

Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

Christmas Eve Worship & Celebration

Saturday, December 24, 2022

5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Filippo Lippi, 15th Century

WE GATHER

CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

Judy McCall
Prudence Hurley
David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WORDS OF WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

I Wonder As I Wander
Nikolas Nackley, soloist

John Jacob Niles 1933

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus, the Saviour, did come for to die.
For poor, or'nary people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander
Out under the sky.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing:
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing;
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing,
He surely could have had it,
'Cause He was the King!

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cows' stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages
It did then recall.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus, the Saviour, did come for to die.
For poor, ornery people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander
Out under the sky.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathi Kling

One: This night and every night
All: **grant us light.**
One: This night and every night
All: **grant us peace.**
One: This night and every night
All: **grant us love.**
One: This night and every night, grant us grace.
All: **This night and every night, grant us joy. Amen.**

**Please stand, as you are able*

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

COMMUNITY PRAYER (adapted from a prayer by St. Augustine, 354 – 440 C.E.)

Kathi Kling

**Let the just rejoice,
for their justifier is born.
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,
For their healer is born.
Let the captives rejoice,
For their liberator is born.
Let those who are freed rejoice,
For their Creator and Guide is born.
Let All Christians rejoice,
For Jesus Christ is born. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE CHRISTMAS PEACE

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
Many: And also with you.

DECORATING THE ADVENT TREE

Amelia McCall

**Please stand, as you are able*

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

CAROL

On This Day Earth Shall Ring
Chancel Choir

PERSONENT HODIE 1582

On this day earth shall ring
With the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King,
Born on earth to save us;
Him the Father gave us.

God's bright star, o'er his head,
Wise Men three to him led;
Kneel they low by his bed,
Lay their gifts before him,
Praise him and adore him.

His the doom, ours the mirth;
When he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw his birth;
Ox and ass beside him
From the cold would hide him.

On this day angels sing;
With their song earth shall ring,
Praising Christ, heaven's King,
Born on earth to save us;
Peace and love he gave us.

CREATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1-5

Anne Barr

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

COVENANT

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 9:12-15a, 16

Ava Skidgel

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

**Please stand, as you are able*

CAROL

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing?
Chancel Choir

17TH C. FRENCH

Whence is the goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away,
Never the like did come a-blowing,
Shepherds, in flow'ry fields of May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away.

What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes.
Never so bright, the day-star waking,
Started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking,
Here in the night across our eyes.

Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps vieing!
Worship the Saviour born today.
Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away.

CHOICE

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-35

Chris Mead

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words

and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

CAROL

Balulalow
Chancel Choir

Peter Warlock, 1925

Oh my dear heart, young Jesus sweet,
Prepare thy cradle in my spirit,
And I shall rock thee to my heart
And never more from thee depart.
And I shall praise thee ever more
With songes sweet unto thy gloire!
The knees of my heart shall I bow shall I bow
And sing that right balulalow.

BIRTH

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7

Georgia Carpenter

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

*CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS 1868

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondrous love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!*

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 14,16-18

Peter Milnes

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Please stand, as you are able*

Luke: 2:8-16

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

*CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

14TH C. GERMAN

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
News, news!
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today,
Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save!*

**Please stand, as you are able*

GOD'S PRESENCE OVERCOMING FEAR

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-15a

Kurt Sunderbruch

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod.

CAROL

Coventry Carol
Chancel Choir

16TH C. ENGLISH

Lullay, lullay, Thou little tiny Child,
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.
Lullay, thou little tiny Child,
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do,
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we do sing
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight,
All children young to slay.

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee!
And ever mourn and sigh,
For thy parting neither say nor sing,
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

SHARING LOVE

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 1:1-4, 6-7

Kathi Kling

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

*CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN 1840

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

**Please stand, as you are able*

WE LISTEN AND PREPARE

THE CHRISTMAS HOMILY

A Miraculous Whole

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

THE CHRISTMAS ANTHEM

O Magnum Mysterium
Chancel Choir

Tomás Luis de Victoria 1572

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger!
O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you.
The Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing
SUSSEX CAROL, 1919
Chancel Choir

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place,
when sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and saints with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night,
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men,
now and forevermore. Amen.”

