

**ORDER FORM--2023 Easter Memorial/Honorary Flowers**



Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of memorial **or** honoree (*please circle one*):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Easter Lilies (double stalks) \$18.00 *each* \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Azaleas \$23.00 *each* \_\_\_\_\_

Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Flowers can be picked up following Easter Service on April 9th.

Please return form to church office or put in offering plate by April 2nd.

**Orinda Community Church**  
**Order of Worship**  
**Sunday, March 26, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**



*photograph by Stephen Penland*

**Reflection:**

“But it does not seem that I can trust anyone,” said Frodo. Sam looked at him unhappily. “It all depends on what you want,” put in Merry. “You can trust us to stick with you through thick and thin--to the bitter end. And you can trust us to keep any secret of yours--closer than you keep it yourself. But you cannot trust us to let you face trouble alone, and go off without a word. We are your friends, Frodo.”

— J.R.R. Tolkien, from *The Fellowship of the Ring*

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

INTROIT SOLO

CALL TO WORSHIP\* *by Reverend M. Jade Kaiser* Robin Holmes

One: Spirit of Spring Emergence,  
your glory rises from winter's gentle remnants.  
Tender shoots of green grass reach upward through leaves  
still in decay.  
Squirrels untuck from their nests and tip-toe across soils  
damp with rain.

**All: As the light of day rises and begins to stretch, birdsong  
calls life to wake.**

**May all who wonder and worry before lands still  
slumbering know yours is a trustworthy hope.**

One: Even in the restless seasons, and seasons of sadness,  
hovering like a winter darkness whose work it seems will  
never end,

**All: You are the whispered promise, humble and patient, of  
what is carefully held and hidden in the depths just  
waiting for its right to buzz, bustle, and blossom us to  
life again.**

*\*Stand as you are able*



Thank you to this week's ushers:

**Phil Bernard, Leslie Dickson, Gail Mead and John Skidgel**

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**The church office will be closed Tuesday,  
March 28<sup>th</sup>**



## Calling All Volunteers!

We will host Winter Nights from May 1 to 15 and we will need your help: Volunteer needs include: overnights, child care, tutors and dinners for 14 days. If you know of a group that would like to do a meal or help out please invite them! There will be two orientations and kitchen tours for all volunteers— on Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 pm and Sunday, April 30 at 11:30 am after church—please plan to attend one of these.

Sign-ups will begin today March 19<sup>th</sup>, after church.

You can also volunteer at the office [office@orindachurch.org](mailto:office@orindachurch.org) or email Lani: [lshepp@icloud.com](mailto:lshepp@icloud.com)

HYMN\* **RH** 269 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* Claudia F. Hernaman

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Robin Holmes

**That our hearts would be open to you, O God.**

**That we may release every defense against your Spirit's guidance.**

**That we would receive the wisdom you intend for us. May it be so. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**WE LISTEN**

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Robin Holmes

*Deuteronomy 2:1-7*

Then we turned back and set out toward the wilderness along the route to the Red Sea, as God had directed me. For a long time, we made our way around the hill country of Seir.

*\*Stand as you are able*

*(Deuteronomy 2:1-7 continued)*

Then God said to me, “You have made your way around this hill country long enough; now turn north. Give the people these orders: ‘You are about to pass through the territory of your relatives the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of you, but be very careful. Do not provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land, not even enough to put your foot on. I have given Esau the hill country of Seir as his own. You are to pay them in silver for the food you eat and the water you drink.’” Your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. The Holy One has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything.

*Lamentations 3:19-24*

Remember my affliction and my wanderings,  
the wormwood and the gall!  
My soul continually remembers it  
and is bowed down within me.  
But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of God never ceases;  
God’s mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in him.”

*\*Stand as you are able*



**WOMEN OF SPIRIT!**  
Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall at Orinda Community Church for a warm, nourishing gathering, or virtually (Zoom).

**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>

To join by ZOOM:

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

Meeting ID: 872 970 5446, Passcode: 190010



**Coming in April!**

**Interfaith Power & Light Faith Climate Action Week April 14—23, 2023**

**Theme: Living the Golden Rule: Just Transition to a Clean Energy Economy**

**From the Interfaith Power and Light Guide:**

We have the “responsibility as people of faith and conscience to transition to energy sources that safeguard our common home and look at ways to respond to this challenge with just solutions for all.”

“We all want to live in a community of mutual respect, where everyone abides by the Golden Rule: treating others the way we want to be treated. We all want to have meaningful work that sustains our families and communities and to live in a clean and healthy environment.

We are already transitioning away from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy, and as people of faith and conscience we can ensure the transition is made with justice. We can have both a healthy economy and a clean environment, and the process for achieving this vision can be fair and not cost workers or community residents their health, environment, jobs, or economic assets. Working for a just transition is a faithful response to the call to care for our neighbor and the interconnected community of all life.”

SERMON

*Fidelity and Change*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**WE RESPOND**

HYMN\* **RH** 267

*O Love, How Deep*

Benjamin Webb

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 ANTHEM

*\*Stand as you are able*



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 140

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

William M. Runyan

BENEDICTION\*

POSTLUDE



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.

April 9, 2023 at 4:00 pm (PST)

**A reading featuring  
poets and psalmists Laura Walker and Kerri Webster**



To Register for this free online event, check your eblasts or go to:

<https://forms.gle/5LtRT65NTAGhqBAS6>

*\*Stand as you are able*

**OCC is hosting a SEDER DINNER**  
**during Holy Week**  
**Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.**



We are blessed to have Sarah Elovich leading us through this Passover tradition.

We ask for a donation of \$20 to cover the cost of the food (*but ALL are welcome, so if funds are an issue, please just come!*)

If you'd like to attend, please **RSVP by March 31** to the office  
(925) 254-4906 or [office@orindachurch.org](mailto:office@orindachurch.org)

**Orinda Community Church**  
10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563  
(925) 254-4906  
[office@orindachurch.org](mailto: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 and the bible, and other topics. The next meeting is Thursday, March 30, at 2:00 pm.

And these very other week:

- ❖ Two Tuesdays a month, the **Writers' Group** shares and discusses their writings via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. Next meeting is Tuesday, April 4, 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, April 6, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



## POETRY READING



### Tenebrae

a poetry reading illuminating sacred darkness  
by Elizabeth Robinson and Norman Weinstein

Join us on April 7, Good Friday, at 2:00 pm  
Check your e-blast for a link to register for this Zoom event.

## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Arlington Community Church      The Good Table UCC  
City of Refuge UCC      Orinda Community Church  
First Congregational Church of Berkeley UCC      Skyline UCC

*invite you to join us for a joint service*

### Good Friday 2023

Presence and the Absence of Presence



Good Friday Service      Orinda Community Church  
Friday, April 7, 2023      10 Irwin Way  
7:00 p.m.      Orinda, CA 94564

*LIVESTREAM LINK*  
*OrindaCommunityChurch.org*