

Eden United Church of Christ
Order for Worship
Sixth Sunday of Easter/Stewardship Sunday
Sunday, May 21, 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.

*Thank you for bringing no food or beverages in the Sanctuary
other than sacramental elements and bottled water.*

PRELUDE

Voluntary in E-flat Major

G. F. Handel

THE LIGHT ENTERS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

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

INTROIT

Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One! *(v.3)*

NCH № 253

Am I still fright-ened? One whom I a-dore,

Je-sus, lives a-gain, gives peace for-ev-er-more.

Je-sus is my vic-tory, life and strength and Head;

Je-sus is my glo-ry, noth-ing shall I dread.

Yours is the glo-ry, Res-ur-rect-ed One!

End-less is the vic-tory you o'er death have won.

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

Keith Smith

L: A word of encouragement came from prophet to people;

R: Live a life that is full – build, plant, eat, love, multiply--

L: Pray for your communities

R: Keep God in the center of all that is.

L: We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts

R: For something happens here that reminds us the future is bright.

L: God has made a promise of faithfulness to us

R: and we can trust the promise.

* **HYMN** Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good (v. 1 & 2) **NCH № 6**

* **INVOCATION** (in unison) Keith

Holy God, you have given us this garden of Eden to cultivate. We know it isn't perfect – here and there the soil is rocky, the weeds are overgrown, the sun beats down. But it is our spiritual home and we believe in its potential to be an oasis to all. Bless us as we invest in the future, matching our generosity to your own. In Christ's abundant love, Amen.

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE** Keith

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 Keith

L: Our Service of worship will continue with the Children's Gathering

CHILDREN'S GATHERING Arlene

CHILDREN'S BLESSING Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us (v.3) **NCH № 252**

*Let us al-ways seek your fa-vor; let us al-ways do your will;
Je-sus Christ our on-ly Sav-ior, with your love our spir-its fill.
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still;
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.*

*(Children in grade K-7 are excused to Church School. Grades 8-12 will remain in worship.
Nursery care is available at any time during worship.
Please see an usher for an escort to the nursery.)*

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-11 Keith

(Today's scripture lesson can be found on page 638-639 in the pew Bibles.)

SERMON "Hope and A Future" The Rev. Pepper Swanson

***HYMN** We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed (v. 1 & 2) **NCH № 540**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Joys and Concerns Arlene

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 Listen to Your Savior Call (v.3) *NCH № 250*
*“Mine is an un-chang-ing love,
high-er than the heights a-bove,
Deep-er than the depths be-neath,
free and faith-ful, strong as death”*

OFFERING & DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS & PLEDGES

Mission Moment Marylinn Wheatly-Powers

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

Offertory Impromptus No.2 in E-flat Major Op.90 F. Schubert

***Response** Come, Celebrate with Thanksgiving (v.1) *NCH № 246*
*Come cel-e-brate with thanks-giv-ing, come and wor-ship God al-might-y
Who is cre-a-tor of all things, and the giv-er of good gifts;
Who came to be one a-mong us, e-ven dy-ing on a cross,
E-vil has been o-ver-come, and now death has been de-stroyed.
Cel-e-brate that Christ is liv-ing and then wait for God's great gift:
The di-vine and ho-ly Spir-it now may come in-to our hearts.
Come in-to our hearts.*

***Prayer of Dedication** Keith

*** HYMN** O Jesus, I Have Promised *NCH № 493*

*** BENEDICTION** Pepper

*** RESPONSE** Peace I Leave with You, My Friends (v.2) *NCH № 249*

*Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom my peace, in all you do,
Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to you so you can give to oth-ers, too.
Take my hand and be at peace; the spir-it of our love I send.
And with this love you will be free, un-til I come a-gain.
Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom my peace, in all you do,
Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to you so you can give to oth-ers, too.*

* CHIMES & THE LIGHT DEPARTS WITH THE PEOPLE

POSTLUDE

Fughetta & Voluntary in E-flat Major

J. Stanley

Worship Leaders

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

Julie Booher & TBD, Greeters
Scott Swanson, Theresa Collier, Julie Booher & TBD, Ushers
Angelina Collier & Kemy Gekara, Nursery Workers
Theresa Collier & Jana Aloo, K-7

Jan Bass, Fellowship Captain
Keith Smith, Jacob Smith, Fellowship Hosts
Suzie Hasselkuss, Rozetta Walth & Confirmands, Fellowship Helpers
Dave Wallace & Debby Andrade, Counters
Russ Newman, 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 will celebrate infant and adult baptism and receive new members several times each year.

