



Orinda Community Church

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday, July 24, 2022, 10 am

Reflection: God helps those who dare.
—Ovid

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR The Acolytes

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP* *from Psalm 85* Jeane Samuelsen

One: Restore us again, God, and put away your displeasure toward us.

All: **Will you be angry with us forever? Will please revive us again,
so that we can rejoice in peace with you?**

One: Show us your unfailing love, Divine Friend, and grant us your
salvation.

All: **We will listen to what you say; you promise peace to us, and help
us to turn away from our ridiculous, destructive behavior.**

One: Surely you will save us as we draw near to you. Your glory will
be among us. Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness
and peace kiss each other.

All: **Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks
down from heaven.**

* *Stand as you are able*

TIME OF SILENCE AND CENTERING

HYMN* BH 472

Precious Lord

Thomas A. Dorsey 1932

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Jeane Samuelson

Source of Life, we make mistakes all the time. Most of our errors are just our silly fumbblings. But some of our mistakes, individually and collectively, are horrendous. Why don't you abandon us? But you don't. You remind us that a parent repeats basic words endlessly to a baby until the baby finally begins to understand and speak. Help us to stutter forward into your infinite patience. Teach us to ask and ask and ask again how to say—and live—your most basic words. We repeat after you: Faith. Hope. Love. You give us the grammar of life. Amen.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

WE LISTEN

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeane Samuelson

Genesis 18:20-32

Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the

* *Stand as you are able*

righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?"

"If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it."

Once again Abraham spoke to God, "What if only forty are found there?"

God said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?"

God answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?"

He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."

Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?"

He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."

Luke 11:5-13

Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to that friend at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer.' And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though your friend will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 417

This is a Day of New Beginnings

Carlton Young 1987

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.
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 AND INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

DOXOLOGY* BH 785

We Give You But Your Own

Cantica Laudis

**We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

HYMN* BH 474

I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

Spiritual

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

* *Stand as you are able*

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Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

David Milnes, Director of Music

Anna Gregory, Office Administrator



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.

Next up at The Alta Mesa Center for the Arts

A reading and discussion of:

THE ENCOUNTER: A HANDBOOK OF POETIC PRACTICE

with contributors:

Rae Armantrout, Paul Hoover, and Elizabeth Robinson

August 14th, at 4:00pm (Pacific)

To register, go to **orindacommunitychurch.org**
under Arts, look under Alta Mesa Center for the Arts.

(Flyer on next page)

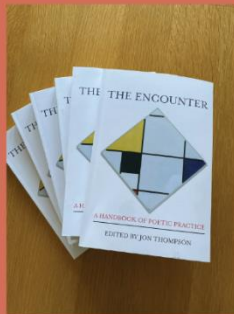
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A Reading and discussion of: **THE ENCOUNTER: A HANDBOOK OF POETIC PRACTICE**

with contributors: Rae Armantrout,
Paul Hoover, and Elizabeth Robinson

August 14th at 4:00pm (pacific)

Register for this free, online event here:
<https://forms.gle/TWaYgs5x1QoYv3bu6>



Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, an interfaith arts hub, is housed and sponsored by
Orinda Community Church.

Questions? Contact Mary Volmer: altamesacenter@gmail.com



Weekly Events

Each week, in addition to our 10 a.m. Sunday worship, the church offers regular programming.

- ✚ Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel, we host **Centering Prayer**.
- ✚ Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., we hold a brief **Contemplative Service** in the chapel, which includes readings, music, prayer time, and silence. This service also goes out electronically.
- ✚ **Life and Loss Group** meets every Thursday in the Fireside Room at 12 noon. You are welcome to simply attend, or if you have questions, please call or email the office.
- ✚ Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m., our **Theology and Scripture** group meets via Zoom to discuss theology and the bible, and other topics. Our next meeting is Thursday, July 21, at 2:00 pm.

Every other week:

- ✚ Two Tuesdays a month, the **Writers' Group** shares and discusses their writings via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. (Their work is featured in the narthex; take a look!) Next meeting is Tuesday, July 26, at 10 am.
- ✚ Two Thursdays a month, starting at 3:45, the **Reading Group** is doing a close study of the novels of Marilynne Robinson, starting with Gilead. We meet via Zoom. Next meeting is Thursday, July 28, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.

Ushers & Greeters



THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS THIS WEEK:



Holden is looking for substitute teachers for the 2022-23 school year. Must be vaccinated and boosted for COVID, willing to get fingerprinted and TB screened and have some availability between 10am and 3:30pm weekdays September through May. Preferred qualifications: experience with teens and familiarity with Google Workspace. No CBEST required. Please email [hiring@holdenhigh.org](mailto: hiring@holdenhigh.org) if interested, and please share. Thank you!



**Children's Program after every Sunday service
August 2022**


Questions? Interest? Please email Elizabeth.
[elizabeth.orindachurch@gmail.com](mailto: elizabeth.orindachurch@gmail.com)

Show closing soon! Go check out Karen Sanford's amazing artistry thru 7/31!

MAINSTREETARTS

From Clay to Table

Pat Alger
Donna Arganbright
Mary Ellen Brownell
Kate Chenok
Nicole Collins
Kathleen Jensen
Olga Jusidman
Mary Leigh Miller
Karen Sanford



Main Street Arts Gallery
613 Main Street • Martinez • 925-269-8049
<<http://www.mainstreetarts.net>>

One more time ...

For the fourth year in a row, our gallery has the privilege to present the always successful ceramics show. This time we have the works of nine Bay Area artists showing their best strictly functional pieces ...

From Clay to Table

• **Opening Day**
Saturday, June 25

Join us for a reception from 4 to 7 pm to celebrate together ... life after COVID

• **Show Continues**
through Sunday, July 31

• **Gallery Hours:**

Wednesday through Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm
Sunday, 10 am - 2 pm