

Orinda Community Church
Order of Worship
Sunday, October 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m.



Reflection:

Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines. — Henri Nouwen

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Craig Taatjes

One: We come in unity and in joy, for this sanctuary is a place of safety and welcome for all.

All: We receive God's gifts from the most unexpected places.

One: We seek to see God's face and holy hospitality in the face of the newcomer, the person who is different from us, the stranger.

All: And in offering hospitality, we seek to make God's love among us deeper and more real. We come in unity and joy to share the abundance that will never falter or fall away.



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 always 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

**Today's Coffee Hour is brought to you by
Jill Oberheim and Mercy & Justice**

**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* RH 510

Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

Charles Wesley

COMMUNITY PRAYER

attributed to St. Brigid

Craig Taatjes

We saw a stranger yesterday, we put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place. And with the sacred name of God, the stranger blessed us and our house, and our dear ones. Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise and therefore we open our hearts to be the hospitality of Christ, to all those who come to our door. We open our hearts to embrace the stranger, the friend, the rich, the poor. We open our lives to offer a generous heart towards all. 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 READING

Joyce Hedges

Matthew 22:1-10

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.

Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.'

Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

REFLECTIONS

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson
& Reverend Melinda McClain



Thank you to this week's ushers:
Jeane & Roger Samuelsen and Joni Upshaw



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



CSA

Frog Hollow Community Supported Agriculture

Bringing exceptionally flavorful, regenerative, organic fruit to the Orinda Community!

Have you signed up yet for your weekly or bi-weekly boxes of fruit?

Orinda Community Church is hosting Frog Hollow Farm Community Supported Agriculture by offering them a drop-off/pick up spot for their produce.

Every Tuesday, Frog Hollow drops off boxes of fruit and folks that have signed up for weekly or bi-weekly boxes pick them up.

It's east to sign up, go to www.froghollow.com and choose Orinda as your pick-up location. The boxes are deposited on the parking lot side of Fellowship Hall for pickup.



Questions? You can ask Anna in the office, or go to their website www.froghollow.com or email them at csa@froghollow.com

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 175

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come Fred Pratt Green

A TIME OF PRAYER

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.

**Stand as you are able*

MOMENT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP

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* BH 83

I Sing as I Arise Today

St. Patrick

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

David Milnes

**Stand as you are able*

MERCY & JUSTICE PRESENTS
⚡ THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHOW ⚡

TODAY, AFTER CHURCH

Please plan to stay after church today 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.

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.



2nd Hour

October 22, after services, at 11:30 a.m., **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 will kick off our fundraising for this year's house.

We have pledged to raise, yearly, enough money to help Common Hope build a house for one of their participating families.

The "Help Build a House" board will be in the Narthex after church starting October 8, 2023. Karen Sanford will help people with their donations after church or you can send a check to church, made out to **Orinda Community Church with Common Hope House in the memo line**.

We need to raise \$800 from the congregation to add to the \$1000 allocated from the Mercy and Justice budget for this purpose.

If you don't know about Common Hope and want to know more check out the website at CommonHope.org.

Please plan to come and learn about other ways to help the Common Hope families.



Orinda Community Church

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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 19.

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.



The Good Table, in El Sobrante, is a sister U.C.C. church doing wonderful things! They are making a new church that will share property with a Planting Justice nursery, a business that trains and employs formerly incarcerated people.

**There is a community work day the
last Saturday of every month 12-3pm
5166 Sobrante Ave, El Sobrante 94803**

October 28, 2023 is the next work day.

Here's an invitation from The Good Table:

Wear sturdy shoes, clothes you don't mind getting dirty, and bring work gloves, gardening tools if you have them, and a mask to help us tend our beautiful planting beds and continue to clean up our construction site. Or just stop by for a tour! We've made lots of progress towards opening our pay-what-you-can and pay-it-forward community cafe, food and craft marketplace, organic tree and plant nursery and gathering space for the arts, education, music, and spiritual community. Help get the site closer to Opening Day-ready!



OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK

Office Hours are usually Monday – Friday, 9 am – 2 pm

But for next week, October 16 -20, please see below:

October 16, Monday 9 am – 2 pm
October 17, Tuesday 9 am – 11 am
October 18, Wednesday 9 am – 2 pm
October 19, Thursday OFFICE CLOSED
October 20, Friday 9 am – 2 pm