



Orinda Community Church

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

Order of Worship Sunday, October 3, 2021, 10 am

Reflection: *You have been veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.*

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from the "I Have a Dream" speech

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Psalm 26

Jeane Samuelsen

One: Vindicate us, God, for we have walked in my integrity, and we have trusted in you without wavering.

All: Prove us, O God, and try us; test our hearts and minds.

One: For your steadfast love is before our eyes, and we walk in faithfulness to you.

All: O God, we love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your faithfulness abides. Do not sweep us away with grief and misfortune.

One: As for us, we walk in integrity; redeem us, and be gracious to us.

All: Our feet stand on level ground; in the great congregation we will bless you.

HYMN* BH 448

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

VIENNA

**Stand as you are able*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jeane Samuelsen

Our loving God, from Thy hand have come all the days of the past. To Thee we look for whatever good the future holds. We are not satisfied with the world as we have found it. It is too little the kingdom of God as yet. Grant us the privilege of a part in its regeneration. We wish the joy of fellowship with all those children of God who are bringing in the new day. We are looking for a new earth in which dwells righteousness. It is our prayer that we may be children of light, the kind of people for whose coming and ministry the world is waiting. Amen.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Leslie O'Brien

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeane Samuelsen

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

From Martin Luther King, Jr.'s principles of nonviolence:

Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people.

Nonviolence willingly accepts the consequences of its acts.

Nonviolence holds that voluntary suffering can educate and transform.

Unearned suffering is redemptive and has tremendous educational and transforming possibilities.

Suffering can have the power to convert the enemy when reason fails.

Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate.

Nonviolence resists violence of the spirit as well as of the body.

Nonviolent love gives willingly, knowing that the return might be hostility.

Nonviolent love is active, not passive.

Love for the enemy is how we demonstrate love for ourselves.

Love restores community and resists injustice.

Nonviolence recognizes the fact that all life is interrelated

SERMON

Creative Suffering

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 443

How Like a Gentle Spirit

SURSUM CORDA

A TIME OF PRAYER

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. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And 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

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFERING

SOLO

**Stand as you able*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

SOLO

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN* BH 438

When Peace Like a River

VILLE DU HAVRE

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

David Milnes

**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

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.

Coming up at Alta Mesa Center for the Arts

Alta Mesa Center Reading Series:

October 10th at 4:00pm AMCA hosts an afternoon reading and discussion to celebrate Indigenous People's Day and benefiting the Sogorea Te' Land Trust.

Featuring James Thomas Stevens and Aja Couchois Duncan.

To register for this free online event, go to:

<https://forms.gle/92aVuSzm5aJ2Nw3A6> or check our website

at **orindacommunitychurch.org** for a link.

(Sogorea Te' Land Trust is "an urban Indigenous women-led land trust that facilitates the return of Indigenous land to Indigenous people.")

NEW: Bimonthly Generative Writing Workshops:

October Theme: Remembrance

Oct 2nd & October 16th at 10:00am – 12:00pm

In-Person at the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall 10
Irwin Way, Orinda, CA

(vaccine and masks required as suggested by the CDC) Space
limited to 15 in-person writers.



In this dynamic, two-day writing workshop, we will read and discuss poems and short prose pieces that celebrate life and give voice to loss in haunting, hopeful, and healing ways. Then, in a series of guided, writing exercises, suitable for prose writers (fiction and nonfiction) and poets, we will generate new work to help us honor and begin to reconcile the losses of the last several years.

Instructor: Mary Volmer

\$60.00 suggested donation for both sessions (2 hours each). (You are welcome to donate more to support the community.) No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Can't make it both days, no problem. Just let us know which day you'll be joining us. For a link to register, please go to our website at **orindacommunitychurch.org**

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.
- 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 are in attendance. 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 p.m., which resumes 10/07/21.**
For the link, check your eblast or go to our website: orindacommunitychurch.org
- 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*
- **Sunday Insanity!** The Youth Group meets **immediately following services on Sunday.**
- The Writers' Group meets every other week **Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.** via Zoom. All are welcome. The next meeting date is **October 5th.**
For the link, check your eblast or go to our website: orindacommunitychurch.org

AND IN OTHER NEWS:

This week we celebrate World Communion Sunday and join with our brothers and sisters around the world who join in discipleship to Jesus. As part of our work of justice and mercy, we will be collecting an offering today for the “United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need Fund”. Here is a brief description of how these monies will be put to use:

In 2021, Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.



