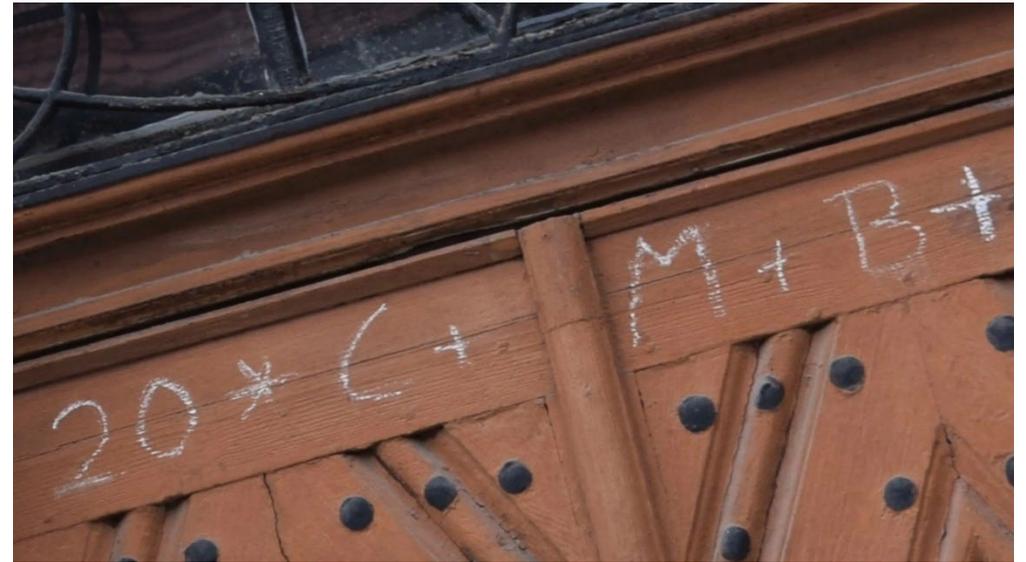


Orinda Community Church
Order of Worship
Sunday, January 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m.



20 C + M + B 24

Create a house blessing 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 “24” standing for the decade and year. It is also popularly believed that the Kings’ initials stand for “Christus mansionem benedicat” (“Christ bless this house”).

Reflection: An epiphany enables you to sense creation not as something completed, but as constantly becoming, evolving, ascending. This transports you from a place where there is nothing new to a place where there is nothing old, where everything renews itself, where heaven and earth rejoice as at the moment of creation.

—Abraham Isaac Kook

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Marilyn Welland

One: Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope and meaning.

All: **Love of God, fill this holy space and draw away any darkness that threatens our souls.**

One: Wonder of God, shine with such brightness that we marvel in awe. Peace of God, fill each person with your Holy Spirit today.

All: **Light of God, Fullness of God, we welcome you in this place.**

**Please stand, as you are able*



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.

For any questions about Sunday School please contact Amy Parlett at saparlett@comcast.net

With the start of 2024, so comes a new sign up for Sunday School teachers! Amy has 3 months' worth of dates, so if you have been screened (fingerprinted and mandated reporter training), please consider signing up a time or two (or more). Thank you in advance for volunteering for our church kids. Whether one or a hundred kids are in attendance, the connection and meaning of Sunday School time is invaluable. If you want to volunteer, contact the office to find out how to get screened.

THANK YOU TO

Breda Keogh-Hanks

for providing coffee and refreshments today.



If you're able to take on this greatly appreciated service
for one Sunday, please sign up today!
The ushers have the Coffee Hour sign-up sheet.

January Volunteers Needed!



