

Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 11, 2022, 10 am

Third Sunday of Advent



painting by Faustini Modesto, 19th C.

Reflection: Family isn't something that's supposed to be static, or set. People marry in, divorce out. They're born, they die. It's always evolving, turning into something else.

— Sarah Dessen

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Mary Volmer

One: God, we come as we are called, often to the most unexpected situations.

All: **This Advent, we ask to hear your voice and follow it in service.**

One: Holy Guide, on the great adventure of our journeys with you, teach us flexibility and humility.

All: **We are learning that every single act has the potential to bring your presence alive.**

One: Loving One, as you protect us, give us the resources to love and protect others.

All: **Unite us all. Find the gifts in each of us and help us bring them to fruition in your Beloved Community.**

HYMN* BH 345

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Mary Volmer

Loving God, we pray that we can be like Joseph:

A guardian of our distinct families, a provider of resource and care for those whom we love, and the ability to go forth in courage, loyalty, and wisdom. Let Joseph, who found himself with a most unusual family, be a model for us. We pray that we will find relation with all whom we encounter and make a true family of all creation. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE 3rd CANDLE OF ADVENT – JOY

Tom & Paula Beatty

WORD OF ASSURANCE

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**Stand as you are able*

WE LISTEN

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READING *from the Protoevangelium of James* Mary Volmer

Mary was in the temple of the Lord as if she were a dove that dwelt there, and she received food from the hand of an angel. And when she was twelve years old there was held a council of the priests, saying: Behold, Mary has reached the age of twelve years in the temple of the Lord. What then shall we do with her, lest perchance she defile the sanctuary of the Lord? And they said to the high priest: You stand by the altar of the Lord; go in, and pray concerning her; and whatever the Lord shall manifest unto you, that also will we do. And the high priest went in, taking the robe with the twelve bells into the holy of holies; and he prayed concerning her. And behold an angel of the Lord stood by him, saying unto him: Zacharias, Zacharias, go out and assemble the widowers of the people, and let them bring each his rod; and to whomsoever the Lord shall show a sign, his wife shall she be. And the heralds went out through all the circuit of Judæa, and the trumpet of the Lord sounded, and all ran.

And Joseph, throwing away his axe, went out to meet them; and when they had assembled, they went away to the high priest, taking with them their rods. And he, taking the rods of all of them, entered into the temple, and prayed; and having ended his prayer, he took the rods and came out, and gave them to them: but there was no sign in them, and Joseph took his rod last; and, behold, a dove came out of the rod, and flew upon Joseph's head. And the priest said to Joseph, You have been chosen by lot to take into your keeping the virgin of the Lord. But Joseph refused, saying: I have children, and I am an old man, and she is a young girl. I am afraid lest I become a laughing-stock to the sons of Israel. And the priest said to Joseph: Fear the Lord your God, and remember what the Lord did to Dathan, and Abiram, and Korah; how the earth opened, and they were swallowed up on account of their contradiction. And now fear, O Joseph, lest the same things happen in your house. And Joseph was afraid, and took her into his keeping. And Joseph said to Mary: Behold, I have received you from the temple of the Lord; and now I leave you in my house, and go away to build my buildings, and I shall come to you. The Lord will protect you.

SERMON

Holy Family

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

HYMN* RH 184

Of the Father's Love Begotten

C. Winfred Douglas

**Stand as you are able*

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF PRAYER

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

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 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 138

Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good

R.V. Williams

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**Stand as you are able*

Orinda Community Church

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office@orindachurch.org

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.

Alta Mesa Center for the Arts presents:

A reading and discussion featuring

novelist, journalist, essayist

Susanne Pari

author of

IN THE TIME OF OUR HISTORY

with Jane Ciabattari

Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 4:00pm (PST)

To Register for this free, online event, go to: <https://forms.gle/csDqE3vzRufywUAt7>

Questions? Contact: Mary Volmer altamesacenter@gmail.com

(Flyer on next page)

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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 from 12:15 pm to 1:45 pm. 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. The next meeting is Thursday, December 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, December 13, 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, December 15, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS THIS WEEK:

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



ADVENT SEASON AT ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH!

The Advent Workshop was great fun for all attendees last Sunday. A HUGE thank you to Amy Parlett, Vangie and Bill Abriel, Hilly Hoppock, and Allison Skidgel!

We Leslie's reading of the Velveteen Rabbit this past Wednesday was AMAZING!

We also hope you will join us for our next **Advent Wednesday** evening services at 7:00 pm:

December 14: Sarah Elovich is offering a performance and meditation on **Chanukah**

December 21: Our Solstice service with the labyrinth in Fellowship Hall

Each service will be accompanied by wonderful music by our remarkable musicians.

December 24: We welcome you to our 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service. We will be conducting this a little bit differently this year, not with the traditional children's pageant, but with all the usual magic.

December 25: Is a Sunday! We welcome you to a simple Christmas service at 10 am. Depending how many people come, we may snuggle up in our beautiful chapel to celebrate and spend time together. **Please let us know if you expect to be there so we can plan accordingly. Tell Anna in the office by email office@orindachurch.org, phone (925) 254-4906, or just stop by!**

IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO ANY OF THE EVENING SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AND WE WILL TRY TO ASSIST WITH CARPOOLING.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH RIDES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.



SPONSORSHIP ORDER FORM Christmas 2022
Sponsor a Memorial/Honorary Poinsettia

Your name _____

Name(s) of memorial or honoree **(circle one)** _____

Number of flowers at \$18.00 each: _____

Check for \$_____ enclosed

Flowers can be picked up following the 5:00 pm service on Saturday, December 24.
Return form to church office or put in offering plate by December 14, 2022.

