



Orinda Community Church

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

Order of Worship Sunday, August 8, 2021, 10 am

Reflection: To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly." – Henri Bergson

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

How Can I Keep From Singing

arr. R. Walters 2002

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die,
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

* *Stand as you are able*

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Mary Volmer

One: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares God.

Many: **God’s plans are blessings. They are plans to prosper us and not harm us.**

One: The Divine One promises us hope and a future.

Many: **God says, “Behold, I am making a new thing! Do you not see it?”**

One: God is making a way in the wilderness for us.

Many: **We go forward with God’s loving eye upon us.**

HYMN BH 277*

Holy, Holy, Holy

NICEA, 1861

COMMUNITY PRAYER

from a Lakota prayer

Mary Volmer

**Oh, Great Spirit,
Whose voice I hear in the winds
and whose breath gives life to all the world.
Hear me! I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes
ever hold the red and purple sunset.
Make my ears sharp to hear your voice.
Help me remain calm and strong in the
face of all that comes towards me.
Make me always ready to come to you with
clean hands and straight eyes. Amen.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Leslie O'Brien

* *Stand as you are able*

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-12

Mary Volmer

SOLO

Come Sunday

Duke Ellington 1943

Savior God above, God almighty, God of love,
Please look down and see my people through.

I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky.
I don't mind the gray skies
'cause they're just clouds passing by.

Heaven is a goodness time. A brighter light on high.
Love your neighbor as yourself,
And have a brighter by and by.

I believe God is now, was then and always will be.
With God's blessing we can make it through eternity.

REFLECTION

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CELEBRATION OF DION

COMMENTS BY LESLIE AND DION

DUET

Come to My Garden

Marsha Norman/LucySimon 1991

Clusters of Crocus, purple and gold.
Blanket of pansies up from the cold.
Lilies and iris safe from the chill.
Safe in my garden, snowdrops so still.

Come to my garden
Nestled in the hill
There I'll keep you safe beside me.

* *Stand as you are able*

Come to my garden
Rest there in my arms
There I'll see you safely grown
And on your way.

Stay there in the garden,
Where love grows free and wild.
Come to my garden.
Come, sweet child.

Lift me up and lead me to the garden,
Where life begins anew.
Where I'll find you,
And I'll find you love me too.

Lift me up and lead me to the garden
Where love grows deep and true
Where I'll tell you, where I'll show you
A new life, I will live for you.

I shall see you in the garden,
Where spring will come and stay.
Come to my garden,
Come, sweet day!

SERVICE OF RELEASE

Pastor: We now celebrate the 12 years that Dion Maskeleris has served Orinda Community Church and release him from that service as he moves on to new projects and adventures.

Dion: I thank Orinda Community Church for the love, kindness, and support you have shown me these last 12 years. I ask forgiveness for mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways in which my service has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned and experienced here.

People: **We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to follow your life path elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and community will not leave us at your departure.**

Dion: I accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together has been meaningful and enriching for all in the community.

* *Stand as you are able*

VOWS OF RELEASE

Pastor: Do you, the members and friends of Orinda Community Church, release Dion from his duties as our caretaker?

People: **We do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you offer encouragement for his life journey as it continues in new ways?

People: **We do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you, Dion Maskeleris, release this church from turning to you and depending on you?

Dion: Yes, I do.

Pastor: Dion, do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry of this church and on our relationship with another staff member who will come to serve the church?

Dion: Yes, I do.

PRAYER OF RELEASE AND BLESSING

HYMN BH 282*

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF PRAYER

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

* *Stand as you are able*

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.**

SOLO

As Well As Jesus?

Emily Dickenson/Jake Heggie 1999

So well that I can live without—
I love thee—then How well is that?
As well as Jesus?
Prove it me
That He—loved Men—
As I—love thee—

MOMENT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME OF GIVING

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY SOLO

It's Me, O Lord

arr. Betty Jackson King 1988

It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.
Not my brother, not my sister,
 but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.
Not the preacher, not the deacon,
 but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.
Not my father, not my mother,
 but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.

