

Eden United Church of Christ
Order for Worship
First Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 3, 2017
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Eden United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming 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.
Children's bulletins are available upon request from the ushers.
Thank you for muting your cell phone, pager, and PDA during worship.*

PRELUDE

Pastorale

F. Archer

THE LIGHT ENTERS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Thank you for your gift of presence and for completing a blue worship card today)

INTROIT

O How Shall I Receive You *(v.1)*

NCH № 102

*O how shall I re-ceive you, how meet you on your way,
blessed hope of ev-ery peo-ple, my soul's de-light and stay?
O Je-sus, Je-sus, give me now by your own pure light,
to know what-e'er is pleas-ing and wel-come in your sight.*

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(All who are able may stand)*

Athena Guy Malloy

L: Happy New Year, everyone!

R: Happy New Year!

L: This is a day of new beginnings,

R: time to remember and move on,

L: time to believe what love is bringing,

R: laying to rest the pain that's gone.

L: Today is the first day of Advent.

R: Today is the first day in a new Christian year.

L: Let us sing and celebrate!

R: Let us rejoice and be glad!

* **HYMN**

This is a Day of New Beginnings *(vs. 1-4)*

NCH № 417

* **INVOCATION** *(in unison)* Athena

O God of New Beginnings, on this first day of Advent, we remember that you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending. We come from you, and we will return to you. Before you created the heavens and the earth, you had a vision for this world. Before we took our first breath, you dreamed a dream for us. In the wee hours of this new year, we hear your prophets call, beckoning us to reclaim your vision for creation as our own. Help us hear and to hold fast to this vision, and trust that you will imbue us with the power to live your dream. Amen.

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE** Athena

L: The peace of God be with you all.

R: **And also with you.**

L: Let us greet our neighbors with a sign of peace.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

L: Our service will continue with the ministry of music.

ANTHEM Beautiful December A. Bernon

CHILDREN'S GATHERING Pastor Pepper

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

CHILDREN'S BLESSING Child of Blessing, Child of Promise **Nº 325**

*Child of hope, God invites your trust,
Offers an-chor for your soul,
Trust Christ's Spir-it -- it will guide you
Through the darkness into light.*

*(K-12th graders are excused for the Christmas Pageant Practice.
Nursery care is available at any time during worship.
Please see an usher for an escort to the nursery.)*

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 13: 24-37 Athena

*(Today's scripture lesson can be found on **page 826** in the pew Bibles.)*

SERMON "Stay Woke: Part 2" The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

* **HYMN** Keep Awake, Be Always Ready **NCH Nº 112**

OFFERING & DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation (Thank you for placing your blue or peach card in the offering plate) Athena

Offertory Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Awake, Calls the Voices to Us) J.S. Bach

***Response** What Gift Can We Bring? (v. 1) **NCH № 370**
*What gift can we bring, what pres-ent, what to-ken?
What words can con-vey it, the joy of this day?
When grate-ful we come, re-mem-bering, re-joic-ing,
what song can we of-fer in hon-or and praise?*

***Prayer of Dedication** Athena

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Lighting of the Christ Candle Pastor Pepper

Invitation Pastor Arlene

Blessing Prayer

Hymn of Approach This is a Day of New Beginnings (v. 5) **NCH № 417**

*In faith we'll gath-er 'round the ta-ble to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new be-gin-nings our God is mak-ing all things new.*

Words of Remembrance Pastor Pepper & Pastor Arlene

*** Distribution of the Elements**

*** The Rite of Holy Unction**

Communion Music Beside the Still Waters A. Hesse
Choral Mendelssohn
But the Lord is Mindful of His Own Mendelssohn

Prayer of Thanksgiving Pastor Pepper

The Lord's Prayer (in 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.

*** HYMN** Return, My People **NCH № 114**

*** BENEDICTION** Pastor Arlene

* **RESPONSE**

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates (v.1)

NCH № 117

*Lift up your heads, O might-y gates;
be-hold the glo-rious Rul-er waits!
The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing near;
the Sav-ior of the world is here.*

* **CHIMES & THE LIGHT DEPARTS WITH THE PEOPLE**

(The congregation is seated for the Postlude)

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella 17th C. Fr. Carol/Ham

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister
The Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister
Athena Guy Malloy, Liturgist
Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Organist & Music Director

Communion Servers

Linda Joost & Carol Roach, Deacons
The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring & The Rev. Pepper Swanson, Chalice Bearers
Athena Malloy & Quinn Malloy, Bread Servers
Ruth Baratta & Allie Turner, Anointers

Julie Booher & Smith-Bove Family, Greeters
Michael Stuber, Keith Smith, Jared Smith-Bove & Julie Booher, Ushers
Kemy Gekara & Yoselin Penado, Childcare Workers
Pepper Swanson & Rozetta Walth, Church School Teachers

Pat Payne, Fellowship Captain
Debby Andrade & Mary Bradford, Counters
Jared Smith-Bove, Trustee on Duty
Dawn Coburn, Sunday Sexton

Flowers

The flowers were given by Sally Kusalo in honor of her son Steven's 35th birthday and in honor of her grandchildren, including the one expected in March 2018.

