

# Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1, 2023, 10 am



*Late 15<sup>th</sup> Century Flemish*

### **Reflection:**

Reality is not a function of the event as event, but of the relationship of that event to past, and future, events.

— Robert Penn Warren

The frame, the definition, is a type of context. And context, as we said before, determines the meaning of things. There is no such thing as the view from nowhere, or from everywhere for that matter. Our point of view biases our observation, consciously and unconsciously. You cannot understand the view without the point of view.

— Noam Shpancer

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*A Blessing of the House*

Jeane Samuelsen

**One:** Peace be to this house.

**All:** **And to all who dwell herein.**

**One:** From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the baby Jesus; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the Great One, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

*[While the congregation says the Magnificat, the room is sprinkled with holy water.]*

**All:** **My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
for God has looked with favor on God's servants.  
From this day all generations will call us blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.**

**One:** God has cast down the mighty from their power  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
Our God has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich have been sent away to reconsider their ways.  
God has come to help of the Beloved Community  
always remembering God's promise of mercy.

**All:** **From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and  
opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the  
great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His  
burial.  
O Lord, hear my prayer.  
And let our cry come unto You.**

*\*Stand as you are able*

*[After the prayers of the blessing are recited, walk through the house and bless each room by sprinkling with holy water. Take the blessed chalk and first write the initials of the three Wise Men, connected with Crosses, over the inside of your front door (on the lintel, if possible). Then write the year, breaking up the numbers and the year so that they fall on both sides of the initials. It should look like this:*

20 C + M + B 23

*with the “20 “being the millennium and century, the “C” standing for the first Wise Man, Caspar, the “M” standing for Melchior, the “B” standing for Balthasar, and the “23” standing for the decade and year. It is also popularly believed that the Kings’ initials stand for “Christus mansionem benedicat” (“Christ bless this house”).]*

HYMN\* RH 237

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

Martin Shaw

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Jeane Samuelsen

**O God, who by the guidance of a star, you guided us to your cherished child. We pray that you will build our faith and kinship so that we can attain your wisdom and grace. Bless, O God, this home, this house of faith, that in it there may be health, purity, strength, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Your law, the thanksgiving to you. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**Pastor:** Be enlightened, be enlightened, for your light is come, and the glory of God is risen upon you -- Jesus Christ Born.

**All:** **And we shall walk in your light and in the splendor of your rising, and the glory of your holy promise has risen upon us.**

**WE LISTEN**

SOLO

*\*Stand as you are able*

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeane Samuelson

*Isaiah 63:9*

In all their affliction God was afflicted,  
and the angel of God's presence saved them;  
in Divine love and in his pity God redeemed them,  
and lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*Hebrews 2:5b-8, 16-17a*

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere,

“What is a human, that you are mindful of them,  
or the son of man, that you care for him?  
You made him for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned him with glory and honor,  
putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

For surely it is not angels that God helps, but the offspring of our ancestors. Therefore Jesus had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every respect.

SERMON

*Context and Manifestation*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

HYMN\* RH 228

*He is Born*

Carlton R. Young

**WE RESPOND**

A TIME OF PRAYER

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

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 SOLO

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\* **RH** 261

*Lord of the Dance*

Sydney Carter

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.**

**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](mailto:altamesacenter@gmail.com)

(Flyer on next page)

# The Alta Mesa Center for the Arts presents:

A reading and discussion featuring

novelist, journalist, essayist

**Susanne Pari**

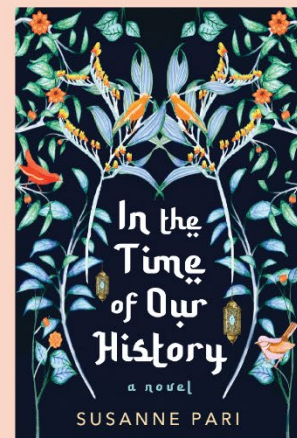
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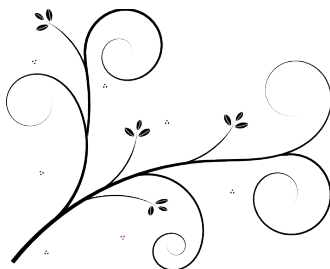
## Weekly Events

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, January 5, 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, January 10, 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. We meet via Zoom. Next meeting is Thursday, January 12, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.







Thank you to this week's ushers:

Bill and Carey Carpenter, Mike Kersten, and Kathleen Wiegand

And speaking of ushers. . .

**Ushers and Greeters Needed:** About 4 friendly volunteers are needed to join our usher teams for the 2023 calendar year. Youth are especially encouraged to volunteer. 2 additional greeters are also needed to focus on welcoming first-time visitors to our worship services. The commitment for both ushers and greeters is for just one Sunday a month. These service opportunities are a great way to meet and serve all who attend our worship services and to provide an extravagant welcome to people in the greater community. If you would like to volunteer or for more information, contact Mike Kersten, the usher coordinator, [mikejkersten@aol.com](mailto:mikejkersten@aol.com)



January 22, 2023  
Annual Meeting  
Immediately after service  
in the Sanctuary.  
We need you there!



# 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 on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day but donations are accepted any time — just be sure to mark your donation for Winter Nights.

We will take volunteer sign-ups in early January.

Questions? Contact Lani Shepp at [lshepp@icloud.com](mailto:lshepp@icloud.com)