets on **Thursdays 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. The Fall 2024 topic is “**Repairing the World: Bible & Social Justice**.” Bible Study will be hybrid in-person in the **Fireside Room** and on Zoom. Spanish language Bible Study continues, Thursdays 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm. Childcare is provided for Spanish Bible Study. **Dec 19 is the final meeting of 2024**. For more info contact [Pastor Marvin](#).

**Coffee & Comida:** Eden Church members and friends, especially previous volunteers with Comida, are invited to Oliver Hall **every third Fri** from **10:30 am to 11:30 am** for **coffee and fellowship**. Contact [Julian Orea](#) for more information

**Changes Coming For Worship Communications:** The worship team is making some adjustments to our worship communication and media. Please be aware of the following changes coming:

- *Beginning Dec 1*, we will no longer send out Saturday worship links or Sunday-afternoon video/sermon links. The worship links will be incorporated into the eChimes every week, and post-worship resources will always be available on the online worship page of the Eden UCC website. Prepare to start saving your eChimes through the weekend to easily access the links.
- *Beginning Sun, Jan 5, 2025*, we will no longer be printing a bulletin, and will instead transition to using the "Services" function in Church Center. Worship attendees will be able to access the order of worship through the **Church Center app** on a cell phone or tablet, along with a link to announcements, weekly



programs, and the prayer list of joys and concerns. QR codes posted in the back of the sanctuary and in the pew pockets will provide quick links to the documents.

- A few LARGE PRINT paper copies of the order of worship will be printed for those who prefer this media format. As we get closer to "going paperless," the pastors will be available after worship during coffee hour to assist worshippers to connect to the Church Center app.

Thank you for your patience as we explore ways of being good stewards of the church's human and material resources.

### **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

#### **Sun, Dec 1**

10:00 — 11:00 am

Worship & Holy Communion | Sanctuary & Online

11:00 — 12:00 noon

Fellowship | Oliver Hall

#### **Mon, Dec 2**

9:00 — 5:00 pm

Church Office Hours

#### **Tue, Dec 3**

9:00 — 5:00 pm

Church Office Hours

9:30 — 10:45 am

Eden Crafters | Online

#### **Wed, Dec 4**

9:00 — 5:00 pm

Church Office Hours

#### **Thu, Dec 5**

9:00 — 5:00 pm

Church Office Hours

6:00 — 7:00 pm

Estudio Bíblico | Fireside

7:30 — 8:30 pm

Bible Study | Online

#### **Fri, Dec 6**

9:00 — 5:00 pm

Church Office Hours

TBA

Nacimiento Construction | Lobby

#### **Sun, Dec 8**

10:00 — 11:00 am

Worship | Sanctuary & Online

10:00 — 11:30 am

Pageant Practice | Pilgrim Hall

11:00 — 12:00 noon

Fellowship | Oliver Hall

## **Coming Attractions**

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|---------------|--|
| <i>Dec 01</i> | <i>First Sunday in Advent</i><br><i>Sunday Worship &amp; Sacrament of Holy Communion</i> |
| <i>Dec 08</i> | <i>Advent 2: Worship</i>   |
| <i>Dec 10</i> | <i>EUCC Church Council meeting (online)</i>  |
| <i>Dec 15</i> | <i>Advent 3: Sunday, Pageant, and HBJ Fiesta</i>   |
| <i>Dec 22</i> | <i>Advent 4: Worship</i>   |
| <i>Dec 24</i> | <i>Candlelight Christmas Eve Service</i>   |
| <b>Dec 25</b> | <b>Christmas Day Holiday—Campus Closed</b>   |
| <b>Dec 26</b> | <b>Christmas Holiday—Campus Closed</b>   |

# 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.



## 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

Kim Shuss | Moderator  
Jana Aloo | Vice Moderator  
Jan Bass | Treasurer  
Bob Turner | Associate Treasurer  
Melissa Josue | Clerk

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday -- Friday, 9:00 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)