

# Orinda Community Church

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
Sunday, September 11, 2022, 10 am  
Ordinary Time



**Reflection:** “From the beginning, humans have used God to justify the unjustifiable.”  
— Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Timothy 1*

Jeane Samuelsen

**One:** In faith, we seek clarity, so that we stop ourselves from teaching false doctrines or devoting ourselves to myths and self-glorification.

**All:** **We recognize that such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God’s work—which is by faith.**

**One:** The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

**All:** **There will always be some who have departed from love and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.**

**One:** By your guidance, God, we see that the law is good if one uses it properly, if it conforms to the gospel concerning your wisdom and love, which you entrusted to us.

HYMN\* BH 316

*We Limit Not the Truth of God*

George Rawson

COMMUNITY PRAYER

*from Psalm 14*

Jeane Samuelsen

**God, so often we want to do things on our own terms. We say, “There is no God” or “I don’t need God’s help with this.” You look down on humanity and wonder if there are any who understand and genuinely seek you. Help us overcome our doubt and arrogance. Truly, we are not self-sufficient. In the refuge of your mercy, we learn that we are not separated from you or from each other. Let us live in your good company and share your love. For it is by your love that we live. Amen.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

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

**Many:** **And also with you.**

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

*\*Stand as you are able*

## WE LISTEN

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Exodus 32:1-20*

Jeane Samuelsen

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD.” And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

And the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.”

But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.” But he said, “It is not the sound

of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear.” And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses’ anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

SERMON

*Christian Identity*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

## WE RESPOND

HYMN\* BH 495

*Called as Partners in Christ’s Service*

John Zundel, 1855

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

*\*Stand as you are able*

DOXOLOGY RH 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

HYMN\* BH 614

*Camina, Pueblo de Dios*

Cesareo Gabarain 1979

BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

*\*Stand as you are able*

## **Orinda Community Church**

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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.

### **TODAY at AMCA**

A reading and discussion of **LA VIEJA**  
by writer, feminist, and ecological thinker

Deena Metzger



September 11th, at 4:00pm (Pacific)

Go to [www.orindacommunitychurch.org](http://www.orindacommunitychurch.org), under Arts/Alta Mesa Center to register.

# Fall Writing Workshop

September 22nd and September 29th  
6:00pm - 8:00pm (on zoom)

## Writing Young Characters Authentically With Dallas Woodburn



How does one create teenage characters who feel honest and compelling to the reader? Whether writing fiction for teenagers or adults, it can be difficult to present teenage characters in an interesting and genuine way. This workshop will provide guidelines and examples, as well as writing prompts and exercises, to help writers create young characters authentically in fiction.

**\$150.00**

**Scholarships and Payment Plans Available.**

Register Here: (<http://www.maryvolmer.com/writing-young-characters-authentically---with-dallas-woodburn.html>)

## 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. **We welcome Gillian Murphy-Stephans as our new Grief Support Group facilitator.**
- ✚ 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, September 15, 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 and Fellowship Hall; take a look!) Next meeting is Tuesday, September 20, 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, September 22, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



# Ushers & Greeters



## THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS THIS WEEK:

Jill Oberheim, Lani Shepp, Marilyn Welland, and Betty Wu

### Lifelong Learning & Spiritual Formation Ministry

Two or three times a year, members of the extended OCC family will be asked to share their journeys as a way of becoming better acquainted with one another and experiencing and examining our own journeys. Roger Samuelsen is coordinating this initiative. Other members of the Lifelong Learning and Spiritual Formation Ministry are Mitch Breitwieser (chair), In Suk Kim-Anderson, Gail Mead, Gary Nye, and Katrina Staten. Though we may not be able to follow through on all requests, we would welcome any ideas you might have on special programs or events you would like us to consider in the months to come.

The Lifelong Learning and Spiritual Formation Ministry invites you to join us in September for 2 special events.



Today, September 11, The Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, under the leadership of Mary Volmer, is featuring a reading and discussion of *La Vieja* on Zoom by writer, feminist, and ecological thinker Deena Metzger.

And on Sunday, September 18, immediately following the worship service, former OCC Senior Pastor Frank Baldwin will share the four or five phases of his spiritual journey to “kick-off” the reactivation of our “spiritual journey” series.



## CHANCEL RINGERS

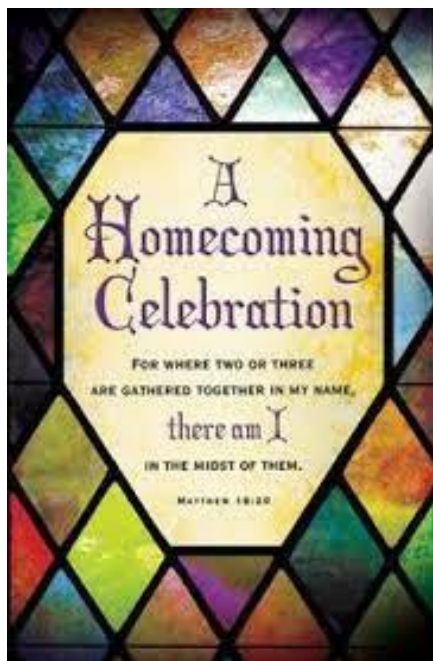


The handbell choir will be resuming rehearsals on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. If you have enjoyed listening to the bells and want the choir to continue, please consider joining. There are 3 open positions.

September is the perfect time to join! Being able to read music helps, but no handbell experience is necessary. All that is needed is a commitment to attend rehearsals, which are held every Tuesday evening from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, from September to Palm Sunday, with a break from mid-December to early January.

It is possible to play for a specific season only. The next session is from September 13 thru October 30.

For more information and to join, please contact Director Nancy Thursby at [nlthursby@comcast.net](mailto:nlthursby@comcast.net)



**Join us on Sunday,  
September 25<sup>th</sup>,  
after the church service for  
Homecoming! We will celebrate  
our life together with food and  
festivities right here at the  
church. Children most  
welcome! (Plans for a treasure  
hunt are afoot...)**

**Mark your calendars!**

If you are interested, please contact me. Your ideas are welcome.

Nancy Thursby  
[nlthursby@comcast.net](mailto:nlthursby@comcast.net)



## CALLING ALL KNITTERS! NEW GROUP STARTING

Many of you knew Connie Doty. One of the things she did was to form a knitting group at The Heritage, where she last lived. The group creates items for service, notably chemo-caps for cancer patients. The group is still together working.

Connie shared the pattern for the caps with me during the pandemic and I have made a few. I would love to form such a group at OCC and share this easy pattern with others. Another idea of something we could make is prayer shawls. Or we could create items for the auction.

I am glad to teach knitting if someone is interested in learning and participating in the group. I envision having an organizational meeting or two, and then meeting every so often to collect items and share ideas.

*Save the date!*



*Fall Festival and Auction Sunday, November 6, 2022*



Supporting the Elva Rust Scholarship Foundation

Saturday, September 17, 2022

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH PATIO  
10 Irwin Way, Orinda

presented by:  
P.E.O. Chapter OT, Orinda  
Philanthropic Educational Organization  
supporting higher education for women

If you would like to participate, you can rent a table for \$20.  
(You will retain the proceeds from everything you sell.)

Questions? Call Melody at (925) 284-4374