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 476*

My Life Flows On In Endless Song

R. Lowry 1861

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

Rise Up

Cassandra Monique Batie 2015

You're broken down and tired
Of living life on the merry-go-round.
And you can't find the fighter,
But I see it in you, so we gonna walk it out.
Move mountains.
We gonna walk it out and move mountains.

And I'll rise up, I'll rise like the day
I'll rise up, I'll rise unafraid
I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousand times again.
And I'll rise up, high like the waves
I'll rise up in spite of the ache
I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousand times again.

When the silence isn't quiet
And it feels like it's getting hard to breathe.
And I know you feel like dying,
But I promise we'll take the world to its feet.
Move mountains.
Bring it to its feet. Move mountains.

And I'll rise up, I'll rise like the day
I'll rise up, I'll rise unafraid
I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousand times again.
And I'll rise up, high like the waves
I'll rise up in spite of the ache
I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousand times again.

Jesslyn Thomas, Julia Hathaway, Nikolas Nackley, soloists

* *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
Dion Maskaleris, Caretaker

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Orinda Community Church is participating in a new endeavor! Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, under the leadership of Mary Volmer, is an interfaith arts and spirituality hub, housed within and sponsored by Orinda Community Church. Please join us for our next online reading and presentation, **Sunday, August 8 at 4:00 pm**. Poet Maw Shein Win will read from her work and engage in conversation with Kenneth Wong about poet-activists in Myanmar and how we can support them.

Join us for outside fellowship! **Thursday, August 12 from 5-9 pm**. Hacienda Nights Food Trucks at Hacienda de las Flores located at 2100 Donald Drive in Moraga. Look for Leslie with yellow umbrellas! She'll be there around six.

The family of Debbie Barnell invites you to a memorial service at the church on **Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 10 am**.

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 will begin with a reading, spend 15 minutes in silent prayer, and then offer a time for processing.

The Writers' Group meets every other week **Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m** via Zoom. All are welcome. The next meeting date is **August 10**. The writing prompt (if you need one) is to reflect on how your life has changed during/as a result of the pandemic. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82760698393?pwd=a0VQRFNcd090V05ydmhEdlNlaUs5Zz09>
Meeting ID: 827 6069 8393
Passcode: 031161
One tap mobile: +16699006833,,82760698393#,,,,*031161# US (San Jose)

We are piloting in-person contemplative services in the chapel on **Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.** We may offer only one Wednesday service depending on how many attend. 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.

Join Leslie via zoom for an interlude of uplift, refreshment and music, **Thursdays at 1:00 pm.** The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84151074448?pwd=bHZaM3pueDdGS0drT2JuM21vT3NhZz09>
Meeting ID: 841 5107 4448
Passcode: 735051
One tap mobile: +16699006833,,84151074448#,,,,*735051# US (San Jose)

The Bible study has rebranded itself as the *Scripture and Theology Group*. It continues on **Thursdays at 2 pm** via Zoom. We are about to begin a study of Elaine Pagels' book *Beyond Belief, the Secret Gospel of Thomas*. In order for people to have time to get the book we are taking a week's break and will next meet on **Thursday, August 29**. Please join us for lively and meaningful conversation. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85183959948?pwd=RE1BaDJ5Tm9ScUdhY290WVJ2VFB5UT09>
Meeting ID: 851 8395 9948
Passcode: 664537
One tap mobile: +16699006833,,85183959948#,,,,*664537# US (San Jose)

* *Stand as you are able*



HELP WANTED! Babysitter/Nursery Nanny

Do you know someone who might be interested in being our Baby Sitter/Nursery Nanny? We are looking for someone who is responsible, warm, loving, and fun and available to work from 9:45 am to 11:45 am on Sundays (with possible addition of hours later). The job includes watching infants and toddlers. SAFE Church fingerprinting procedures will be required.

If interested, please email us: office@orindachurch.org