



Orinda Community Church

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday, November 21, 2021, 10 am

Reflection: *"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."*
John F. Kennedy

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity...it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."
Melody Beattie

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude."
A.A. Milne

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Reverend Barry Cammer

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Nancy Peterson

One: We pause in our week to gather in song, word, prayer, and in gratitude.

All: **It is good to pause for gratitude. May our gratitude never cease.**

One: We are grateful for this day that God has made.

All: **May we be grateful for everything that God has made, for God has made everything.**

HYMN* BH 17

To You O God, All Creatures Sing

Cologne, 1623

* *Stand as you are able*

Holy One, giver of life, sustainer of creation, and source of unimaginable wonder, we come to you this day with deep gratitude for the opportunities that you grant us with each breath, to love one another, to live as Jesus lived, to live lives of wonder and amazement, to find joy in surprising places, to find comfort even in our darkest moments. You prove to us with every rising sun that we are not alone on this planet, but that we live in community with all that you have created. We acknowledge that we have not always loved enough, cared deeply enough, respected our planet enough, honored each other enough, or even loved ourselves as much as you love us. Come dance with us. Come dance arm and arm with us as we move and weave between the “already” and the “not yet” Amen.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
Many: **And also with you.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Mary Volmer

WE LISTEN

SOLO

Nikolas Nackley

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Nancy Peterson

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

A reading from Rumi:

“Be grateful for your life, every detail of it, and your face will come to shine like a sun, and everyone who sees it will be made glad and peaceful. Persist in gratitude, and you will slowly become one with the Sun of Love, and Love will shine through you its all-healing joy. The path of gratitude is not for children; it is path of tender heroes, of the heroes of tenderness who, whatever happens, keep burning on the altar of their hearts the flame of adoration.”

SERMON

Gratitude Abbondanza

Reverend Barry Cammer

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 376

God We Thank You For Our People

HOLY MANNA, 1825

A TIME OF PRAYER

Reverend Barry Cammer

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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.**

MOMENT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME OF GIVING

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY SOLO

Nik Nackley, soloist

DOXOLOGY*

OLD HUNDREDTH, 1551

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

* *Stand as you are able*

HYMN* BH 370

What Gift Can We Bring

Jane Marshall, 1980

BENEDICTION*

Barry Cammer

POSTLUDE

* *Stand as you are able*

Orinda Community Church

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Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

Leslie Darwin O'Brien, Pastoral Outreach & Family

Ministry David Milnes, Director of Music

Anna Gregory, Office Administrator

REGULAR WEEKLY OFFERINGS AT THE CHURCH

- **Mondays at 9:30 am** we have centering prayer in the chapel. This is a time of silent, contemplative prayer. We begin with a reading, spend 15 minutes in silent prayer, and then offer a time for processing.
- Contemplative services are held in the chapel on **Wednesdays at 10 a.m.** This is a short service that includes readings, music, and time for prayer. The church will continue to send out an electronic version of the contemplative service each Wednesday as well.
- The **Theology and Scripture Group** continues to meet at **2:00 p.m. on Thursdays** via Zoom. We are now reading the second chapter in a study of Elaine Pagels' book *Beyond Belief, the secret gospel of Thomas*. Please join us for lively and meaningful conversation.

For the link, check your eblast or go to our website:

orindacommunitychurch.org

- The Writers' Group meets every other week **Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.** via Zoom. All are welcome. The next meeting date is **November 30th**.

For the link, check your eblast or go to our website:

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AND IN OTHER NEWS:

**Thank you to this week's ushers:
John and Nancy Thursby, Gary Nye and Janet Rosefield.**

**Thank you to all who have turned in their pledge cards. If you haven't turned yours in, we ask you to consider making a pledge to the church.
Thank you!**

**Holiday Story Hour Coming Soon
Tuesday Nights 7:00 pm
11/30/21, 12/7/21 & 12/14/21
Mark your calendars, more information to follow.**

And from the McInaney Family:

Our beloved mother, **Michele McInaney**, passed away in her own home surrounded by her loved ones on November 17th, 2020.

She was 87 years old.

**The Memorial Service for her is today, November 21st, 2021
at 2:00 pm.**

The service will be hosted here at Orinda Community Church.

OCC was very important to her and was her place of worship.

We look forward to sharing memories about our mom with all of you.

Love to you all. Kevin, Steve, Maureen, and Kristin

Interfaith Celebration & Service – Giving Thanks

A community gathering with faith and lay leaders from across the County.



Sunday, November 21st at 4:00 p.m.

The service will be streamed online thanks to the tech team at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church! Online! For more information go to

<https://tinyurl.com/21GivingThanks>

In the place of a sermon, a panel of faith leaders will share in a Sacred Conversation on Ministry as God's people together.