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 1:1-5, 10-12, 14, 16

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of all humans. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right ^uto become children of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

PROCESSION OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam, 1847

Nikolas Nackley, soloist

O Holy Night,
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth Long
lay the world in sin and e'er pining 'Til He
appeared and the soul felt its worth A thrill of
hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall
on your knees O hear the angels voices.
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever, His
power and glory evermore proclaim.
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

**Please stand, as you are able*

*THE GREAT CIRCLE OF LIGHT

*The congregation is invited to step out of the pews and encircle the sanctuary.
The light of Christ will be passed around the circle as we sing the concluding hymn,
Silent Night. For safety's sake, please ask young children to use our battery candles,
which they are welcome to take home as a reminder of this night.*

*CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT 1818

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

David Milnes

**Please stand, as you are able*



Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563

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office@orindachurch.org

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

David Milnes, Director of Music

Anna Gregory, Office Administrator

We send love and blessings to our church community for Christmas and the coming year. Below are just a few of the ways you can get involved and participate in the life of the church.

Upcoming Events in 2023

We look forward to a year of joy, justice, contemplation, and creativity.

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. Don't know what that is? We'd be glad to tell you more about it!
- Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., we hold a brief Contemplative Service in the chapel. It includes readings, music, prayer time, and silence. This service also goes out in an electronic version.
- Life After Loss, a grief support group meets every Thursday in the Fireside Room, from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm. No need to register, you can just attend, but if you have questions, please don't hesitate to call the office.
- Thursday afternoons at 2:00, our Theology and Scripture group meets via Zoom to discuss theology, the bible, and other topics.
- We also have a choir and a bell ensemble to which you are warmly invited!

And 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!)
- Two Thursdays a month, starting at 3:45, the Reading Group is doing a close study of the novels of Marilynne Robinson. We meet via Zoom.

Zoom links are posted weekly in our eblasts, and we always welcome new attendees!

Mark your calendar:

- January 22: Annual meeting - Immediately after service in the Sanctuary.
We need you there!

Remember, for links to events, dates, and more information, please go to our website: www.orindacommunitychurch.org





Poinsettias Given in Memory of

John William Creech, Jr. *by the Creech Family*

Dekkers H. Davidson *by Anne Barr and Fred Matteson*

George and Ruby Hunt *by Alison Skidgel*

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Lapidge *by Reverend and Mrs. John A. Thursby*

Katherine Matteson *by Anne Barr and Fred Matteson*

Myron Matteson *by Anne Barr and Fred Matteson*

Jim and Jane Mead *by Chris and Gail Mead*

Frances Meinershagen *by Joyce Crawford*

Don and Frances Nye *by Gary Nye*

Reg and Christine Robinson *by Chris and Gail Mead*

Jamie Samuelsen *by Jeane and Roger Samuelsen*

Reverend and Mrs. Irvin G. Thursby *by Reverend and Mrs. John A. Thursby*

Rachel and AC Wells *by Alison Skidgel*

Poinsettias Given in Honor of

Louise Davidson *by Anne Barr and Fred Matteson*

Emily DeWolfe *by Tom and Jill Oberheim*

Rodney and Patricia Milnes *by David and Carrie Milnes*

Ushers & Greeters



A big THANK YOU to the ushers!

*Bill & Carey Carpenter, Jeane & Roger Samuelsen,
and Karl & Leslie Schonborn*

LIMITED OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK:

12/26/22 Monday OFFICE CLOSED
12/27/22 Tuesday OFFICE CLOSED
12/28/22 Wednesday open 9 am – 2 pm
12/29/22 Thursday open 9 am – 2 pm
12/30/22 Friday OFFICE CLOSED

The office will also be closed Monday, January 2nd, 2023

Have you paid you pledge to OCC for 2022?

Please check your records and then send any remaining pledge as soon as possible. The church cash flow needs your infusion right now. Thanks for your generosity!



2023

We will again be hosting the Winter Nights Family Shelter in Fellowship Hall from **February 20 thru March 6**, and again from **May 1 thru May 15**.

Winter Nights creates a warm, dry, healthy place to stay — with hot, nutritious food and friendly helpers! This project requires volunteers and financial support from OCC members to make it all work. Your Christmas Offering will provide that monetary support, and volunteers will sign up in January to cook, play with, and support the families.

An official offering will be collected tonight, on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day but donations are accepted any time — just be sure to mark your donation for Winter Nights.

Questions? Contact Lani Shepp at lshepp@icloud.com



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. Coming next:

To register, please check your e-blasts or go to our website www.orindacommunitychurch.org

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/csDqE3vzRufywUA7>

Questions? Contact: Mary Volmer altamesacenter@gmail.com

(See flyer on next page)

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