

Eden United Church of Christ
Order for Worship
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 29, 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 Magnificat Guilmant

THE LIGHT ENTERS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Arlene K. Nehring

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

INTROIT Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs (v.1) **NCH № 617**

*U-nite and join your cheer-ful songs,
with an-gels 'round the throne;
Ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues,
yet all their joys are one.*

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

L: Jesus says: I am the true vine.

R: And we are the branches.

L: Jesus says: God will tend us all in turn.

R: Making us fruitful, faithful, and joyful.

L: Jesus says: Abide in me.

R: As I abide in you.

L: Jesus says: I am the true vine and you are the branches.

R: Abide in me as I abide in you and you will be fruitful.

* **HYMN** Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls **NCH № 383**

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

Merciful and Loving God, we thank you and praise you for calling and claiming us as your own, and embracing us just as we are. Help us to receive your grace in the same measure that you give it, so that our very lives might be transformed for your glory, and our witness might become a beacon of hope on the path that leads to justice for all. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE Athena

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 Athena

L: Worship will continue with the Ministry of Music.

ANTHEM Love Comes from God Allen Pote

CHILDREN'S GATHERING Pastor Arlene

CHILDREN'S BLESSING There Is a Name I Love to Hear *(v.1)* **NCH № 52**

*There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like mu-sic to my ear,
the sweet-est name on earth.*

*O how I love Je-sus, O how I love Je-sus,
O how I love Je-sus, whose love has first found me.*

(Children in grades K-5 are excused to Church School. Youth in grades 6-12 may remain in worship or assist with Church School. Nursery care for babies and pre-schoolers is available at any time during worship.)

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 8:26-40 Athena

(Today's scripture lesson can be found on page 892-893 of the pew Bibles.)

SERMON "Trans Faithfulness" The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

* **HYMN** In the Bulb There Is a Flower **NCH № 433**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Joys and Concerns Pastor 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 **Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs** *(v.3)* **NCH № 617**
*Wor-thy the Lamb,
the an-gels say, to be ex-alt-ed thus;
A-men, a-men the saints re-ply,
the Lamb was slain for us.*

OFFERING & DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

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

Offertory The Love Of Jesus Medley Bradbury/Hayes

***Response** **Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs** *(v.2)* **NCH № 617**
*This is the way the church should strive,
in har-mo-ny be-low,
As mem-bers of one bod-y live,
one Sov-ereign shall you know.*

***Prayer of Dedication** Athena

*** HYMN** O for a World **NCH № 575**

*** BENEDICTION** Pastor Arlene

*** RESPONSE** **Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs** *(v.4)* **NCH № 617**
*As-sist us, all a-bove the sky,
on earth, and on the seas;
U-nite and raise God's hon-ors high,
in hymns of end-less praise.*

*** CHIMES & THE LIGHT DEPARTS WITH THE PEOPL**

(The congregation is seated for the Postlude)

POSTLUDE Pass It On Kaiser/Hayes

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister
The Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister
Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Organist & Music Director
Athena Guy Malloy, Liturgist
Julie Booher & Cindy Keune, Greeters
Cindy Keune, Stephanie Spencer, Scott Swanson, and TBD, Ushers
Kemy Gekara & Yoselin Penado, Childcare Workers
Bob Turner & Jan Bass, Church School Teachers
Jim Fryer & TBD, Counters
Julie Booher, Fellowship Captain
Julie Booher, Cindy Keune & Pat Payne, Fellowship Hosts
Pat Payne, Fellowship Helpers
Bob Turner, 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.

Flower Dedication

The flowers on the altar are given by the Malloy family to celebrate Darcy's Gotcha Day 12 years ago

COMING EVENTS

Youth Bake-Off (for Two Excellent Causes): On **Friday, May 4**, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm, Eden's Youth will have a bake-off to provide morning treats for the Bay Association meeting on preventing gun violence in schools. Baked goods made on Friday night will be offered for a free-will donation at **Saturday, May 5** Bay Association meeting (see below) to support an Eden Youth "Blue Theology" trip this summer. Sign up with Pastor Pepper.

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. 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. 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 were *pre-registered*. 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.

