

Eden United Church of Christ
Order for Worship
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 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 Please Take the Devil Out of Me George Jones

THE LIGHT ENTERS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Nursery care is available at any time during worship.)

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

INTROIT Rejoice, You Pure in Heart (v. 3) **NCH № 71**
*With voice as full and strong as o-cean's surg-ing praise,
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an-cient days.
Ho-san-na! Ho-san-na! Re-joice, give thanks and sing.*

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

L: Grace and peace to you from God,

R: our Creator, Christ, and Guiding Spirit,

L: who knew you and chose you before the world began,

R: who has brought us from darkness into light,

L: who has given you a treasure that will never spoil or fade,

R: who encourages and strengthens us, in every good deed and word,

L: who comforts you in your troubles so that you may comfort others.

R: This is our God, the ultimate source of all things,

L: and the One for whom we live.

* **HYMN** Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year **NCH № 431**

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

Lauren

Holy God, as we enter the season of Thanksgiving, we give thanks naturally for what we have in abundance. Open our minds to the idea that it helps to be thankful for that which is limited in our lives as well. When we see and praise you for our limits, our losses, and the cycle of life and death, we acknowledge that you, and not we, are the enduring author of all our days. We give you thanks and praise for the beauty of the earth, the passage of time, and the power that is love. 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: The worship continues with the ministry of music.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Angel of Death

Hank Williams

CHILDREN'S GATHERING

Pastor Pepper

CHILDREN'S BLESSING Go, My Children, with My Blessing *(v. 2)* **NCH № 82**

Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me;

Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you,

here with ten-der com-fort stilled you;

Go my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free.

(Children in grade K-8th are excused to Church School. High School Youth may remain in worship or assist with Church School. Nursery care is available at any time during worship. Please see an usher for an escort to the nursery.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 90: 1-12

Keith Smith

(Today's scripture lesson can be found on page 476-477 in the pew Bibles)

SERMON

“Thankful for Limits”

The Rev. Pepper Swanson

* **HYMN**

Come, O Thankful People, Come

NCH № 422

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Keith

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

OFFERING & DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Keith

Offertory

I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry

Hank Williams

*** Response**

Give Thanks for Life (v. 4)

NCH № 297

*Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain
that lies in dark-ness does its life re-tain
In res-ur-rec-tion to grow green a-gain,
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia!*

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Keith

*** HYMN**

For the Fruit of All Creation

NCH № 425

*** BENEDICTION**

Pastor Pepper

*** RESPONSE**

May the Sending One Defend You (v. 2)

NCH № 79

*May the Giv-en One re-trieve you,
may the Gift-ed One re-lieve you,
May the Giv-ing One re-ceive you,
in your fall-ing and your re-storing.*

*** CHIMES AND THE LIGHT DEPARTS WITH THE PEOPLE**

*** POSTLUDE**

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

Traditional Hymn

Today's 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 & Lauren Smith-Bove, Liturgists

Julie Booher, Greeter

Theresa Collier, Julie Booher, TBD & TBD, Ushers

Kemy Gekara & Yoselin Penado, Nursery Workers

Suzie Hasselkuss & Theresa Collier, Church School Teachers

Dave Wallace & Sally Kusalo, Counters
Jan Bass, Fellowship Captain
Jan Bass & Amy Rachel-Rios, Fellowship Host
Suzie Hasselkuss & Lauren Smith-Bove, Fellowship Helpers
Daniella Prym, Trustee on Duty
Dawn Coburn, Sunday Sexton

Flowers

*The flowers were given by Stephanie and Arlene on the 15th anniversary of Arlene's call to Eden Church.
Thank you for sharing your ministry with us for the past 15 years!*

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

Welcome back to Roanoke Revival, our favorite bluegrass band. Please take a moment to thank our guest musicians Jesse Acker-Johnson, Sabrina Vasquez, and Daniel Price.

The ESLO Committee and interested volunteers will meet **TODAY** at 11:30 am in the Norberg Room to finalize plans for this year's Advent Decorating & Nacimiento Creation Day (Dec 2, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm) and other Advent events. Please join us!

TODAY is the last day to sign Thanksgiving Cards for our homebound and nonresident members and friends. Please take a moment during Fellowship Hour today to sign the Thanksgiving cards. They are a very special ministry of Eden Church and much appreciated by those who receive them. Cards are located on the signing table in Oliver Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Decorating & Nacimiento Creation: It's hard to believe, but the Advent season is just around the corner, and it's almost time for evergreen wreaths and garlands, trumpeting angels, twinkling lights, and lots of shepherds, magi, and little holy families. Please join the Deacons, Trustees and our Cherryland friends and neighbors on Saturday, **Dec 2**, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, for a fun time adorning the church for the Advent season, kids crafts for the holidays, and creating our annual Nacimiento. Many hands make light work! Lunch and fellowship time will be provided. To volunteer, please sign up on the clipboard in the Office. Questions? Contact Pastor Pepper.

