



Orinda Community Church

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

Order of Worship
Sunday, December 5, 2021, 10 am
Second Sunday in Advent



Black Madonna of Czestochowa

Reflection: *There is a reason Mary is everywhere. I've seen her image all over the world, in cafés in Istanbul, on students' backpacks in Scotland, in a market stall in Jakarta, but I don't think her image is everywhere because she is a reminder to be obedient, and I don't think it has to do with social revolution. Images of Mary remind us of God's favor. Mary is what it looks like to believe that we already are who God says we are. — Nadia Bolz-Weber*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**Please stand, as you are able*

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Baruch 5

Gail Mead

One: Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

All: **For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."**

One: Arise, my people, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.

All: **For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that the beloved ones may walk safely in the glory of God.**

One: The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded us at God's command.

All: **For God will leads us with joy, in the light of glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from the Holy Spirit.**

HYMN* BH 122

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart, 1715

COMMUNITY PRAYER

3rd Century Prayer to Mary

Gail Mead

**Beneath your compassion,
we take refuge, O God-bearer.
Listen to our prayers and help us
in our needs.
Save us from every danger,
only pure, only blessed one.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Leslie Darwin O'Brien

**Please stand, as you are able*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

READINGS

Craig Taatjes

Go placidly among the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence.” - Desiderata

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- Matthew 5:9

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- Philippians 4:5-7

There is no way to peace. Peace is the way.
- Thich Nhat Hahn.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Taatjes Family

UNISON PRAYER

Holy Spirit, open within us a silent sanctuary, a place of peace where the act of listening itself becomes a blessing. A place where, along with our breath and the beat of our hearts, we might hear you. Whenever overwrought by the buzz of half-truths and disinformation, by the ever present thrum of our fears, our angers, our regrets, our anxieties, may we return to this sanctuary, this center. May we become, in this place, a peaceful people, whose selfless thoughts and actions restore right balance in the world. Amen.

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gail Mead

Malachi 3:1

Luke 1:28

Matthew 12:46-50

SERMON

Mother Mary, Come to Me Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 127

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Cologne, 1599

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

**Please stand, as you are able*

A TIME OF GIVING

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFERING

SOLO

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE WORDS OF INSTITUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

SOLO

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN* BH 123

Mary, Woman of the Promise

QUEM PASTORES, 14th c.

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

David Milnes

**Please 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.

The Writers' Group meets every other week **Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.** via Zoom. All are welcome. The next meeting date is **December 14th**. ***For the link, check your eblast or go to our website: orindacommunitychurch.org***

Holiday Story Hour, **Tuesdays at 7:00 pm**, in the Church Sanctuary. This Tuesday, 12/7/21, Parmis Rad will tell us about the Islamic holiday, Yalda, and tell a story. Music provided by Nik Nackley and Julia Hathaway. All are welcome, please bring a friend! The next Story Hours are Tuesdays, 12/14/21 and 12/21/21.

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.

ZOOM Sing-a-long with Leslie every **Thursday at 1:00 p.m.** We'll do some Christmas and holiday songs and other fun stuff! All are welcome to join in so feel free to invite friends. ***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 Dark Interval, by John Dominic Crossan. Please join us for lively and meaningful conversation. ***For the link, check your eblast or go to our website: orindacommunitychurch.org***

AND IN OTHER NEWS:

Thank you to this week's ushers:

Carey and Bill Carpenter, Kathleen Wiegand, and Michael Kersten

And speaking of ushers. . .

Ushers and Greeters Needed: About four friendly volunteers are needed to join our usher teams for the 2022 calendar year. Youth are especially encouraged to volunteer. Two additional greeters are also needed to focus on welcoming first-time visitors to our worship services. The commitment for both ushers and greeters is for just one Sunday a month. These service opportunities are a great way to meet and serve all who attend our worship services and to provide an extravagant welcome to people in the greater community.

If you would like to volunteer or for more information, contact Mike Kersten, the usher coordinator, at mikejkersten@aol.com



ADVENT CELEBRATION TODAY FROM 4 – 7 pm IN FELLOWSHIP HALL



Join our church family for crafts, caroling, and dinner.

\$7 per person, maximum \$20 per family.

All Welcome, invite friends!

(masks, social distancing, and vaccinations, please)

Thanks to all who have turned in their pledge cards! If you haven't, please consider making a pledge today.

***Please join us at Orinda Community Church for
Holiday Story Hour for people of all ages
with music and refreshments***

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
in the church sanctuary
(Masks, social distancing, and vaccinations, please!)

Tuesday, **December 7**

Parmis Rad will tell us about the Persian holiday, Yalda, and tell a story.
Music provided by Nik Nackley and Julia Hathaway.



Tuesday, **December 14**

Elizabeth Robinson will read *The Velveteen Rabbit*, with music from our talented community members!



Tuesday, **December 21**

(In Fellowship Hall). Solstice Contemplative Service, music, & labyrinth walking.



All are welcome!



**ORDER FORM--Memorial/Honorary Poinsettias
for Christmas 2021**

Your name _____

Name of memorial or honoree (circle one) _____

Number of flowers at \$15.00 each: _____

Check for \$_____ enclosed

Flowers can be picked up following the 5:00 pm service on Friday, December 24.
Return form to church office or put in offering plate by December 14, 2021.