

Eden United Church of Christ
Order for Worship
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 11, 2018
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 Peace to My Soul W. Barnett

THE LIGHT ENTERS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Pepper Swanson
(Thank you for your gift of presence and for completing a blue worship card today)

INTROIT Lift High the Cross *(Refrain only)* **NCH № 198**
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim;
Let all a-dore and praise that sa-cred name.*

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(All who are able may stand)¹* Daniella Prym

L: Even when we were dead to all but our own concerns,
R: Even when we turned away from those who called us in their need,
L: Even when we lived in fear of change or loss,
R: Even when we were oblivious to the pain and suffering of others,
L: Even when we followed a path fashioned of nothing,
R: Even when we wandered far and willfully away,
L: Even when we failed to stand in awe or to simply give thanks,
R: Even then: Grace.
All: Even now: Grace.

* **HYMN** O God, Who Teaches Us to Live **NCH № 359**

¹ Adapted from *Even Then, Grace* by Jan L. Richardson as posted on www.paintedprayerbook.com.

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

Daniella

Holy God, we were once lost and dead to you and those we love, following our own senses and our passions. Yet you loved us. Yet you saved us. Yet you gave us new life. We give you thanks for your grace, so freely given, and for the gift of new life. In the name of Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen.

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Daniella

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: Worship will continue with the Children's Gathering.

CHILDREN'S GATHERING/OGHS MISSION MOMENT

Pastor Arlene

CHILDREN'S BLESSING Jesus Loves Me *(v. 3)*

NCH № 327

*Je-sus loves me! Still to-day,
walk-ing with me on my way,
Want-ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live.
Yes, Je-sus loves me! Yes, Je-sus loves me!
Yes, Je-sus loves me! The Bi-ble tells me so.*

*(Children in grades K-8 are excused for Church School. Youth may remain in worship.
Nursery care for babies and pre-schoolers is available at any time during worship.)*

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 2:1-10

Daniella

(Today's scripture lesson can be found on pages 949-950 of the pew Bibles.)

SERMON

"Made Alive"

The Rev. Pepper Swanson

HYMN

How Can I Say Thanks

NCH № 14

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

Shepherd, Lead

NCH № 774

*Shep-herd, lead, lead me in your righ-teous-ness
Make your way plain be-fore my face.
For it is you, God, you, God on-ly,
who makes me to lie down in safe-ty.*

OFFERING & DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation

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

Daniella

Offertory

Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross

Doane/Hayes

***Response**

My God, Accept My Heart This Day *(v. 1)*

NCH № 352

*My God, ac-cept my heart this day, and make it al-ways yours,
That I from you no more may stray as long as life en-dures.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Daniella

*** HYMN**

Born of God, Eternal Savior

NCH № 542

*** BENEDICTION**

Pastor Pepper

*** RESPONSE**

Amen

NCH № 812

A-men, a-men, a-men.

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

POSTLUDE

Simple Gifts

Shaker Melody/Hayes

(The congregation is seated for the Postlude)

Worship Leaders

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

Julie Booher, Greeter
Pat Payne, Julie Booher, TBD & TBD, Ushers
Kemy Gekara & Yoselin Penado, Childcare Workers
Keith Smith & Dianne Dorn, Church School Teachers
TJ Wilkinson, Fellowship Captain
Savory Pi Day, Fellowship Host
Carol Roach & Lauren Smith-Bove, Fellowship Helpers
Alliene Turner & Daniella Prym, Counters
Julie Booher, Trustee on Duty
Dawn Coburn, Sunday Sexton

Flower Dedication

The flowers on the altar are given by Pat Payne.

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 celebrate infant and adult baptism and receive new members several times each year. We will celebrate baptism and receive new members next on **Palm Sunday, Mar 25**, during morning worship.

TODAY

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering: Our annual special offering to support One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) and will be received TODAY. This offering supports national and international disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development ministries bring water, food, and jobs to the people of many different nations. Please bring your coin banks or use the OGHS envelope in the bulletin.

Savory Pie Potluck for Pi Sunday: In celebration of Pi Day (i.e. 3.14 or Mar 14) we are having a Savory Pie Potluck during Fellowship Hour.

