

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

Order of Worship
Sunday, May 5, 2021

Reflection: *The natural state of motherhood is unselfishness. When you become a mother, you are no longer the center of your own universe. You relinquish that position to your children.*
—Jessica Lange

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP

by Fran Pratt

Kathleen Wiegand

One: Great Mother God who invented mothering, mother us now into the kindness of your presence, into the shadow of your wings.

All: We know that mothering takes many forms and is done by many kinds of people in different ways and situations.

One: We know that love is risky: There's always the possibility of pain, the risk of disappointment or loss.

All: Give us your mother-love: Give us the wisdom of your mother-heart. Give us the courage of your mother-heart. To heal us, To nourish us, To share freely with the world. Amen.

HYMN BH 274

WOMB OF LIFE, AND SOURCE OF BEING

LADUE CHAPEL, 1968

COMMUNITY PRAYER

based on a text by Julian of Norwich, by Jean Janzen

Kathleen Wiegand

**Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.**

**Mothering Christ, you took my form,
offering me your food of light,
grain of new life, and grape of love,
your very body for my peace.**

**Mothering Spirit, nurturing one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flower, until I know.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Leslie O'Brien

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Kathleen Wiegand

Hosea 11:3-4

God: "Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I who took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them."

Luke 15: 11-20

Jesus continued: "There was a mother who had two daughters. The younger one said to her mother, 'Mother, give me my share of the estate.' So she divided his property between them.

"Not long after that, the younger daughter got together all she had, set off for a distant country and there squandered her wealth in wild living. After she had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and she began to be in need. So she went and hired herself out as a menial, she labored to the fields to feed pigs. She longed to fill her stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave her anything.

"When she came to her senses, she said, 'How many of my mother's household have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will go back to my mother and say to him: Mother, I have made terrible mistakes. I am no longer worthy to be called your child; make me like one of your hired servants.' So she got up and returned to her family. But while she was still a long way off, her mother saw her and was filled with compassion; she ran to her daughter, threw her arms around her and kissed her.

SERMON

Her Mother Saw Her

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

ANNOUNCEMENTS, OFFERTORY INVITATION

SOLO

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 423

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

FAITHFULNESS, 1923

BENEDICTION

