

* **HYMN** Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us **NCH № 252**

* **INVOCATION** (*in unison*) Jan

Savior, like a shepherd, lead us. Goad us on paths that lead to peace. Still all the angry cries. Fill all the empty hearts. Heal all the wounded souls. Grant us peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, and peace in the universe. Teach us how to sustain a just peace, so that your kin-dom might come on earth. Amen.

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE** Jan

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 continues with the ministry of music.

ANTHEM Candles of Advent N. Price/D. Besig

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

CHILDREN'S GATHERING Pastor Pepper

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

*Child of God's peace, child of wonder,
God will keep you safe and calm.
Amid the strife and fear of life,
Seek you first the peace of Christ.*

*(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 1:1-8 Jan

*(Today's scripture lesson in English can be found on **page 812** in the pew Bibles.)*

SERMON "Daring to Listen" The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

* **HYMN** O Savior, Let Me Walk with You **NCH № 503**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY Pastor Arlene

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Jesus' Prayer *(in 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.

Prayer Response Hear Our Prayer O God. *NCH № 769*
Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;
In-cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

OFFERING & DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation *(Thank you for placing your blue worship card in the offering plate)* Jan

Offertory O Little Town of Bethlehem arr. J. Raney

***Response** What Gift Can We Bring? *(v. 2)* *NCH № 370*
Give thanks for the past, for those who had vi-sion,
who plant-ed and wa-tered so dreams could come true.
Give thanks for the now, for stud-y, for wor-ship, for mis-sion
that bids us turn prayer in-to deed.

***Prayer of Dedication** Jan

*** HYMN** Comfort, Comfort O My People *NCH № 101*

*** BENEDICTION** Arlene

*** RESPONSE** Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates *(v.2)* *NCH № 117*
Fling wide the por-tals of your heart;
make it a tem-ple, set a-part
From earth-ly use for heaven's em-ploy,
a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.

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

(The congregation is seated for the Postlude)

POSTLUDE Sussex Carol Trad. English Carol/M. Ham

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister
The Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister
Jan Bass, Liturgist
Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Organist/ Music Director
Miriam Hutchinson & Julie Booher, Greeters
Miriam Hutchinson, Russ Newman, Julie Booher, and TBD, Ushers
Kemy Gekara & Yoselin Penado, Childcare Workers
Keith Smith & Dianne Dorn, Church School Teachers
Keith R. Smith, Fellowship Captain
Keith R. Smith, Amy & Rachel Rios Richardson, Fellowship Hosts
Carol Roach & Lauren Smith-Bove, Fellowship Helper
Rozetta Walth, Margo Heath, & Miriam Hutchison, Counters
Julie Booher, Trustee on Duty
Dawn Coburn, Sunday Sexton

Flowers

The flowers were given by TJ Wilkinson.

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 second rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant will be **TODAY** during Church School and with the choir from 11:30 to 11:45 pm. Children in grades K-12 are invited to participate.

Coloring Advent 2017: During Fellowship time, the ESLO Committee invites youth and adults to drop by 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.

Taste & See: New to Eden? Visitors and newcomers are invited to join our pastor and welcoming team for a reception in the Norberg Room, **TODAY**, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Directory Photos: On Sunday, **Dec 10** and **Dec 17**, our volunteer photographer Kent Walth will be available in the Jensen Room to take new portraits for the Church directory, especially for new members and our 2017 Confirmands. If you would like a portrait taken, please visit Kent at his photography station in Oliver Hall and take a moment to correct your directory information. Please note: portraits for the Church directory are complementary. While Kent may email proofs or discuss purchasing photos for your own use, you are under no obligation to purchase photos. For more information, contact Pastor Pepper.

Youth Group: Our 7-12th grade Youth Group will be attending Las Posadas at Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church on **TODAY** 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 Ackler-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.

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.

Seekers Book Club: Seekers are reading *Two Dogs and a Parrot* by Joan Chittister. Seekers meet **Wednesdays at 10 am** in the Community Room. Newcomers are always welcome.

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

Single Women's Group: Single women meet for fellowship and lunch on the first Friday of every month. The next meeting is Friday, **Jan 5**. For information, contact Daniella Pym.

ONGOING PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cherryland Computer Café Fall Hours: Need a computer for schoolwork, apartment hunting, or online bill pay? Need to prepare a resume, conduct a job search, or apply for a job online? All ages welcome and mentors available. The Café will be open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 4-7 pm, and Comida Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4 pm. The Café will be closed during the HUSD holiday break, Dec. 25, 2017 through Jan. 7, 2018.

Eden Church Childcare Policy: Eden Church makes a reasonable attempt to provide childcare during Sunday worship, congregational meetings, and Taste & See Gatherings without a special request. The church also makes a reasonable attempt to provide childcare for church-sponsored meetings/events. To request childcare for your family or for a church meeting/event, contact Pastor Pepper at pepper@edenucc.com.

This Week At-A-Glance

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
11:15—12:30 pm	Directory Photos	Jensen Room
11:30—12:30 pm	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
11:30—12:30 pm	Sunday Counters	Library
5:00— 8:00 pm	Youth Group: Las Posadas	Starr King

Monday, December 11

10:00—11:30 am	Bible Study (<i>Morning session</i>)	Fireside Room
11:30—12:30 pm	Staff Meeting	Fireside Room
4:00—7:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room

Tuesday, December 12

4:00—7:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room
6:00—7:00 pm	Free Yoga	Room 121
7:00—9:00 pm	Trustees Meeting	Fireside Room

Wednesday, December 13

10:00—11:30 am	Seekers	Community Room
1:30—4:00 pm	Comida Para Cherryland	Oliver Hall
1:30—4:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room

Sunday, December 17

9:00—9:45 am	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:00—11:15 am	Worship & Christmas Pageant & Gift Collection	Sanctuary
11:15—12:30 pm	“Happy Birthday, Jesus!” Party	Oliver Hall
11:15—12:30 pm	Directory Photos	Norberg Room
11:30—12:30 pm	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
11:30—12:30 pm	Sunday Counters	Library

Coming Attractions – Mark Your Calendars!

New or amended items are in bold & italics

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

Eden United Church of Christ

Holiday Gift Collection/ *Colecta Navideña de Regalos*

Help us bring big smiles to the children of Eden Church and the Cherryland community with toys, sports equipment, and gift cards! The Compañeras/os Ministry Program will give new toys and sports equipment to the children and \$20 Target and Walmart gift cards to youth volunteers! The toys will be given to the approximately 100 children (0-12 years old) who visit for Three Kings/Tres Reyes and to 10 to 15 youth volunteers on Jan 7. **Please bring your new unwrapped art supplies and Walmart & Target Gift cards by Sunday, Dec 17.**



Don't like to shop? Please consider giving a donation to Eden Church to let the volunteers purchase the remaining toys & sports equipment for the Tres Reyes Magos celebration. Checks should be written to Eden Church with "Tres Reyes Gifts" in the note field. **For further information, contact Andrea Orea or Pastor Pepper at 510-582-9533.**