

Eden United Church of Christ
Order for Worship
Pentecost Sunday
Sunday, May 20, 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 Ave Maria R. Parsons

THE LIGHT ENTERS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Dr. Arlene Nehring

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

INTROIT On Pentecost They Gathered (v.1) **NCH № 272**

*On Pen-te-cost they gath-ered quite ear-ly in the day,
a band of Christ's dis-ci-ples to wor-ship, sing, and pray.
A might-y wind came blow-ing, filled all the swirl-ing air,
and tongues of fire a-glow-ing in-spired each per-son there.*

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(All who are able may stand)* Lauren Smith-Bove

L: God of the prophets, who spoke through your servant Joel saying:

R: "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh."

L: We celebrate your promise which has been offered to all generations.

R: The young see visions and the old dream dreams.

L: Your spirit moves like wind and fire, awakening us to divine surprises.

R: Your spirit is marked by compassion and empathy.

L: Your truth is reflected in harmony and mutuality.

R: Your dream comes true in the fulfillment of justice and peace.

L: So we boldly pray:

**R: Come, Holy Spirit, come;
descend on us today!**

* **HYMN** Come, O Spirit, with Your Sound **NCH № 265**

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

Spirit of the Living God, revive our passion for justice so that we might fulfill our calling to speak truth to power and become the resurrected body of Christ here on earth. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE Lauren

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 continues with the ministry of music.

SPECIAL MUSIC Flanders Field R. Stonehill

CHILDREN'S GATHERING Pastor Pepper

CHILDREN'S BLESSING O Spirit of the Living God *(v.4)* **NCH № 263**

*So shall we know the power of Christ, the strength of love to save,
so shall we ride with Christ to life which soars beyond the grave;
And earth shall win true ho-li-ness, which makes your chil-dren whole,
and draws us on by hu-man hearts, and sin and sor-row cease.*

*(Children in grades K-5 are excused to Church School.
Nursery care for babies and preschoolers is available at any time during worship.)*

SCRIPTURE READING John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 Keith Smith

(Today's scripture lesson can be found on pages 878-879 of the pew Bibles.)

SERMON "The Divine Advocate" The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

* **HYMN** Sweet Delight, Most Lovely **NCH № 269**

OFFERING & DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

Mission Moment TJ Wilkinson

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

Offertory Christus Factus Es A. Bruckner

***Response** O Spirit of the Living God (v.3) **NCH № 263**

*Teach us to ut-ter liv-ing words of truth which all may hear,
the lan-guage all can un-der-stand when love speaks loud and clear;
Till ev-ery na-tion, age, and race shall blend their creeds in one,
and all to-geth-er use their gifts to see your will is done.*

***Prayer of Dedication** Keith

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Joys and Concerns Pastor Pepper

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 Creator Spirit, Come, We Pray (v.1) **NCH № 268**

*Cre-a-tor Spir-it, come we pray,
and vis-it ev-ery mind to-day;
May hearts you made to be your own
be filled with heav-enly grace a-lone.*

*** HYMN** On Pentecost They Gathered **NCH № 272**

*** BENEDICTION** Pastor Arlene

*** RESPONSE** Filled with the Spirit's Power (v.1) **NCH № 266**

*Filled with the Spir-it's power, all hearts as one,
the in-fant church con-fessed Christ's vic-tory won.
O Ho-ly Spir-it, in the church to-day
no less your un-ify-ing power dis-play.*

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

(The congregation is seated for the Postlude)

POSTLUDE Shut De Do P. Aitken

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister
The Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister
Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Organist & Music Director
Mt. Eden Chamber Singers, Guest Choir
Nick Prior, Guest Conductor
Lauren Smith-Bove & Keith R. Smith, Liturgist

Julie Booher & Stephanie Spencer, Greeters
Scott Swanson, Theresa Collie, Julie Booher & Izzy Walth, Ushers
Kemy Gekara & Yoselin Penado, Childcare Workers
Athena Malloy & Rozetta Walth, Church School Teachers
Sally Kusalo & Dave Wallace, Counters

Amy Rios-Richardson, Fellowship Captain
Amy Rios-Richardson, Fellowship Host
Pat Payne & Rozetta Walth, Fellowship Helpers
Julie Booher, Trustee on Duty
Dawn Coburn, Sunday Sexton

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.

TODAY

Eden Church is pleased to welcome the **Mt. Eden Choir Chamber Singers**, one of our nation's elite high school vocal groups, during morning worship.

This year's **Stewardship Campaign** comes to a culmination today with our final witnessing steward mission moment and the Dedication of Pledges during worship. Join us **TODAY** in Oliver Hall, during fellowship, for cherry pies to celebrate.

COMING EVENTS

Gay Prom: This year's Gay Prom is Saturday, **Jun 2** at Chabot College. If you are interested in joining our E-Team and other church members at 6:30 pm to greet and support Prom attendees, please contact Pastor Pepper.

Can You Spare A Hand? Eden Church Trustees invite you to a party! It's a work party and they can use a hand or two to clean, garden, and build. Come help spiffy up the Church and the campus on **Saturday, Jun 2**. The work begins at 9 am and will be followed by lunch for all participants. If you can attend, please notify Jim Fryer, Bob Turner, or Daniella Prym.

Bravo! Sunday: Help us celebrate our 2018 high school and college graduates as well as Eden's many church school teachers, nursery volunteers, choir members and musicians, by giving them a round of applause on **Sunday, Jun 3**. If you or a member of your family is completing a program of study, please let Pastor Pepper or Pastor Arlene know so that we can include you in our celebration. Cake will be served by our Fellowship Committee. Come and help us recognize the many talents in our community.