Flower Dedication

The flowers were given by Julie Booher, in memory of her mother, Zoe Anne Sheriff's birthday.

TODAY

Celebrating the Vision: Dedicating Our Pledges & Stewardship Celebration

Eden's Annual Stewardship Pledge Dedication Celebration is **today**. Pledges will be dedicated today during the Offering. If you haven't completed your pledge card yet, you can place it in the offering plate, mail it to the Church Office, or hand-deliver it to Michael Stuber, Associate Treasurer, at any time. After worship, a free pizza lunch for the whole congregation will be provided by the Fellowship Team.

Shannon Whitney is attending worship **today** with her new **service dog, Dosi**. It is very important for the development of their working relationship that Shannon's dog have her complete attention and focus. We can help by respecting their new bond—which means ignoring Dosi as much as possible. Shannon realizes ignoring the Dosi may be difficult for animal lovers, but she promises to make time for all of us to greet her new dog later.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation Homestretch

The 2016-2017 Confirmation program comes to a crescendo over the course of the next two weeks. Confirmands are assisting Stewardship today. They will meet next on Friday, **Jun 2**, 6-8 pm with Pastor Arlene & Suzie Hasselkuss to prepare for Confirmation Day, Sunday, June 4, 2017. An all-church celebration and free lunch will follow morning worship and be sponsored by the Fellowship Committee. Confirmands are especially encouraged to invite their relatives, godparents, and friends to share this special day with us.

Gay Prom E-vent

The 23rd Annual Gay Prom will take place on Saturday, **Jun 3**, at 7 pm at Chabot College. This year's prom is a Masquerade Ball with the theme, "Beneath the Mask we are Strong, Proud & Visible." LGBTQI2-S and their allies under 20 are invited to attend. The sponsor, Project Eden/LAMBDA Youth, welcomes volunteers, sponsors, and contributions to defray the cost of the event. Eden Church will send a contingent of Prom supporters. If you would like to either volunteer or support Gay Prom, please contact E-Team co-chairs Athena Malloy or Keith Smith or contact Pastor Pepper.

Bravo! Sunday

Help us celebrate our 2017 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 4**. Following our Confirmation and Youth Sunday worship service there will be a time of recognition in Oliver Hall. 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. A simple lunch will be provided free of charge by the Fellowship Committee. Come and help us recognize the many talents in our community.

Sikhism 101

The Eden Area Interfaith Council and the Sikh Gurdwara/Temple of Hayward invite the public to learn about the origins of Sikhism and the beliefs, values, practices, and culture of your Sikh-American neighbor, Sunday, **Jun 4** or **Jun 11**, 2-4 pm. Questions are encouraged. The Hayward Gurdwara is located at 1798 D Street, Hayward, just 1 mile up from All Saints Catholic Church.

2017-2018 Budget Presentation

Eden Church Treasurer, the Rev. Rob Parrish, and members of the 2017-2018 Budget Committee provided an overview of the proposed 2017-2018 Operating Budget last Sunday. A further update will be provided on Sunday, **Jun 11**, from 11:30 am to 12 noon in the Norberg Room. The presentation will include an analysis of revenue sources and expenses for our worshipping congregation, outreach ministries, and campus community, and illustrate how the Budget Committee, Church Council, and Board of Trustees recommend aligning financial & human resources with the vision & goals of the congregation's Strategic Plan, adopted on Jun 25, 2016.

Taste & See

New to Eden? Visitors and newcomers are invited to join our pastor and welcoming team for a reception in the Norberg Room, **Jun 18**, 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!