Ready for the Future: This year's Stewardship Campaign will kick off on **Sunday, May 6** and celebrates Eden's Strategic Plan, adopted in Jun 2016 and now in its second year of implementation, and the congregation's recent decision to call the Rev. Marvin Wiser, as a designated term pastor to focus on youth, young adults, and families with young children. With the call of Pastor Marvin, who will begin his term on **Jun 11**, Eden Church is "red-y" for the future! Save these dates (and your appetite) for these special "red" Stewardship events: **Sunday, May 6:** Red Velvet Cupcakes, **Sunday, May 13:** Strawberry Shortcakes, and **Sunday, May 20:** Cherry Pies (Pentecost/Pledge Dedication Sunday).

2018-2019 Budget Presentation: Eden Church Treasurer, the Rev. Rob Parrish, and members of the 2018-19 Budget Committee will provide an overview of the proposed 2018-2019 Operating Budget on Sunday, May 6, and Sunday, June 10, 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 recommends aligning financial and human resources with the vision and goals articulated in the congregation's Strategic Plan, which was adopted on June 25, 2016.

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**. 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. 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!

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 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: 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. Spring dates for both the morning and evening sessions include: **Apr 23 and May 7 & 21**. And, the evening session of **May 21** will be a potluck; everyone is invited. 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, May 4**. For information, contact Daniella Prym.

ONGOING PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cherryland Computer Café Hours: The spring semester café hours will be as follows: Monday and Tuesdays, 4-7 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, April 29

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

Monday, April 30

4:00—7:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room
7:00—9:00 pm	EAF Board Meeting	Norberg Room

Tuesday, May 1

4:00—7:00 pm	Cherryland Computer Café	Norberg Room
6:00—7:00 pm	Free Yoga	Room 201
7:00—9:00 pm	Council Meeting	Norberg Room

Wednesday, May 2

10:00—11:00 am	Seekers	Fireside Room
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Friday, May 4

11:45—2:00 pm	Single Women's Group	Offsite
6:30—9:30 pm	Youth Group Bake-Off	Oliver Hall

Saturday, May 5

9:00—12:00 pm	Bay Association Program on Gun Violence	Oliver Hall
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Sunday, May 6

9:00—9:45 am	Music Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:00—11:15 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
11:15—12:30 pm	Fellowship – Red Velvet Cupcakes!	Oliver Hall
11:30—12:00 pm	2018-19 Budget Presentation	Norberg
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.

Apr 30	EAF Board Meeting	May 08	Trustees Meeting
May 01	Church Council Meeting	May 09	Comida para Cherryland
May 01	Free Yoga	May 13	Festival of the Christian Home
May 04	Youth Group Bake-Off	May 15	Free Yoga
May 05	Bay Association Meeting	May 20	Stewardship Sunday/Pentecost
May 06	Stewardship Campaign Begins	May 21	Bible Study Potluck
May 06	2018-19 Budget Presentation	Jun 3	Bravo! Sunday
May 07	Bible Study	Jun 10	Taste & See
May 08	Free Yoga	Jun 10	2018-19 Budget Presentation



FESCO News

The Family Emergency Shelter Coalition, aka FESCO, has wonderful news to share with our Coalition members and supporters. Effective July 1, FESCO will be merging with La Familia Counseling Services, a larger multi-service agency founded in Hayward in 1975.

FESCO will remain committed to providing housing and critical services for homeless Alameda County families and their children. By merging with La Familia, FESCO will have a greater ability to provide our families with a more diverse array of social services, encompassing programs for mental health, substance abuse, and/or education and employment opportunities. FESCO has much to gain from this merger, as does La Familia, which currently is not able to provide housing options for their clients.

Our passionate commitment to serving homeless families and their children will continue as FESCO becomes a part of La Familia. The FESCO Coalition Board will continue as an Advisory Committee working in collaboration with La Familia's executive staff. Most importantly, our merger with La Familia will enhance FESCO without any negative impact on our current clients, continuity of care, nature of services, or intended use of any real property owned by FESCO.

On behalf of hundreds of FESCO families over the past 30 years, we wish to acknowledge our community for your dedication, volunteerism, and financial contributions in support of our mission.

Gay McDaniel, FESCO Executive Director