WELCOME

Welcome to Eden United Church of Christ! If you are searching for a spiritual home, please consider becoming part of our congregation. Eden welcomes members who seek a deeper relationship with God in a caring community and who strive to make a difference in the lives of others. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism and the Rite of Church Membership four to five times yearly during morning worship. Please see one of our pastors or an usher, deacon, or member of the E-Team if you seek baptism for yourself or your child, or if you would like to be received into church membership. We will celebrate infant and adult baptism and receive new members several times each year.

TODAY

Pageant Rehearsal: The first rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant will be today during Church School. Children in grades K-12 are invited to participate.

Coloring Advent 2017: During Fellowship time, the ESLO Committee invites older children and adults to drop by one of our coloring tables to color while you visit. Beautiful, large format posters will be colored during Advent as a Fellowship practice and then displayed on Christmas Eve.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mt. Eden High School Winter Concert: Come enjoy a special performance by one of our nation's elite high school vocal groups at 7:30 pm on Thursday, **Dec 7**. The Mt. Eden Choir, conducted by Nicholas Prior, will perform in the Eden Church Sanctuary.

Taste & See: New to Eden? Visitors and newcomers are invited to join our pastor and welcoming team for a reception in the Norberg Room, **Dec 10**, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Grab coffee & a snack from Fellowship in Oliver Hall, meet up in the Norberg Room (east wing). Tell us a little about yourself and your spiritual journey. Ask questions. Learn more about enriching experiences offered at Eden such as Bible study, volunteer opportunities, and church school. Children are welcome!

Las Posadas, a Latin America Christmas Tradition: On Sunday, **Dec 10**, Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church is inviting friends and neighbors to join them for Las Posadas, a traditional recreation of Mary & Joseph's perilous journey fleeing persecution and seeking shelter. The candlelight procession begins at 5 pm and returns to Starr King at 6:30 pm for a celebration and feast. Free! Piñata and games for children of all ages. For more information, contact Rev. Maria Cristia at rev.vlassidis@gmail.com.

Christmas Pageant and Happy Birthday, Jesus Party: On Sunday, **Dec 17**, there will be a Christmas pageant. Rehearsals, set design, and prop creation for the pageant will be during Church School on Sunday, Dec 3 and Dec 10. Children in grades K-12 are encouraged to participate in this year's one-act play. Many parts for all reading levels available. Following the pageant, we will also have our annual "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party. Join us for a slice of our traditional birthday cake following the children's Christmas pageant.

Tres Reyes Gift Collection: Three Kings are Coming! Three Kings/Tres Reyes Magos will happen Sunday, **Jan 7** at Eden Church. To celebrate, gifts will be given to all children ages 0-12 by the Three Kings. Gifts for Tres Reyes Fiesta will be collected on Sunday, **Dec 17**, as part of Eden's "Happy Birthday, Jesus" celebration. Donations of new toys, sports equipment, and \$20 Target or Walmart gift cards, will be received during morning worship on Dec 17, and in the Church Office during weekday office hours. For more information, contact Andrea Orea.

Do you love Advent and Christmas music? If so, then you are uniquely qualified to join the Christmas edition of the Eden Church Choir! Everyone is invited to join the Choir for any or all of our Advent and Christmas worship services on Sundays in December at 10 am and on Christmas Eve at 7 pm. The Eden Church Choir will rehearse at 9 am and 11:30 am every Sunday. Drop-ins welcome!

Christmas Eve/Noche Buena, Dec 24: Eden's Candlelight Christmas Eve/Noche Buena Worship will begin at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, featuring lessons, carols, and special music by Drs. Jessie Wenchieh Lo and Jessie Acker-Johnson and other Eden vocalists and instrumentalists. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors and returning members, serve as ushers, hand out and collect Silent Night candles. To volunteer to be usher or greeter, please see Pastor Pepper. Cookies and cookie bakers and volunteers are also needed to help with the setup and cleanup of our Christmas Eve reception. If interested, please contact Pat Payne, Fellowship Coordinator.

