

# Orinda Community Church

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 25, 2022, 10 am  
Ordinary Time



**Reflection:** “On either side of a potentially violent conflict, an opportunity exists to exercise compassion and diminish fear based on recognition of each other's humanity. Without such recognition, fear fueled by uninformed assumptions, cultural prejudice, desperation to meet basic human needs, or the panicked uncertainty of the moment explodes into violence.” — Aberjhani, from *Splended Literarium*

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Deuteronomy 30*

Lani Shepp

**One:** And when all manner of things come upon us, the blessing and the curse, which God has set before us, we will return our hearts and our attentions to God.

**All:** We will listen and respond to God's voice with all our heart and with all our soul.

**One:** Then the HOLY ONE will restore our fortunes and have mercy on us, gathering us again from all our scattered outposts.

**All:** Even if we are in the uttermost parts of heaven, even from there God will gather us, and from there God will bring us into embrace.

**One:** And our Loving God will refresh and restore us.

**All:** And God will peel the calluses from our hearts, so that we will love the HOLY ONE with all our heart and with all our soul, that we may truly live.

HYMN\* BH 331

*Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*

George Herbert, 1633

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Lani Shepp

**The word is very near us. It is in our mouths and in our hearts, so that we can embody it. God, make it a word of love. Make it a word of courage. Make it a word of unity and good humor. Then our conversation with you will be all the more lively and meaningful! We listen for your word. We are restored. We take your word out into creation and share it. Amen.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

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

**Many:** And also with you.

*\*Stand as you are able*

## MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

### WE LISTEN

#### ANTHEM

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Deuteronomy 30:11-20*

Lani Shepp

“For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to God, who is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the richness that God had promised and intended for you.”

#### SERMON

*Therefore, Choose Life*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

### WE RESPOND

#### HYMN\* RH 408

*The Gift of Love*

Hal Hopson

#### A TIME OF PRAYER

##### JOYS AND CONCERNS

##### PASTORAL PRAYER

*\*Stand as you are able*

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 ANTHEM

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 497

*Guide My Feet*

African American Traditional

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.

### The Alta Mesa Center for the Arts presents:

A reading and discussion of

**Slaves for Peanuts:**

**A Story of Conquest, Liberation, and a Crop That Changed History**

by

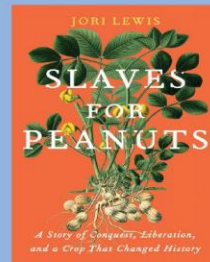
Award winning independent writer and editor

**Jori Lewis**

with Lillian Howan

October 9, 2022 at 4:00pm (pacific)

Register for this free, online event here: <https://forms.gle/vSkj3TJ9ZznC3aL26>



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](mailto: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, September 29, 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, October 4, 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, October 6, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



Ushers

**THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS THIS WEEK:**

Phil Bernard, Lin Lyons, Gail Mead & John Skidgel



**After service today,  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, it is Homecoming!**

**We will celebrate our life together with food and festivities right  
here at the church.**

**Children most welcome!**

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.

## SEWING CIRCLE



*The Sewing Circle will put quilts out on the pews on October 2nd. The quilts will be for sale or for sponsorship. We will also have an assortment of finished fabric art pieces that can be used for table runners, decorative mats, etc. They also will be for sale on that day and will be featured in the auction.*





## MERCY & JUSTICE/CREATION JUSTICE NEWS & EVENTS

- ✓ **Hope Solutions Dinner, October 13<sup>th</sup>:** Mercy & Justice will be providing dinner at Garden Park Apartments again this year. Volunteers will be needed.

To volunteer or to donate and/or serve food, contact:

Karen Sanford, [ksanford227@gmail.com](mailto:ksanford227@gmail.com)  
or Nancy Thursby [nlthursby@comcast.net](mailto:nlthursby@comcast.net)

- ✓ **Faithful Voting Second Hour, "What's on the Ballot?":** A second hour featuring an informative program and discussion of the propositions that will appear on our ballot will be held October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- ✓ **Food Bank Veggie Sale:** Thanks to all who have participated in this project! The veggie sale is in recess until 2023.
- ✓ **Use of the Cottage for Temporary Housing:** The cottage is now occupied by a deserving couple who are helping out by making sure all the church doors are locked at night.
- ✓ **Winter Nights:** The church will be hosting two sessions in 2023, February 20-March 6 and May 1-15.
- ✓ **Next Mercy & Justice Meeting:** October 3, 1:30-3:00 pm in the Olive Grove.



## 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, Katrina Staten and Mary Volmer. 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.

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*Save the date!*



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