Taste & See: New to Eden? Visitors and newcomers are invited to join our pastor and welcoming team for a reception in the Norberg Room, **Dec 10**, from 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!

Christmas Pageant: Yes, Virginia, there will be a Christmas pageant this Advent. The pageant performance is Sunday, **Dec 17** and will be followed by Eden's traditional "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party with cake. 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.

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!

Mt. Eden High School Chamber Singers: come enjoy a special performance by one of our nation's elite high school vocal groups on the evening of Thursday, **Dec 7** and on a Sunday in Advent (tbd) during morning worship. The Mt. Eden Choir is conducted by award-winning teacher and conductor Ken Rawdon. The Chamber Singers are one of several ensembles that are part of highly-regarded performance arts program.

Happy Birthday, Jesus! On Sunday, **Dec 17**, 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.

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.

YOUTH GROUP

Our 7-12th grade Youth Group has a busy schedule this December. Save these dates and plan to join us for all of these activities. For more information, contact Pastor Pepper.

- **Nov 29** Meet & Greet a Candidate for DTAM, 5 pm, Oliver Hall
- **Dec 2** Youth Service Project at Food Bank, 12:30 pm
- **Dec 10** Las Posadas at Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church in Hayward, 5 pm
- **Jan 7** Tres Reyes at Eden Church, 10 am

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

Bible Study: Bible Study resumed in September with a new video-based curriculum, *Animate: Bible*. Remaining Fall dates for both the morning and evening sessions include **Nov 20 and Dec 4 & 18**. For information, contact Pastor Pepper, Dianne Dorn or Keith Smith.

Eden Stitchers: Quilters and others with sewing projects are invited to join the Eden Stitchers on Tuesdays at 10 am in the Jensen Room. Contact Suzie Hasselkuss or Shannon Whitney for the date of the next meeting.

Single Women's Group: Single women meet for fellowship and lunch on the first Friday of every month. The next meeting is Friday, **Dec 1**. For information, contact Daniella Prym.

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. Hours are subject to change; please call the Church Office at (510) 582-9533 to confirm availability.

This Week At-A-Glance

Sunday, November 19

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 Committee Meeting	Norberg

Monday, November 20

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, November 21

10:00—12:00 pm	Eden Stitchers	Jensen Room
4:00—7:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room
6:00—7:00 pm	Free Yoga	Room 121

Wednesday, November 22

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

Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving (Campus Closed)

Friday, November 24 - Thanksgiving Holiday (Campus Closed)

Sunday, November 26

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

Coming Attractions – Mark Your Calendars!

New or amended items are in bold & italics

Nov 20	Bible Study	Dec 10	Second Sunday in Advent & Taste & See E-vent
Nov 21	Free Yoga	Dec 10	Las Posadas at Starr-King UU
Nov 22	Comida para Cherryland	Dec 12	Free Yoga
Nov 23	Thanksgiving (Campus Closed)	Dec 13	Comida para Cherryland
Nov 24	Thanksgiving Holiday (Campus Closed)	Dec 17	Third Sunday in Advent: Pageant & Happy Birthday Jesus Party
Nov 28	Free Yoga	Dec 18	Bible Study
Nov 29	DTAM Search Committee	Dec 19	Free Yoga
Dec 02	Advent Decorating Day/Youth Service	Dec 24	Fourth Sunday in Advent
Dec 03	First Sunday in Advent & DTAM Com.	Dec 24	Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
Dec 04	Bible Study	Dec 25	Christmas Day (Campus Closed)
Dec 05	Church Council Meeting	Dec 26	Christmas Holiday (Campus Closed)
Dec 05	Free Yoga	Dec 27	Comida para Cherryland
<i>Dec 07</i>	<i>Mt. Eden High School Concert</i>	Jan 07	<i>Tres Reyes Celebration</i>

Poinsettia Display & Comida Offering

The Eden Church Deacons invite members and friends to contribute funds for *Comida para Cherryland*, this Advent Season. With our donations, the *Comida* volunteers will purchase nutritious groceries for the families most in need in the Eden area.



In appreciation for members and friends' contributions to the *Comida*, the Deacons will purchase poinsettias for display in the Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons, and deliver poinsettias to homebound and hospitalized members and friends on Dec 17.

If you would like to dedicate your contribution to a loved one and include your dedication in our Sunday worship bulletin on the Fourth Sunday in Advent (Dec 17) and Christmas Eve (Dec 24), please include the name or names of those persons in the space provided below.

Please note: **Deadline for dedications is Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

If you wish to participate in the Deacon's Advent Offering for the *Comida*, please complete this form, and enclose and mail (or deliver) your check and dedication to the Eden Church office.

I would like to dedicate my *Comida* offering Poinsettia to:

In memory of:

In honor of:

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

I have enclosed \$_____ (\$4.50 per grocery bag) and understand that all names listed above will be published, and that my enclosed contribution will provide food for *Comida para Cherryland* participants.

My Name

Phone Number

Email

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