Taste & See: New to Eden? Visitors and newcomers are invited to join our Senior Minister and welcoming team for a reception in the Norberg Room, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Grab a piece of savory pie after worship and come share your spiritual journey and learn more about Eden Church. Childcare will be available in the meeting room.

COMING EVENTS

Mix-It-Up Potlucks: Please join us this Lent for one of our new Mix-It-Up Potlucks on the remaining Wednesdays of Lent (**Mar 14 & 21**). These events provide an opportunity to share food and conversation with other Eden Church members and newcomers. Please bring an appetizer, salad, or entrée to serve 6 to 8 people. Drinks and paper goods will be provided. All potlucks will be in the Fireside Room beginning at 6:30 pm. To sign up, contact Pastor Pepper. If you need childcare, please contact Pastor Pepper at least 48 hours in advance.

Community Passover Seder: Congregation Shir Ami will be retelling the story of the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery and their redemption on Saturday, **Mar 31** in Oliver Hall. The Evening Service begins at 4:30 pm and will feature Passover stories and songs and will be led by the Congregation's Rabbinic Intern Mira Weller. Non-members cost - Adults \$40; non-member children (under 18) \$15. Reservation is made by check payable to Congregation Shir Ami and mailed to: Congregation Shir Ami, ATTN: Community Passover Seder, 4529 Malabar Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546. For more information, email events@congshirami.org

Adults, join the Super-Secret Egg Society! We can't be very public about what the Super Secret Egg Society does but it may involve eggs, candies, and toys in the very near future. If you would like to **donate candy**, please whisper (or email) the password "I'M Eggstra Nice" to Pastor Pepper.

Youth Group Service Projects: Save the date for three upcoming service projects for Eden Youth:

- On Saturday, **Mar 24**, youth volunteers are needed at the Cherryland Egg-stravaganza at Meek Estate from 9 am to 2 pm
- On Saturday, **Apr 21**, youth volunteers are needed for a Habitat Restoration project at the Oakland Zoo from 9 am to 12 noon.
- On Friday, **May 4**, from 6:30 to 9:30, Eden's Youth Group will have a bake-off to provide morning treats for the **May 5** Bay Association meeting on preventing gun violence in schools (see below). Baked goods made on Friday night will be offered for a free-will donation to support a Youth Group Blue Theology trip this summer.

For more information about any of these events, contact Pastor Pepper

Celebrate Caesar Chavez Day: Join Pastor Arlene and Eden's Compañeras leaders for a family-friendly celebration of Caesar Chavez's birthday, Saturday, Mar 31, 11:30 am to 1 pm on the Plaza at Hayward City Hall. The program is sponsored by the City of Hayward and will feature an invocation by Pastor Arlene, personal story telling by local farm workers, poetry readings, group singing, baile folclórico, mariachi juvenile, youth speeches about the importance of service, and greetings from the Hayward City Council. The event is free and open to the public. Traditional breads and waters will be provided for all.

Keep Eden Safe: Save the date, **Saturday, Apr 14, 9 am to 12 noon** for our Safe Congregation training. All employees, volunteers, potential volunteers, and parents are either required or strongly recommended to attend this training by the Rev. Kibbie Ruth of the Kyros Ministry. For more information, contact either Pastor Pepper or Pastor Arlene.

Promoting Safe & Hospitable School Communities is the theme of the Bay Association Spring 2018 Meeting. The event will be held on Saturday, **May 5**, in Oliver Hall from 9 am to 12 noon, and include worship, a panel presentation and Q&A, and breakout conversations. Come and learn from school and faith leaders why the U.S. leads the first-world in gun violence, and what in God's name faith communities can do to be an answer to the prayers we pray for the safety and wellbeing of our youth. The event is offered free of charge. A continental breakfast will be provided. A freewill offering will be received to benefit the Eden UCC Youth Group "Blue Theology" Retreat. Childcare for toddlers–5th grade will be available for all who are *pre-registered* by Saturday, **Apr 21**. The Cherryland Computer Café (and homework help) will be open for all ages on a first-come, first served basis. To register for childcare or request a parent permission form for youth patrons of the Café, send email to: baevents@sonic.net.

