

Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 29, 2023, 10 am



Image by John August Swanson

Reflection:

The ridiculous is always so near to the sublime. And the world, usually so indulgent to foibles, hates ours instinctively. — Georges Bernanos

WE GATHER

PRELUDE David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR The Acolytes

WELCOME Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT SOLO

CALL TO WORSHIP* *from Isaiah 42* Kurt Sunderbruch

One: Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

All: **We find it so difficult to grow in wisdom. Who can discern their own errors? Make us innocent from hidden faults.**

One: We will not be conformed to this world and its version of wisdom.

All: **We will be transformed by the renewal of our minds, discerning what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

HYMN* BH 289 *Come Forth, O Love Divine* Ralph Vaughan Williams

COMMUNITY PRAYER *by St. Augustine, 1st Century* Kurt Sunderbruch

**Look upon us, O Lord,
and let all the darkness of our souls
vanish before the beams of thy brightness.
Fill us with holy love,
and open to us the treasures of thy wisdom.
All our desire is known unto thee,
therefore perfect what thou hast begun,
and what thy Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer.
We seek thy face,
turn thy face unto us and show us thy glory.
Then shall our longing be satisfied,
and our peace shall be perfect. 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

1 Corinthians 1:17-30

Kurt Sunderbruch

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

*“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart.”*

Where is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the foolishness of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than humans, and the weakness of God is stronger than humans.

For consider your call, sisters and brothers; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to humble the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. For God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

SERMON

Wisdom and Foolishness

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

HYMN* **RH** 503

Let it Breathe On Me

Magnolia Lewis-Butts

**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** 544

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Peter Cutts

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

**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.

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 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, February 2nd, 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, February 7th, 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, February 9th, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.





Thank you to this week's ushers:

Mike Kersten, Joyce Crawford, and Katrina Staten

*****THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31st*****

*Please join us for a celebration of the life of
Liz Simmonds
today, Sunday, January 29.*

The service will begin at 2:00 p.m.
and will be followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.



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