

**Orinda Community Church  
Order of Worship  
Sunday, October 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**



**Reflection:**

We want the fullness of God’s revelation to be in something legible, which we can hold in our hand; yet the infallible presence of God doesn’t contain the whole of the thing itself. It is something which must be seen through, not a resting-place for the human gaze, but rather a lens to bring the figure of God’s Word into sharper focus.

This definition of idolatry opens the way for even distinctly ‘Christian’ practices to be idols. We readily forget that the Golden Calf wasn’t an *alternative* god, but rather an attempt to capture the Lord, to pin him down beneath the human gaze.

– from “Reflections on Idolatry” by Will McDavid

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Psalm 19*

Judy McCall

**One:** The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**All:** **Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.**

**One:** Yet their voices go out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun, which runs its course with joy.

**All:** **The heart of God is perfect, reviving the soul; God's teachings are sure, making wise the simple.**

**One:** As we learn the ways of the Holy One our hearts rejoice and our vision clears.

**All:** **Let our focus on the Holy One be pure, enduring forever; for God's presence in our lives is true and righteous altogether.**



### COVID Advisory Group: Update

As an acknowledgement to the uptick in regional COVID cases, the COVID Advisory Group met this week. After some reflection and conversation, we decided that we simply want to reaffirm the health and safety suggestions we had previously adopted:

1. We believe that masks are a good way to protect wearers and help stop the spread of the disease. You are welcome to wear a mask to church, and we will make sure that masks and hand sanitizer are available in the narthex.
2. Our sanctuary is spacious! Feel free to spread out and practice social distancing.
3. New COVID boosters will soon be available, and we feel that boosters for COVID and other diseases like RSV, flu, and pneumonia offer good protection.

In addition, we use a fan each Sunday that filters the air in the sanctuary every twenty minutes. We will be purchasing air purifiers for the narthex and keeping the narthex doors open as long as the weather permits.

We thank you for the collaborative spirit of O.C.C. as we walk through a period of many unknowns. Thanks to your care for yourselves and each other, COVID has had a limited impact on our church population.

We hope to stay healthy and happy together!



Elementary aged kids are welcome to join us in the Agape Center each week for some learning and fun. Kids start in the Sanctuary for Sunday service and then are excused part way through, to go to Sunday School.

Thank you to the many people who have already signed up to teach! We are also looking for additional volunteers to help with the kids (one main teacher and one helper adult each week). Simple online training and live scan fingerprinting are required.

If you would like to help at Sunday School, please contact Anna in the office who can help you take the 2 easy steps to get cleared to volunteer.

For any questions about Sunday School itself,  
please contact Amy Parlett at [saparlett@comcast.net](mailto:saparlett@comcast.net)

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**Today's Coffee Hour is brought to you by  
Nancy Peterson & Karen Norris**

**The ushers have the Coffee Hour sign-up sheet.  
We are looking for volunteers!**



**If you're able to take on this greatly appreciated service for  
one Sunday, please sign up today!**

HYMN\* BH 510

*Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You*

Rae Whitney

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Judy McCall

**Holy God,  
you love justice and hate oppression;  
you call us to righteousness and not to exploitation.  
Give us generous and loving hearts,  
and eyes to see the splendor of your creation,  
that we may live in truth and honor,  
and place our hope and focus on you for the transformation  
of our lives.  
Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

**WE LISTEN**

ANTHEM

*\*Stand as you are able*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Judy McCall

*Exodus 20:1-4*

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

*Matthew 21:33-44*

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let



Thank you to this week's ushers:  
**Mike Kersten, Jill Oberheim, Lani Shepp and Betty Wu**



*Online Auction beginning Sunday, October 29, 2023*  
*Pick-up and In-Person Auction Sunday, November 5, 2023*

**Want more information?**

**Contact Gail Mead**

**Mobile (510) 414-6222**

**grmead@comcast.net**



## QUILTS ON VIEW TODAY!



The Sewing Circle is offering sponsorships and sales of quilts and other Artisan pieces.

(SCRIPTURE READINGS continued)

us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

SERMON     *The Versatility of Idolatry*     Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

## WE RESPOND

HYMN\* BH 465     *Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way*     William Matson

A TIME OF PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

*\*Stand as you are able*

## 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

### STEWARDSHIP

## OFFERTORY SOLO

*\*Stand as you are able*

# Upcoming Events!

Please join us for these upcoming activities at the church:

- ❖ **October 8**, today at services, the **Sewing Circle** is displaying quilts and other artisan pieces for sponsorship and sales.
- ❖ **October 15**, after church: **Electric Vehicle Show**. We will have a casual walkaround so that those who have electric cars and bikes can share them and talk about the benefits of non-polluting transport. If you have any kind of electric vehicle you would like to show off during this event please sign up with Nancy Thursby: [nlthursby@comcast.net](mailto:nlthursby@comcast.net)
- ❖ **October 22**, after services at 11:30 a.m., Second Hour: **Roger Samuelsen will lead a conversation about Common Hope**, an organization with which we have a long-time partnership. Each year, we bring together the funds to build a house, yes, a whole house! This Sunday will kick off our fundraising for this year's house.
- ❖ **October 29 – November 5: AUCTION!** -- Our online auction will kick off on Sunday, October 29, culminating in our in-person auction, Sunday, November 5.

**Orinda Community Church**

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(925) 254-4906

office@orindachurch.org

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

David Milnes, Director of Music

Anna Gregory, Office Administrator

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**In addition to 10 am Sunday worship, we offer these weekly:**

- ✚ 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, the bible, and other topics. The next meeting is Thursday, October 12.

**And these, every other week:**

- ✚ Two Tuesdays a month, the **Writers Group** shares and discusses their writings via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 17.
- ✚ Two Thursdays a month, starting at 3:45 p.m., the **Reading Group** meets via Zoom. The room opens 15 minutes early for welcome and chatting. Our next meeting is Thursday, October 19.

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 562

*Take My Gifts*

Shirley Erena Murray

BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

David Milnes

*\*Stand as you are able*

## Alta Mesa Center for the Arts



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.

## TODAY at AMCA

October 8th at 4:00pm

### A Dialogue Between the Visual and the Poetic

with

Heidi Van Horn, Jennifer S Cheng, Maud Tanswai, and Sarah Rosenthal

To sign up for this event, please check your eblasts, or go to our website, [orindacommunitychurch.org](http://orindacommunitychurch.org), then go to “ARTS” and then choose “Alta Mesa Center for the Arts” which will take you to a page with a link to register.

## MERCY & JUSTICE PRESENTS ⚡ THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHOW ⚡

OCTOBER 15, AFTER CHURCH

Please plan to stay after church on October 15<sup>th</sup> for coffee and a snack and the Mercy & Justice Electric Vehicle Show! All participants are members of our church who will be available to discuss their vehicle(s). There will be cars, bikes, and an electric cart. Come and see how our congregation is moving away from fossil fuel pollution to electric vehicles.

Also, while you are at the show, pick up a handout about The Climate Center’s program to urge Governor Newsom to sign SB 253, SB 261, and AB 1167 into law. SB 253 and SB 261 are about corporate accountability for the climate and AB 1167 would require the owners of orphaned and idle wells to properly close them to protect neighboring communities and the climate. The handout will have a link to write to the governor urging his signature on these bills.