Join us next Sunday when we dedicate our Creation Justice banner. We celebrate and strive to support God's creation and presence in all living things.

Ushering Services have been provided this week by Mike Kersten, Joyce Crawford, and Kathleen Wiegand. Thank you!

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 additional hours later). The job includes watching infants and toddlers. SAFE Church fingerprinting procedures will be required.

If interested, or if you know of someone who is, please email us: office@orindachurch.org



Orinda Community Church's 2021 FUNdraiser
Online beginning Monday, November 1
Pick-up and Closing Party on Sunday, November 7

- **STARTING NOW:** You can offer **an adventure, a service, an item, a gift certificate, or a food and wine offering*** by completing the form on the opposite side and submitting it to our Auction Administrator, Gail Mead (grmead@comcast.net) ASAP, but no later than OCTOBER 29, 2021.
- **NOVEMBER 1st:** You, your family / friends will be able to purchase one or more of our awesome offerings at OCC's Annual FUNdraiser website, This is the same site as last year and a link will, of course, be sent before we "go live." If you registered last year, you are still in the system for this year. items will be active until sold and the auction will close on Saturday, November 6th.

Adventures: (Always fun!!)

Cabin in the Mountains
 Condo at the Beach
 Concerts / Theatre tickets
 Hikes / Moon Walks / Bike Rides
 Tournaments: *Tennis, Golf, Bridge*

Services: (Always needed!)

Gardening / Babysitting Services
 Consultation (organizing, computer, etc.)
 Guide (to any place)
 Tutoring (in anything)
 Repair (of anything)

Gift Certificates: (Always appreciated!)

Dining at your favorite restaurant
 Reading at your favorite bookstore
 Flowers, chocolate, wine
 Visits to the zoo or science center

Items: (Always nice to have!)

Theme gift baskets
 Pie / Bread / Bouquet -A-Month
 Musical Instrument
 Car, boat, vehicle in GOOD shape
 Sports equipment
 Paintings/works of art

Food and Wine: (Back by popular demand!)

We are soliciting offerings of food and wine as either **"for pick-up only"** or as **in-person experiences**. Last year's offerings were pick-up only. Such offerings might include food and wine baskets, pre-made delivered meals, or a Zoom wine-tasting.

This year, we are accepting in-person food offerings. All participants MUST be vaccinated, and the host will set any other rules for participation (i.e., only outdoors, only during the day, etc.) These offerings can include any of our traditional "feasts" - including backyard BBQs, a Valentine's Day dinner party, a pig roast, or a themed dinner – or they might include something new. Consider any combination of food, wine and people you enjoy.

- **NOVEMBER 7th:** On Sunday, November 7, we will have a **Pick-up Party** after church. You can pick up your purchases and we will have food to celebrate and maybe a few additional goodies to add to your basket!

BE CREATIVE!

[turn over for form] ➔

OCC FALL **FUNDRAISER** DONATION FORM

Online Auction begins Monday, November 1

Submit your offering form ASAP but no later than Friday, October 29.
Please do not leave any blanks!!!

Pick-up Party on Sunday, November 7, following worship

Deposit in offertory plate or church office or delivery to Auction Administrator (below)

TITLE OF OFFERING _____

DATE* _____ TIME _____

PLACE** _____

DESCRIPTION _____

MAXIMUM # OF PARTICIPANTS _____

SUGGESTED PRICE: \$ _____ per person? _____ event? _____ item? _____

Minimum bid? _____ Increments? _____

DONOR(S): _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

_____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

*Be as specific as possible – no later than November 2022.

** Church facilities can be available by arrangement.

Auction Administrator: Gail Mead
510-414-6222 (mobile)
grmead@comcast.net