Thank you to this week's ushers:

Carey Carpenter
Mike Kersten
Anna Maclean
Kathleen Wiegand

HYMN* BH 158 *O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright* Philipp Nicolai 1598

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Marilyn Welland

God who is Three, God who is One,
give blessing to the house that is here.
Bless it from roof to floor,
from wall to wall, from end to end.
May your Spirit alone dwell within these walls,
to bring faith and hope to all who enter here.
Welcome be here in the name of the Christ of peace.
Joy be here in the God of life.
We call upon you to embrace all who enter here,
bringing the life of the Spirit into all who stand at the door,
this day, this night, and evermore. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

**Please stand, as you are able*

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Marilyn Welland

Isaiah 60:1-2, 4-5

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Divine has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but God will arise upon you, and that glory will appear over you.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

Ephesians 3:1-10

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles--for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

(continued on the next page)

Next Sunday, January 14, 2024

- **Immediately following morning service, we will hold a brief budget meeting, which will last about 30 minutes.**
- **Following that, there will be a lunch. And then . . .**

Lukas Vesely Presents

Songs of Gratitude

Lukas Vesely - piano & bass

Jonathan Bautista - sax

Joe DeRose - drums

Sunday

January 14, 2024

1 pm

*Orinda Community Church
Sanctuary*



Winter Nights will be at OCC February 12 -26, 2024

**Sign-ups for helping begins today
January 7, before and after Sunday service.**

We need volunteers to:

1. Come at 5:00 AM to put out coffee and cold breakfast for the guests (everyone leaves by 7:00 AM) — Monday thru Friday.
2. Prepare and serve dinner for guests and volunteers at 6:00 PM every night.
3. Prepare and serve hot breakfast 8:00 AM — Saturday and Sunday.
4. Play with children from 5:00 to 8:00 PM— and have dinner with them! — Monday thru Friday.
5. Help work with school age students on their homework 5:00 to 8:00 PM — Monday-Thursday — dinner included.
6. Spend the night as a backup for Winter Nights staff and help with cold breakfast — 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM — every night.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Ephesians 3:1-10 (continued)

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of God's power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make possible that everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through our church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to all.

SERMON *Epiphany As Conversation* Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 163 *Many Are the Lightbeams* Cyprian of Carthage

**Please stand, as you are able*

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.**

MOMENT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SOLO

An invitation from Joyanne Elkinton-Walker:
You are cordially invited to my book-signing on

January 18, 2024

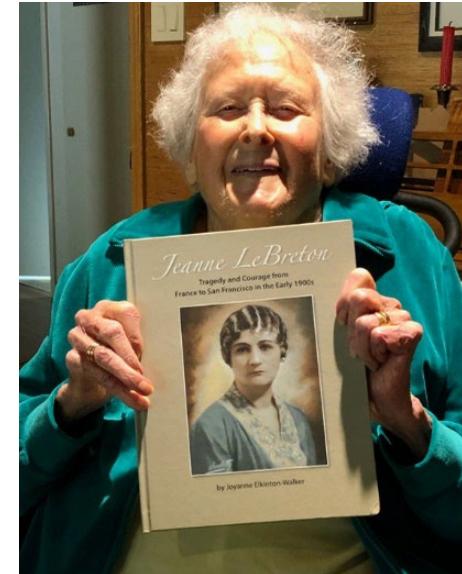
at 2:00 pm

at Orinda Books

276 Village Square, Orinda,

to share the publication of my new book,

Jeanne LeBreton



Congratulations Joy!

**Please stand, as you are able*



ARE NEEDED!

About 4 friendly volunteers are needed to join our usher teams for the 2024 calendar year. Youth are especially encouraged to volunteer. Two 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 opportunities for service 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, please contact our Usher Coordinator, Mike Kersten, at mikejkersten@aol.com or by cell **925-254-2209**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION SOLO

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN* BH 102

We Are Not Our Own

Brian Wren

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

David Milnes

**Please stand, as you are able*

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

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. No need to sign up. Please stop by if you are interested.
- ✚ 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, January 11.

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, January 9.
- ✚ 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, January 11.



- The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 8th.
- The next Church Council Meeting is Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 7 pm. Keep an eye out for the Zoom link in your email, if you'd like to attend virtually.
- January 14 after services, there will be a brief budget meeting, lunch, and then a concert from Lukas Vesely starting at 1 pm.
- OCC's Annual Meeting will be after 10 am services on Sunday, January 21st.
- Our planned conversation about the crisis in the Middle East has been postponed to Sunday, January 28, after the 10 am Service. We will have a facilitated discussion, utilizing Quaker Dialogue.