

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

**Order of Worship**  
**Sunday, May 16, 2021**

**Reflection:** *According to a study conducted by Harvard Medical School, 26% of adults in the U.S. have an anxiety, mood, impulse control, or substance disorder in a given year. Of those, 22% were classified as serious; 37%, moderate; and 40%, mild.*

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeane Samuelsen

**One:** God calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves;  
**All:** **the one who is weak and the one who is strong,**  
**One:** the one who is happy and the one who is sad,  
**All:** **the one who is enjoying mental wellness today**  
**One:** and the one who is struggling with mental illness today,  
**All:** **the one whom we understand and the one we don't,**  
**One:** the one who is embraced and the one who is shunned,  
the one who is like us and the one who is different.  
**All:** **We come, trusting God and God's unending love for all!**

HYMN BH 175

*O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come*

KENTRIDGE, 1988

O Christ, the healer, we have come  
to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
How can we fail to be restored,  
when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures  
our bodies clamor to be freed;  
yet in our hearts we would confess  
that wholeness is our deepest need.

In conflicts that destroy our health,  
we diagnose the world's disease;  
our common life declares our ills:  
is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith,  
in your community may find  
the wholeness that, enriching us,  
shall reach the whole of humankind.

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Jeane Samuelson

**O Holy God, we all live in communities where there are people whose lives are challenged by substance abuse, mental illness and brain disorders. Those of us living with mental health issues often feel overwhelmed and isolated by the pain and challenges these issues. Holy One, create in us a tenderness to the needs of all, an openness to everyone's gifts, and a commitment to the struggle for justice. May we have the courage to express our own needs. May we reach out to hold and support each other. We offer this prayer in the name of the risen Jesus who makes all things new. Amen.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Leslie O'Brien

SOLO

*Lift Me Into Heaven*

Libby Larsen, 1994

Lift me into heaven slowly,  
cause my back's sore  
and my mind's thoughtful  
and I'm not even sure  
I want to go.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeane Samuelson

**Psalm 88**

O LORD, God of my salvation,  
I cry out day and night before you.  
Let my prayer come before you;  
incline your ear to my cry!

For my soul is full of troubles,  
and my life draws near to Sheol.  
I am counted among those who go down to the pit;  
I am a human who has no strength,  
like one set loose among the dead,  
like the slain that lie in the grave,  
like those whom you remember no more,  
for they are cut off from your hand.  
You have put me in the depths of the pit,  
in the regions dark and deep.  
Your wrath lies heavy upon me,  
and you overwhelm me with all your waves. Selah

You have caused my companions to shun me;  
you have made me a horror to them.  
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;  
my eye grows dim through sorrow.  
Every day I call upon you, O LORD;  
I spread out my hands to you.  
Do you work wonders for the dead?  
Do the departed rise up to praise you? Selah  
Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,  
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?  
Are your wonders known in the darkness,  
or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

But I, O LORD, cry to you;  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.  
O LORD, why do you cast my soul away?  
Why do you hide your face from me?  
Afflicted and close to death from my youth up,  
I suffer your terrors; I am helpless.  
Your wrath has swept over me;  
your dreadful assaults destroy me.  
They surround me like a flood all day long;  
they close in on me together.  
You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me;  
my companions have become darkness.

### **Matthew 5:1-5**

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

SERMON

My Companions Have Become Darkness

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

### ANNOUNCEMENTS, OFFERTORY INVITATION

SOLO

*Sleep*

Peter Warlock, 1922

John Fletcher, 1607

Come, Sleep, and with thy sweet deceiving  
Lock me in delight awhile;  
Let some pleasing dreams beguile  
All my fancies; that from thence  
I may feel an influence  
All my powers of care bereaving.

Though but a shadow, but a sliding,  
Let me know some little joy!  
We that suffered long annoy  
Are contented with a thought  
Through an idle fancy wrought:  
O let my joys have some abiding!

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

*Hear the Voice of God, So Tender*

RAQUEL, 1985

Hear the voice of God, so tender,  
gathering us in righteousness,  
Giving, as our sure defender,  
steadfast love and faithfulness.  
Bless God's holy name together,  
as the Spirit brings new life.  
Giving, as our sure defender,  
steadfast love and faithfulness.

God is healing and forgiving  
creatures who are sore distressed,  
Opening doors to hopeful living,  
as, by love, we're daily blessed.  
Bless God's holy name together,  
as the Spirit brings new life.  
Opening doors to hopeful living,  
as, by love, we're daily blessed.

Listening to the Spirit's guiding,  
breath beyond the written code,  
we, in covenant abiding,  
seek to write our letters bold.  
Bless God's holy name together,  
as the Spirit brings new life.  
We, in covenant abiding,  
seek to write our letters bold.

BENEDICTION

