

# Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 15, 2023, 10 am



### Reflection:

I am a writer and my faith in the world of art is intense, but not irrational, nor naïve - because art takes us and makes us take a journey beyond price, beyond cost, into bearing witness to the world as it is and as it should be. Art invites us to know beauty and to solicit it, summon it, from even the most tragic of circumstances.

—Toni Morrison

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Psalm 89*

Kathi Kling

**One:** Righteousness and justice are the foundation of our holy community.

**All:** **God's love and faithfulness goes before us.**

**One:** Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, LOVING ONE.

**All:** **For you are our glory and strength, and by your favor you awaken us to your reality.**

**One:** With our mouths we will make your faithfulness known.

**All:** **We affirm that your love stands firm forever.**

HYMN\* **RH** 454

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Clara H. Scott

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Kathi Kling

**Dynamic God, Lover of All,  
We crave your energy! We want to cultivate in ourselves both your wisdom and your power. As we roll up our sleeves, we pray that we will find you in our fingertips, in our heads bent to work, in our stride into the day. God, there is work to do. Help us to find you in every circumstance and to be the prophets that make your loving, guiding presence the healing reality of this world. Amen.**

*\*Stand as you are able*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

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

**People:** And also with you.

**WE LISTEN**

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READING

Kathi Kling

*Isaiah 1:17*

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to orphans, and support the vulnerable.

*Mark 1:21-31*

And Jesus and his disciples went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. And the people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

SERMON

*Witness*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

HYMN\* **RH** 267

*O Love, How Deep*

Benjamin Wade

*\*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 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** 420

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Edwin Hatch

BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

## **Orinda Community Church**

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563

(925) 254-4906

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.

### **Second Sunday Reading Series**

#### **Featuring:**

a reading and discussion with  
Palestinian American poets

**Issam Zineh and Carolina Ebeid**



**February 12, 2023 at 4:00pm (Pacific)**

To Register for this free online event, check your eblast **or** go to our website [orindacommunitychurch.org](http://orindacommunitychurch.org) and look under "Arts" and "Alta Mesa Center for the Arts" **or** go directly to: <https://www.maryvolmer.com/alta-mesa-center-for-the-arts.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 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 19, 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 24, 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 26, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



# Ushers & Greeters Ministry

Thank you to this week's ushers:

Jeane & Roger Samuelsen, John Thursby, and Joan Upshaw

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)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**COMING  
UP**

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR, WOMEN OF SPIRIT!  
January Gathering

Please join us in person or virtually (Zoom) next Friday, January 20, at Orinda Community Church for a warm, nourishing gathering, focused on the theme of  
*CONNECTION!*

Friday, January 20, 2023  
11:45 AM PT - 1:15 PM PT

Orinda Community Church  
Fellowship Hall  
10 Irwin Way  
Orinda, CA 94563

HOSTED BY: Betsy, Bushra, CarrieLyn, Julia, Leslie, and Stacy

For in-person attendees, we'll have a yummy homemade soup lunch, a Connection workshop you won't want to miss, and as always, plenty of time to chat with wonderful women of diverse spiritual backgrounds.

We will offer a Zoom option for anyone who prefers to dial in, including a Zoom discussion group with CarrieLyn for all virtual participants.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8729705446?pwd=UnJpOCt1NVF4Sjc3Z0poUUVyYmVWZz09>

Meeting ID: 872 970 5446, Passcode: 190010

Please invite friends to join us by sharing this evite link with them:

<http://evite.me/JZZuVujCFc>. All are welcome!

**Women of Spirit** is a group of inclusive, curious women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with other women of diverse faith traditions.

We are not affiliated with any religious institution, and are open to ALL.

For more info, visit

<https://www.womenofspiritlamorinda.org>

or <https://www.facebook.com/womenofspiritlamorinda>.





# 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.

Donations are still being accepted — just be sure to mark your donation for Winter Nights.

Questions? Want to know how you can help?  
Contact Lani Shepp at [lshepp@icloud.com](mailto:lshepp@icloud.com)