SMALL GROUPS & ONGOING PROGRAMS

Member Attendance Pilot Project: In April and May, the Congregational Life Team will be piloting a new member attendance system. The goal of the project is to build awareness of members' names, presence, and unexpected absences as well reach out to visitors in a timely fashion. Members are encouraged to either check their name upon arrival or to confirm with the usher that their name has been checked. A monthly report will be provided to the Senior Pastor and Council. If you have questions or comments, speak to one of the members of the Congregational Life Team: Keith Smith, Jacob Smith, Thomas Tyner, Sabrina Bratt, Dianne Dorn, Julie Booher, Suzie Hasselkuss, or Pastor Pepper.

Bible Study is Awesome: Our last sessions for this program year will be held tomorrow **May 22**. The daytime session is from 10 to 11 am in the Community Room. Evening session is from 7 to 8:30 pm at Chef's Experience in Hayward. For information, contact Pastor Pepper, Dianne Dorn, or Keith Smith.

Seekers Book Club: Eden's weekly book club is reading *The Book of Joy* by the Dalai Lama and the Rev. Desmond Tutu. Newcomers are always welcome on Wednesdays at 10 am.

Single Women's Group: Single women meet for fellowship and lunch on the first Friday of every month. The next meeting is Friday, **Jun 2**. For information, contact Daniella Prym or Anne Duey.

Join the Choir: Come and join the Eden Choir! Dr. Jessie Lo will be leading and teaching music during rehearsals to be held on certain Sundays beginning at 11:30 am. See "Coming Attractions" in the Sunday bulletin for our upcoming rehearsal and performance schedule. In general, rehearsals will be the two Sundays preceding each performance in worship. Come join a fun-loving group and be a vital part of our Music Ministry.

Cherryland Computer Café: Need a computer for schoolwork? Need to complete or print a job application? All ages welcome and mentors available to help you succeed. Open hours for **Spring 2017** are scheduled for Mondays from 4 to 7 pm and Comida Wednesdays (2nd & 4th) from 1 to 4 pm. Hours may change; please call our Office at (510) 582-9533 to confirm availability.

Comida para Cherryland: Eden's just-in-time food pantry, *Comida para Cherryland*, serves around 200 families per month. The *Comida* operates on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 1:30—4:30 pm or until the food is gone. A contribution of \$4.50 buys one bag for a family of 4 to 7. For more information, contact our Compañeras/os Ministry Coordinator, Corina Vasare.

Flowers for Worship: The 2017 Flower Calendar is posted in the Church Office. Several Sundays are available for dedications. Stop by to sign up for a date to match your occasion. Flowers can be provided by: 1) Cut or purchase flowers and arrange them at home or church and place them on the communion table; 2) Make arrangements with Eden's Flower Coordinator Mary Graw to provide flowers and she will arrange them; or 3) Order flowers delivered from a florist to the church on the Saturday prior to your date. Bulletin dedications are due to the Church Office by 12 noon on the Wednesday before your date. For information, contact Mary Graw at 510-581-5536.

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. (Childcare during worship is offered for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and childcare during meetings and events is offered for infants through 6th grade.) To request childcare for your family or for a church meeting/event, contact Pastor Pepper at pepper@edenucc.com.

JOYS

Badarikashram, the Hindu Temple in San Leandro, celebrated their 33rd anniversary yesterday. Pastor Arlene led prayers at the service, and President Stephanie Spencer brought greetings from the Eden Area Interfaith Council.

*Comida para Cherryland is five (5) years old, and we are celebrating all of the families, friendships, and faith traditions that have been nourished through this amazing interfaith ministry! **Sixty-seven (67)** certificates of appreciation were distributed to the 2016-2017 volunteers, including 32 certificates presented to volunteers who have been with us since DAY ONE!*

*Congratulations to **Hayden Payne**, son of Pat and Steve Payne, who will be graduating with honors and receiving the Associates of Science degree from Los Positas College on May 26. Hayden will matriculate at San Diego State University, where he will be majoring in Computer Science and preparing for a career in software development.*

*Thank you to all the participants in this year's **FESCO Shelter Shuffle** at the San Leandro Marina and to their financial. Donations are still being collected and can be left in the offering plate with checks made out to FESCO. Special thanks to our FESCO Representatives, **Pam Reuling and Pat Payne**, for getting us organized.*