YOUTH GROUP

Our 7-12th grade Youth Group will be attending Las Posadas at Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday, Dec 10 at 5 pm and will host the Starr King youth for our Tres Reyes Fiesta on Sunday, Jan 7. For more information, contact Pastor Pepper.

SMALL GROUPS

New Free Yoga Class: Namaste! Free bi-lingual (English-Spanish) yoga classes are offered at Eden Church each week. Class is from 6 to 7 pm on Tuesday nights in **Room 201** (across from the Jensen Room). Please use the West Wing (FESCO) entrance. For more information, contact Tania Martinez.

Bible Study: Evening Bible Study (7 pm) will conclude on **Dec 4 & 18**. Morning Bible Study will conclude on **Dec 11 & 18** (10 am). For info, contact Dianne Dorn or Keith Smith.

This Week At-A-Glance

Sunday, December 3

9:00—9:45 am	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:00—11:15 am	Worship	Sanctuary
11:15—12:30 pm	Fellowship	Oliver Hall
11:30—12:30 pm	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
11:30—12:30 pm	DTAM Committee	Norberg Room
11:30—12:30 pm	Sunday Counters	Library

Monday, December 4

4:00—7:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room
7:00—9:00 pm	Bible Study (<i>Evening session</i>)	Fireside Room

Tuesday, December 5

4:00—7:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room
6:00—7:00 pm	Free Yoga	Room 121

Wednesday, December 6

10:00—11:30 am	Seekers	Community Room
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Thursday, December 7

7:30—9:00 pm	Mt. Eden HS Winter Concert	Sanctuary
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Sunday, December 10

9:00—9:45 am	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:00—11:15 am	Worship	Sanctuary
11:15—12:30 pm	Fellowship	Oliver Hall
11:30—12:30 pm	Taste & See	Norberg Room
11:30—12:30 pm	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
11:30—12:30 pm	Sunday Counters	Library
5:00— 8:00 pm	Youth Group	Starr King

Coming Attractions – Mark Your Calendars!

New or amended items are in bold & italics

Dec 04	Bible Study (Evening)	Dec 25	Christmas Day (Campus Closed)
Dec 05	Free Yoga	Dec 26	Free Yoga
Dec 10	Second Sunday in Advent	Dec 27	Comida para Cherryland
Dec 10	Taste & See	Dec 31	New Year's Eve Worship
Dec 10	Youth Group: Las Posadas	Jan 01	New Year's Day (Campus Closed)
Dec 11	<i>Bible Study (morning)</i>	Jan 07	Tres Reyes Celebration
Dec 12	Free Yoga	Jan 08	<i>De-decorating</i>
Dec 13	Comida para Cherryland	Jan 09	<i>Church Council Meeting</i>
Dec 17	Third Sunday in Advent: Pageant & Happy Birthday Jesus Party	Jan 10	<i>Seekers' Spiritual Retreat</i>
Dec 18	Bible Study	Jan 15	<i>ML King Holiday (Campus Closed)</i>
Dec 19	Free Yoga	Jan 23	<i>EAF Board Meeting</i>
Dec 24	Fourth Sunday in Advent	Feb 06	<i>Church Council Meeting</i>
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship		

Poinsettia Display & Comida Offering

The Eden Church Deacons invite members and friends to contribute funds for *Comida para Cherryland*, this Advent Season. With our donations, the *Comida* volunteers will purchase nutritious groceries for the families most in need in the Eden area.



In appreciation for members and friends' contributions to the *Comida*, the Deacons will purchase poinsettias for display in the Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons, and deliver poinsettias to homebound and hospitalized members and friends on Dec 17.

If you would like to dedicate your contribution to a loved one and include your dedication in our Sunday worship bulletin on the third Sunday in Advent (Dec 17) and Christmas Eve (Dec 24), please include the name or names of those persons in the space provided below.

Please note: **Deadline for dedications is Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

If you wish to participate in the Deacon's Advent Offering for the *Comida*, please complete this form, and enclose and mail (or deliver) your check and dedication to the Eden Church office.

I would like to dedicate my *Comida* offering Poinsettia to:

In memory of:

In honor of:

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

I have enclosed \$ _____ (\$4.50 per grocery bag) and understand that all names listed above will be published, and that my enclosed contribution will provide food for *Comida para Cherryland* participants.

My Name

Phone Number

Email

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