



# Orinda Community Church

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

## Order of Worship Sunday, February 6, 2022, 10 am

**Reflection:** *Human beings have always been an unfinished species, a story in the middle, a succession of families, tribes, and societies in transition to new awarenesses... We're the only species that over and over again has deliberately transformed our surroundings in order to stretch our capacity for understanding and provoke new accomplishments. And our growing and enhanced understanding is our most valuable, and our most vulnerable, inheritance. — Tony Hiss*

### WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Craig Taatjes

**One:** God, you are our inheritance from ages past.

**All:** **And, God, you are continually new and surprising to us.**

**One:** We each find you in our own way.

**All:** **We discover you afresh at different times in our lives.**

**One:** God, we are grounded in your legacy in more ways than we can understand.

**All:** **Holy One, you make all things new, and so you are new to us daily,  
and you renew us daily.**

\* Stand as you are able

## COMMUNITY PRAYER

Craig Taatjes

**God of the Ages, as we walk through our lives, we circle you. We strive to draw near to you. Each step brings us into a new perspective, a new sense of who you are. We seek insight into your nature from those who went before us. We are refreshed when the youth of our community make you new, even startling, for us. Uphold us in this great chain of being. We hold hands across the generations and step toward you. We lift this prayer in unity. Amen.**

## WORD OF ASSURANCE

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**Pastor:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**WE LISTEN**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Craig Taatjes

Hebrews 2:9-11, 14-17

We do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God.

\* *Stand as you are able*

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

SERMON

*Transmissions*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

### **WE RESPOND**

HYMN\* BH 585

*O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face*

\* *Stand as you are able*

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

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

\* *Stand as you are able*

## **Orinda Community Church**

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David Milnes, Director of Music  
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### **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.

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