*Congratulations to **Eleanor O'Keefe**, who received her Ph.D. degree on May 12, 2017, from the University of Louisville! Eleanor is the daughter of **Diane Fletcher and Michael O'Keefe**.*

***Marilyn Sundberg** will be moving to Baywood Court next month once the renovations in her new apartment have been completed. She will be living two doors east of the unit where Betty Norum lived when she first moved to Baywood, so she will surely enjoy good karma there.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

*For families in our congregation and neighborhood need help finding affordable housing. If you have a lead on **a room, an apartment, or a house** to rent, please contact Pastor Arlene.*

*For **the Autenrieth family**, and **Emily's mother**, who receiving hospice care.*

*For **Rene Coleman and family**. Rene's mother made her transition on April 29.*

*For **the family and friends of Jan Richards**, especially her sons, **Matthew Foster**, and **Michael Foster**, and Michael's partner, **the Rev. Brenda Loreman**. Jan died in her sleep early Tuesday morning, May 16. Michael and Brenda's mailing address is printed in the church directory or may be obtained by contacting Tania Martinez by phone or email at the church office.*

*For Pam Winthers' nephew **Brandon Jones and his family**, who are living with a reoccurrence of cancer.*

*For **Ruth Jenkins**, who is home from the hospital and recovering from pneumonia.*

*For **Wesley Moniz**, Jenna, Willow, and Raven's father, who has been diagnosed with an incurable form of osteomyelitis, and who has begun receiving hospice care. Wes plans to return to the Bay Area on June 6, and spend the remainder of his time this side of heaven near his family.*

*For **Gregory Roberts**, the Bove-Smith's cousin, who is receiving chemotherapy treatments.*

*For the family and friends of **the Rev. Jo Siders**, who died at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, May 8, following two cardiac surgeries.*

*For **the family and friends of Roxanne Redlich**, especially her son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter, **Scott, Pastor Pepper and Lia Swanson**. Roxanne died in her sleep early Monday morning, May 15. Her memorial service will be held at her home church in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Cards and condolences may be brought to church or mailed to the Swanson home. The Swanson's address is printed in the church directory, or may be obtained by contacting Tania Martinez by phone or email at the church office.*

This Week At-A-Glance

Sunday, May 21

10:00—11:15 am	Dedication Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
11:15—12:15 pm	Stewardship Luncheon	Oliver Hall
11:30—12:30 pm	Sunday Counters	Library

Monday, May 22

10:00—11:30 am	Bible Study	Community Room
4:00— 7:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room
7:00— 8:30 pm	Bible Study	Off-site

Tuesday, May 23

10:00—12:00 pm	Eden Stitchers	Jensen Room
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Wednesday, May 24

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

Sunday, May 28

10:00—11:15 am	Worship	Sanctuary
11:15—12:15 pm	Fellowship	Oliver Hall
11:30—12:30 pm	Sunday Counters	Library

Coming Attractions – Mark Your Calendars!

New or amended items are in italics.

<p>May 22 Final Spring Bible Study</p> <p>May 24 Comida para Cherryland</p> <p>May 29 Memorial Day/Campus Closed</p> <p><i>Jun 2 Final Confirmation Class</i></p> <p>Jun 4 Confirmation Sunday/Bravo Sunday!</p> <p>Jun 11 2017-2018 Budget Presentation</p> <p>Jun 15-18 NCNC UCC Annual Meeting</p> <p>Jun 18 Faith of Our Fathers Worship</p> <p><i>Jun 18 Taste & See</i></p>	<p><i>Jun 25 Contemporary Worship</i></p> <p>Jun 25 152nd Congregational Meeting</p> <p>Jul 4 Independence Day/Campus Closed</p> <p>Jul 8 <i>Castro Valley Pride</i></p> <p><i>Jul 9 Open & Affirming Anniversary</i></p> <p>Jul 9 <i>Cherryland Youth Leadership Institute begins</i></p> <p>Jul 23 <i>Cherryland Friendship Lunch & Tour</i></p> <p><i>Aug 12 Marina Walk Excursion</i></p>
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