

Orinda Community Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United
Church of Christ Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

Order of Worship
Pentecost Sunday
Sunday, May 23, 2021

Reflection: *You are called to be truly human, but it is nothing short of the life of God within you that enables you to be so, to be remade in God's image. —N.T. Wright*

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

American Folk Tune

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lani Shepp

One: Move among us, Spirit, and gather us together with you.

All: **Take our many selves—our lives, our loves, our ideas—**

One: Gather our questions, our speech, our silence and unite us as your people.

All: **Give us the gifts of perception and understanding.**

One: We invoke your presence as we dream your dreams and see your visions.

All: **In joy, we witness to you alive in our common life.**

HYMN BH 289

Come Forth, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Lani Shepp

Holy Spirit, light and life, and living fountain of reason, soak into us. Spirit of wisdom, Spirit of understanding, of goodness and honesty, intelligence and sovereignty, bring us relief from grief and doubt. Our God, fire deriving from fire, speaking, acting, illuminating us with gifts; through whom all of God's holy people come together. We give thanks with different sounds, a different sight: fire divided into gifts of grace. So immense is your love for us, and your truth endures forever. Amen.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Leslie O'Brien

SOLO

Turn Then Thine Eyes

Henry Purcell

Turn then thine eyes
Upon those glories there,
Catching flames will on thy torch appear.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Lani Shepp

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Romans 8:22-27

8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait [...] For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes.

SERMON

And You Shall Live

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

ANNOUNCEMENTS, OFFERTORY INVITATION

SOLO

Come, Holy Ghost

Mark-Antoine Charpentier

Veni, creator Spiritus,
mentes tuorum visita,
imple superna gratia,
quae tu creasti, pectora.

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come
from thy bright heav'nly throne;
come, take possession of our souls,
and make them all thine own.

Tu septiformis munere,
dextrae Dei tu digitus,
tu rite promissum Patris,
sermone ditans guttura.

Thou who art sevenfold in thy grace,
finger of God's right hand;
his promise, teaching little ones
to speak and understand.

Accende lumen sensibus,
infunde amorem cordibus,
infirmi nostri corporis
virtute firmans perpeti.

O guide our minds with thy blest light,
with love our hearts inflame;
and with thy strength, which ne'er decays,
confirm our mortal frame.

PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**Our God, 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.
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN BH 282

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

African American spiritual

Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain when my God spoke,
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
All around me, it looked so fine,
I asked my Lord if all was mine. [Refrain]

Jordan River, chilly and cold,
it chills the body, but not the soul.
There ain't but one train that's on this track,
it runs to heaven and runs right back. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

