

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

God of the Prophets, we hear your wake-up call ringing through the ages. In moments of anxiety, we presume the worst that the ancients could imagine: we presume a day filled with doom and gloom. But on our best days, when we dare to open the eyes of our faith—even a crack—we discover that your bright new day has already dawned and that it is filled with hope for all. Help us to live in this light, and convey your hope-filled message in all that we do. Amen.

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE** Kern

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 Kern

L: Our service continues with the ministry of music.

ANTHEM Candles of Advent Price/Besig
Cindy Keune, Recorder

CHILDREN'S GATHERING Pastor Pepper

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

CHILDREN'S BLESSING Advent is a Time to Wait *Twinkle, Twinkle*

*Advent is a time to wait,
Not quite time to celebrate,
Count the candles 1 by 1,
Until Advent time is done.
Day by day we work and play,
To prepare for Christmas day!*

*(K-5th grade are excused for the Children's Sermon and will return during the Offering for Communion.
Care for babies and pre-schoolers is available in our Nursery at any time during worship.)*

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 21: 25-36 Kern

(Today's scripture lesson can be found on pages 856-857 in the pew Bibles.)

SERMON What Good News? Rev. Dr. Arlene Nehring

* **HYMN** Each Winter as the Year Grows Older *NCH № 435*

OFFERING & DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

- Offertory** In the Bleak Midwinter/Away In a Manger arr. Perking's
*** Response** What Gift Can We Bring? (v.4) **NCH № 370**
*This gift we now bring, this pres-sent, this to-ken,
For words can con-vey it, the joy of this day!
When grate-ful we come, re-mem-bering, re-joic-ing
This song we now of-fer in hon-or and praise!*
- * Prayer of Dedication** Kern

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

- Lighting the Christ Candle** Pastor Pepper
Invitation Pastor Arlene
Blessing Prayer
Hymn of Approach Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (v.1) **NCH № 345**
*Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, and with fear and trem-bling stand;
Ponder nothing earth-ly-mind-ed, for with bless-ing in the hand,
Christ our God to earth de-scend-ing, our full homage to de-mand.*
- Words of Remembrance**
- * Distribution of the Elements**
- * The Rite of Holy Unction**
- Communion Music** Selection from the Organist Ashford
Prayers of Intercession and 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.

Padre Nuestro (in unison)

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 ofensas
así como nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden y no nos dejes
caer en tentación mas líbranos del
mal. Amén.

- * HYMN** All My Hope on God Is Founded **NCH № 408**

* **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.*

* **CHIME AND THE LIGHT DEPARTS WITH THE PEOPLE**

(The congregation is seated for the Postlude)

POSTLUDE

Variations on “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

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Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister
The Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister
The Rev. Marvin Lance Wisner, Designated Term Associate Minister
Kern Wallace, Liturgist
Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Organist & Music Director
Cindy Keune, Recorder

Communion Servers

Linda Joost & Carol Roach, Deacons
Pastor Arlene & Pastor Pepper, Chalice Bearers
Jan Bass & Kern Wallace, Bread Servers
Ruth Baratta & TBD, Anointers
Yoselin Penado & Fabiola Orea, Childcare Workers
Athena Malloy, Yuliana Wisner-Leon, and Pastor Pepper, Church School Teachers
Julie Booher & Smith-Bove Family, Greeters
Julie Booher, Keith Smith, Jared Smith-Bove & TBD, Ushers
Pat Payne, Fellowship Captain
Jessie Shimmin & Yuliana Wisner-Leon, Fellowship Hosts
Alliene Turner & Jennifer Vetrovec, Fellowship Helpers
Julie Booher, Trustee on Duty
Mary Bradford & David Wallace, Counters
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. We will celebrate infant and adult baptism and receive new members next Sunday, **Dec 16**, 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.

