



Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, May 22, 2023, 10am

Reflections:

Every happening, great and small, is a parable whereby God speaks to us,
and the art of life is to get the message. —Malcolm Muggeridge

All that passes is raised to the dignity of expression;
all that happens is raised to the dignity of meaning.
Everything is either symbol or parable. —Paul Claudel



* *Stand as you are able*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

adapted from Romans 8

Roger Samuelsen

One: So then, brothers and sisters, we live by the Spirit, for all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

All: **It is that very Spirit bearing witness to our spirits that makes us children of God.**

One: Creation waits with eager longing for all that will be revealed.

All: **We live in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will rise into freedom and light.**

One: For in hope we are refreshed with the spirit. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

All: **We live in hope for what we do not see, we wait with patience and confidence.**

HYMN* BH 565

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

* *Stand as you are able*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

adapted from chapter 12 of the Wisdom of Solomon

Roger Samuelsen

**You are the only One. There is no God besides you,
whose care is for all people.
Your constant oversight causes you to spare all.
Your strength relieves us of doubt.
Your power is wholeness.
You respond to our errors and foolishness
with affection and forbearance.
Through your works you have taught your people
that the righteous must be kind,
and you have filled your children with good hope. Amen.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

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

WE LISTEN

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 36

Roger Samuelsen

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.

So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the workers of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'

He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The workers said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

* *Stand as you are able*

SERMON

Explain to Us

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* 586

Come to Tend God's Garden

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

It's summer! However, the church is still operating full time.
Please remember your pledge during the summer; we're counting on you.

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!**

* *Stand as you are able*

HYMN* BH 600

How Lovely is Your Dwelling

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson



Thank you to this week's ushers:

John Skidgel
Leslie Dickson
Joan Crawford

Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA

925 254 4906

office@orindachurch.org

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

Reverend Barry Cammer, Adjunct Pastor

David Milnes, Director of Music

Anna Gregory, Office Administrator

* *Stand as you are able*

**COUNCIL MEETING CANCELED ~
SUMMER HIATUS**



The meeting scheduled on 7/26/23 has been postpone due to folks traveling during July.
The next Church Council Meeting is
Wednesday, August 23 at 7:00 p.m.



July 29 Community Work Day *
5166 Sobrante Ave, El Sobrante 94803

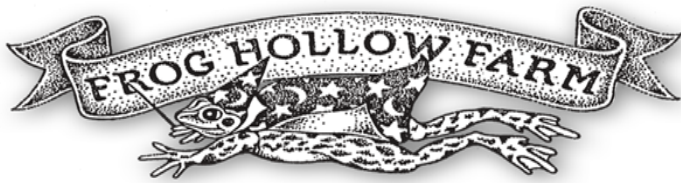
The Good Table, in El Sobrante, is a sister U.C.C. church doing wonderful things! They are making a new church that will share property with a Planting Justice nursery, a business that trains and employs formerly incarcerated people.

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!**

* **There is a community work day the last Saturday of every month 12-3pm.**

* *Stand as you are able*



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 easy 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 all try to recycle, but sadly much of the plastic produced, especially numbers 2-7 plastics, end up in the landfill anyway.

Read this quote from Repurpose:

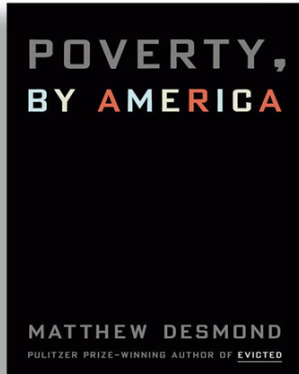
“Many of us consider plastic recycling a great step toward lowering our ecological footprint and protecting the environment. However, **less than 10% of plastic waste generated globally has been recycled so far**. A somewhat larger portion (**12%**) has been incinerated and the rest has simply ended up in landfills and our oceans.”

Below are some suggestions from the Zero Waste Store (www.zerowastestore.com):

1. Reduce your plastic usage & replace it with reusables or refillables.
2. Avoid single-use plastic.
3. Avoid small plastics that are unlikely to be recycled, (usually numbers 2 through 7).
4. If you see plastic pollution, pick it up.
5. Know where plastic is in your products. Replace it or avoid it altogether.
6. Recycle better. Know what your municipality can recycle and only send those items to the facility.
7. Vote & fight for legislation such as bag bans.
8. Pressure local government to enforce plastic bans and create better waste management rules.
9. Ask & call out companies to do better. From local restaurants to major corporations.
10. Rethink your wardrobe — or at least your next purchase. Try to avoid “fast fashion” and plastic materials.

Other sites to check out: www.EcologyCenter.or/plastic-free-july www.Grove.co
www.netzero.com www.Dropps.com www.RePurpose.global

* *Stand as you are able*



2nd Hour

The Reading Group is holding a **2nd Hour Presentation** (date to be announced) about the book *Poverty, by America* by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Matthew Desmond. We encourage you to begin reading now so that you can be part of the discussion when we meet!

**HOPE
SOLUTIONS**



**BACKPACK
DRIVE**

OCC has a long tradition of helping to supply backpacks and school supplies for children.

Hope Solutions (www.hopesolutions.org) is now running the backpack drive online, with 2 options. You can sign up for a specific age and purchase the backpack and supplies yourself and drop off at Hope Solutions (or ask Karen Sanford to drop it off if you cannot make the drive), or send a donation online. Please check your e-blasts for the link to sign up and/or give.

Alternatively, you can always donate by sending a check to:
Hope Solutions, 399 Taylor Boulevard, Pleasant Hill, CA, 94523

Orinda Community Church is participating in a new endeavor! 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.



* *Stand as you are able*

* *Stand as you are able*