Taste & See: New to Eden? Visitors and newcomers are invited to join our pastor and welcoming team for a reception in the Fireside Room, **Jun 10**, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Grab coffee & a snack from Fellowship in Oliver Hall, meet up in the Fireside Room (west 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!

Call to the 153rd Annual Meeting: The 153rd Annual Meeting of Eden United Church of Christ has been called by the Church Council for Sunday, **Jun 24, 2018**. The meeting will be held in Oliver Hall following morning worship. This meeting is called in accordance with the Eden Church bylaws. Agenda items include the following:

- To receive the 2017–18 Annual Report
- To receive a preliminary 2017–18 year-end financial report
- To receive and act on the proposed operating budget for 2018–2019
- To receive and act on a slate of officers and board and committee members for 2018–2019
- To recognize elected leaders who are completing terms of service
- To install officers and board and committee members who are beginning terms of service
- To receive a final report from the Church Council regarding the Oliver Properties, LLC
- To receive a progress report from the Church Council on the Strategic Plan Results

Members are expected. Visitors are welcome. Pastor Arlene and Stephanie will provide lunch. Middle and high school students are encouraged to participate. Childcare will be provided for N-6th Grade during the business meeting. *Advance copies of the Annual Meeting materials will be available in the church office during the month of June or by email. Please send email requests to tania@edenucc.com before 1 pm on Friday, Jun 22.*

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 **Oliver Hall**. Please use the West Wing (FESCO) entrance. For more information, contact Tania Martinez.

Seekers Book Club: Our weekly book discussion group is reading *God, A Human History* by Reza Aslan each week on Wednesdays at 10 am in the Fireside Room. For more information, contact Pastor Pepper.

Bible Study: Spring Bible Study will conclude on Monday, **May 21**. Everyone is invited to attend the evening session at 7 pm in the Fireside Room, which will be a potluck. In addition to closing our study of the Parables, we will select what book of the Bible to study when we resume next fall. 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, June 1**. For information, contact Daniella Prym.

PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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, May 20

9:00—9:45 am	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:00—11:15 am	Sunday Worship – <i>Mt. Eden Chamber Singers Perform</i>	Sanctuary
11:15—12:30 pm	Fellowship – <i>Cherry Pie!</i>	Oliver Hall
11:30—12:30 pm	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
11:30—12:30 pm	Sunday Counters	Library

Monday, May 21

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, May 22

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

Wednesday, May 23

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

Thursday, May 24

6:00—9:00 pm	Safe Congregation Training Make-up Session	Norberg Room
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Sunday, May 27

9:00—9:45 am	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:00—11:15 am	Sunday 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

COMING ATTRACTIONS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

New or amended items are in bold & italics.

May 21	Final Spring Bible Study Potluck	Jun 12	Trustees Meeting
May 28	Memorial Day – Campus Closed	Jun 15-16	NCNC Annual Gathering
Jun 2	Gay Prom E-vent	Jun 24	153 rd Annual Meeting
Jun 2	Trustee Work Party	Jun 24	2018 ChYLI Orientation
Jun 3	Bravo! Sunday	Jul 1	Pie for the 4 th of July!
Jun 5	Church Council Meeting	Jul 4	Independence Day—Campus Closed
Jun 10	Taste & See	Jul 6	2018 ChYLI Orientation
Jun 10	2018-19 Budget Presentation		
Jun 11	Pastor Marvin's starting date		

Frequently Asked Questions about Pledging to Eden Church

Why give to Eden Church?

One of the responsibilities of being a member is to support the Church and its ministry by giving of one's time, talent, and treasure. Only with the generous support of members and friends, Eden Church is able to offer weekly worship, Christian programs and community service, and maintain the Church campus.

What is "pledged" giving?

Each year, members and friends of Eden Church are asked to provide an estimate of their financial support to the Church for the coming year. The amount pledged is typically paid in weekly or monthly payments, although some prefer to contribute in a single lump sum or in two installments. Payments are received by cash and check via the Sunday offering plate, handed to the Associate Treasurer, or dropped off or mailed to the Church Office. For logistical information about contributing securities, please contact Associate Treasurer Jan Bass: 510-508-1427.



How much do Eden members and friends typically pledge?

Pledging is a spiritual act. We don't assess a fee or propose set amounts for congregants. Annual pledges to Eden Church this past year ranged from \$5 to \$40,000. Over half of all members pledge \$3,000 or more. At Eden, we often quote 2 Corinthians 9:7, in which the apostle wrote, "God loves a cheerful giver." We encourage everyone to give an amount that they feel good about.

What is a tithe?

Biblically, a tithe is a financial gift reflective of 10% of a person or household's annual income. Tithing or giving 10% is a spiritual practice, like prayer or coming to church, that many chose to adopt as an act of devotion to God and discipleship to Jesus Christ.

How much did I pledge last year?

Jan Bass, Associate Treasurer, can answer any questions you have about your pledge or pledge history today after worship in the Fireside Room or by email to contribute@edenucc.com.

How much should I increase my pledge each year to keep current with inflation?

The majority of the church's expenses are fixed and increase annually with the cost of living. Over the past 12 months, the Consumer Price Index has increased by 3.2% so gifts that help us keep up with inflation are definitely needed. Gifts that exceed inflation help us address the additional costs associated with our growth plan. Attend a budget meeting or the Annual Meeting to learn about the progress being made in fulfillment of our strategic plan.

How can I find out more about next year's budget and the Church's current needs?

Budget Information Sessions will be held following morning worship on Sunday, May 6, and June 10. The Budget will be voted on by the membership at Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 24.

How can I make a planned gift by including Eden Church in my will?

If you have questions about planned giving, please contact Rob Parrish, Chair of Eden's Planned Giving Committee, Moderator Keith Smith, or Pastor Arlene.