FLOWERS

*The communion flowers were given by Julie Booher in celebration of
Josie McClain's Birthday & Hanukkah.*

TODAY

Gen-Z@EdenUCC will be hosting an Advent Baked Goods sale during Fellowship after worship TODAY Proceeds will go locally toward victims of the Camp Fire and globally toward establishing a youth Kiva microfinance project.

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 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Grab coffee & a snack from Fellowship in Oliver Hall then come to our gathering. 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!

Aid for the Camp Fire (Paradise) Victims: As of yesterday, over 12,000 homes have been destroyed by the Camp Fire in Butte County, just 150 miles north of Hayward. Many families are in desperate need of replacement clothing and living equipment. The NCNC, with the assistance of UCC and Disciples of Christ (Christian) Churches in Chico, is collecting Safeway and Target gift cards to distribute. If you brought a gift card TODAY, please place it in the offering plate. You may also send or bring it to the Church Office by **Sunday, Dec 9**. If you would like to write a note to a fire survivor, see the stationary supplies in Oliver Hall. For more information, contact Pastor Pepper.

Rehearsals: There will be a music rehearsal TODAY for the youth participants in the pageant at 11:45 am in Fireside Room.

Coloring For Kids (And Adults!): Courtesy of the UCC Pension Board, a new Christmas coloring book will be offered to all our little visitors during Advent. This year's book, *The Light is Surely Coming*, tells the story of a young boy and his elderly neighbor and how we can all be a light in the darkness through kindness to strangers. Children will also receive a free coloring Advent Wreath kit during Church School for their home use. Adult visitors are invited to join us in coloring our large format Christmas posters after worship on Dec 2, 9, 16, & 23. Completed posters will be displayed on Christmas Eve. No supplies needed -- just bring yourself to Oliver Hall after worship. For more information about coloring as a devotional practice, contact Pastor Pepper.

Christmas Cards: Please take a moment after worship to sign the Christmas cards for our members and friends who are unable to worship with us. This is a special ministry of the church which is much appreciated by those who receive the cards. The cards will be available to sign in Oliver Hall **TODAY, Dec 9 and Dec 16**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy Birthday, Jesus!: Come to the party! On **Sunday, Dec 16**, Eden Church will present our annual Christmas Pageant starring the children and youth of the Eden Church School program. This year's pageant is *Modern Nativity*, written by our very own Miles Vetrovec. During worship, we will also collect new unwrapped toys for children ages 0-12 and \$20 gift cards for youth helpers at our Tres Reyes Fiesta on **Sunday, Jan 6**. The celebration continues after worship with a big beautiful birthday cake for baby Jesus during Fellowship in Oliver Hall.

Christmas Worship & Candlelight Christmas Eve: Every Sunday in Advent (**Dec 2, 9, 16, and 23**), Eden Church will celebrate the season with special worship and choral music at 10 am. Join us for the traditional Bible stories and songs of the Advent season. On **Monday, Dec 24**, we will celebrate Christmas Eve/Noche Buena with a special bilingual (English-Spanish) candlelight service at 7 pm. Our candlelight worship will be followed Cookies Galore, our annual sharing of cookies and hot cider in Oliver Hall. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors!

SMALL GROUPS

Seekers Book Club: For Advent, Seekers are reading Anne Rice's *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt*. We hope you will join us Wednesdays at 10 am in the Fireside Room.

Bible Study: Our Evening Bible Study will complete its reading the Book of Revelation on Monday, Dec 3. The Evening Bible Study meets at 7 pm in Fireside. The Daytime Bible Study is studying Christian faith topics using the Animate video series and meets on Mondays, Dec 3 & 17 at 1 pm in Pastor Pepper's Office.

Eden en español: Spanish language Bible Study happens Thursday evenings in the Fireside Room at 6:30 pm. Todos están invitados a nuestro estudio bíblico los jueves a las 6:30 de la tarde. Vamos a reunirnos en el salón *Fireside*. Va a haber cuidado para niños pequeños y el café internet va estar abierto para los jóvenes. Para preguntas contacte al Pastor Marvin: marvin@edenucc.com o 339-203-8412.

PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias and Comida Donation: The Eden Church Deacons and our Flower Coordinator Mary Graw invite members and friends to contribute funds for Comida para Cherryland this Advent Season. With your donation, the Comida will purchase groceries and, in appreciation, the Flower Coordinator will purchase poinsettias for display in the Sanctuary during the Advent, many of which will be delivered to our homebound and hospitalized members and friends. Submit your donation form by **Wed, Dec 5**. Forms are available in your bulletin, in the Church Office, and by clicking the link in the e-Chimes.

Baby, It's Cold Outside: Eden Church is collecting new and gently-used coats for children, youth, and adults. Coats will be distributed to unaccompanied minors and the families who are caring for them. If you would like to donate a coat, bring it to the Church Office. For more information, contact Yuliana Wisner-Leon.

We have a Winner!! Congrats to Isabel Walth who was the 50th person to sign up for our new Eden UCC Mobile Alerts. You too can be in the know wherever you go! Text "**EdenUCC**" to **33222** to opt-in to our text message service so that you can stay informed of important events and scenarios as they occur on our campus and in our ministry together. Envíe un mensaje de texto con "**IglesiaEden**" al **33222** para inscribirse en nuestro servicio de mensajes de texto en español para que pueda mantenerse informado de los eventos importantes a medida que ocurren en nuestro campus y en nuestro ministerio juntos.

For more information, contact one of our three Pastors or Dianne Dorn, Chair of our Stewardship Team.

Cherryland Computer Café Hours: The fall café hours are as follows: Mondays, 4- 7 pm, Tuesdays, 4-7 pm, Comida (2nd and 4th) Wednesdays, 1:30-4 pm, Thursdays, 6:30-8 pm. Contact our CCC Coordinator Alicia Oseguera for more information.

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. We also make a reasonable attempt to provide childcare for church-sponsored meetings/events upon request. To request childcare, contact Pastor Pepper at pepper@edenucc.com.

Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Groups: Have you (or someone you know) experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last few years? Sharing our experiences during this 10-week class is extremely helpful to our healing process. Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant life event. Course is open to all Widows and Widowers. Enrollments are now being accepted. Pre-Registration required. The workbook is \$15. Brochures with registration information can be found

THIS WEEK AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday, Dec 2

9:00 & 11:30 am	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary/Music Room
10:00—11:15 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
11:30—12:30 pm	Fellowship & Youth Bake Sale	Oliver Hall
11:30—12:30 pm	Pageant Rehearsal	Fireside
11:30—12:30 pm	Taste & See	Norberg Room

Monday, Dec 3

1:00—2:00 pm	Bible Study	Fireside
4:00—7:00 pm	Computer Cafe	Norberg
7:00—8:30 pm	Bible Study	Fireside

Tuesday, Dec 4

4:00—7:00 pm	Computer Cafe	Norberg
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Wednesday, Dec 5

10:00—11:00 am	Seekers	Fireside
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Thursday, Dec 6

6:30—8:00 pm	Bible Study en Español	Fireside
6:30—8:00 pm	Computer Cafe	Norberg

Sunday, Dec 9

9:00 & 11:30 am	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary/Music Room
10:00—11:15 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
11:15—12:30 pm	Fellowship	Oliver Hall
11:30—12:30 pm	Pageant Rehearsal	Fireside

COMING ATTRACTIONS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

(New items in *italic* and **bold**)

Dec 03	English Bible Study	Dec 17	English Bible Study
Dec 09	Second Sunday in Advent	Dec 23	Fourth Sunday in Advent
Dec 11	Trustees Meeting	Dec 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Dec 12	Comida para Cherryland	Dec 30	New Year's Worship in Pioneer Chapel with Tailgate Fellowship
Dec 16	Third Sunday in Advent/Christmas Pageant/Happy Birthday, Jesus	Jan 6	Tres Reyes Worship & Fiesta