SMALL GROUPS

Free Yoga Class: Namaste! Free weekly bi-lingual (English-Spanish) yoga classes are offered at Eden Church 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: Our weekly book discussion group, started *Lab Girl* by acclaimed scientist and Fulbright recipient Hope Jahren. *Lab Girl*, which is the first book chosen for Castro Valley's first annual all-city read, is the touching memoir of growing up as a kid scientist in rural Minnesota. Seekers meet each week on Wednesdays at 10 am in the Fireside Room. Newcomers and members of the community are always welcome. For more information, contact Pastor Pepper.

Bible Study: Curious about the lost coin? Wondering about the barren fig tree? How about the prodigal son and his father? Eden's Bible Study group began a new series on the parables of Jesus. Come to either our daytime session at 10 am or our evening session at 7 pm. Both sessions in the Fireside Room. Parking on the west side for best entrance. Spring dates for both the morning and evening sessions include: **Mar 12 & 26, Apr 9 & 23 and May 7 & 21**. 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, **Apr 6**. For information, contact Daniella Prym.

ONGOING PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cherryland Computer Café Hours: The spring semester café hours will be as follows: Monday and Tuesdays, 4—7pm, and Comida Wednesdays, 1:30—4pm.

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.

UPCOMING LENTEN ACTIVITIES

The Christian season of Lent began Ash Wednesday and continues through Holy Saturday, **Mar 31**. Lent is a season that commemorates Jesus' 40-day experience in the wilderness, and encourages spiritual growth through more intentional prayer, study, service, worship, and special offerings. At Eden Church the following opportunities are offered to nourish our community as we travel through Lent together:

- **Mar 12**, Bible Study, beginning at 10:00 am & 7:00 pm
- **Mar 13**, Free Yoga, 6:00-7:00 pm
- **Mar 14**, Mix It Up! Potluck, 6:30-7:30 pm
- **Mar 18**, Fifth Sunday in Lent, 10-11:15 am, Sanctuary
- **Mar 20**, Free Yoga, 6-7 pm
- **Mar 21**, Mix It Up! Potluck, 6:30-7:30 pm
- **Mar 25**, Palm Sunday, 10-11:15 am, Sacrament of Baptism, Reception of New Members, Choir Anthem, and Palm procession, Sanctuary
- **Mar 26**, Bible Study, beginning at 10 am & 7 pm
- **Mar 27**, Free Yoga, 6-7 pm
- **Mar 29**, Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service, 7-8 pm, Pioneer Chapel
- **Mar 30**, Good Friday, 12 noon, Guided Labyrinth Walk, Courtyard,
- **Apr 1**, Easter Sunday & Holy Communion, 10-11:15 am, Sanctuary; Easter Egg Hunt, 11:30-12 noon, Campus

This Week At-A-Glance

Sunday, March 11

9:00—9:45 am	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:00—11:15 am	Worship	Sanctuary
11:15—12:30 pm	Pi Day 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

Monday, March 12

10:00—11:30 am	Bible Study (<i>morning session</i>)	Fireside Room
4:00—7:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room
7:00—9:00 pm	Bible Study (<i>evening session</i>)	Fireside Room

Tuesday, March 13

10:00—12:00 pm	Stitchers	Jensen Room
4:00—7:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room
6:00—7:00 pm	Free Yoga	Room 201
6:30—8:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting	Offsite
7:00—9:00 pm	Trustees Meeting	Fireside Room

Wednesday, March 14

10:00—11:00 am	Seekers	Fireside Room
1:30—4:00 pm	Comida Para Cherryland	Oliver Hall
1:30—4:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room
6:30—8:30 pm	Mix-It-Up Potluck	Fireside Room

Sunday, March 18

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	Sunday Counters	Library
11:30—12:30 pm	ESLO Meeting	Fireside Room

Coming Attractions – Mark Your Calendars!

New or amended items are in bold & italics

Mar 12	Bible Study	Mar 25	Palm Sunday
Mar 13	Free Yoga	Mar 26	Bible Study
Mar 13	Stewardship & Trustees Meeting	Mar 27	Free Yoga
Mar 14	Comida para Cherryland	Mar 28	Comida para Cherryland
Mar 14	Mix-It-Up Potluck	Mar 29	Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm
Mar 18	ESLO	Mar 30	Good Friday Labyrinth Walk, 12 noon
Mar 20	Free Yoga	Mar 31	<i>Caesar Chavez Day</i>
Mar 21	Mix-It-Up Potluck	Apr 1	Easter Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt
Mar 24	Cherryland Easter Egg Hunt		