

Orinda Community Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

Order of Worship
Sunday, March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Reflection: *We have to recognize that spirituality is a legitimate dimension in the psyche. It's a legitimate dimension in the universal scheme of things. It doesn't mean that you are superstitious, that you are in to magical, primitive thinking, if you take spirituality seriously.*
— Stanislav Grof

PRELUDE

In Reverence

David Tolk

Kathi Kling, piano soloist

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lani Shepp

One: Discerning God, when we are stressed by difficult realities, help us to stay alert and clear.

All: **We cannot survive by slipping into avoidance and superficiality.**

One: We know that a life of faith is a true life.

All: **As we grow in faith, we grow in our ability to take on challenges.**

One: Therefore we ask for your wisdom and courage.

All: **And in faith, we ask also for your love and peace. For faith, love, wisdom and courage unite us in your deep peace. Amen.**

HYMN BH 444

We are Often Tossed and Driven

Charles A. Tindley, 1906

COMMUNITY PRAYER

from Therese of Lisieux

Lani Shepp

**Dear heavenly Guide,
Give us clarity,
of mind, heart, and spirit.
Let us see things for how they are,
as you see them. Amen.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SOLO

Prayer

Claude Debussy

Judy McCall, cello soloist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Lani Shepp

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved--and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God--not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

SERMON

Magical Thinking

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

ANNOUNCEMENTS, OFFERTORY INVITATION

SOLO

Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

Over every mountain-top
Lies peace,
In every tree-top
You scarcely feel
A breath of wind;
The little birds are hushed in the wood.
Wait, soon you too
Will be at peace.
-Goethe

Nikolas Nackley, baritone soloist

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.**

HYMN BH 394

In Christ There is No East or West Harry T. Burleigh, 1939

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegro from Cello Sonata No. 1

J.S. Bach

Judy McCall, cello soloist