



Orinda Community Church

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

Order of Worship Sunday, September 19, 2021, 10 am

Reflection: “In the West, religion became preoccupied with telling people what to know more than how to know, telling people what to see more than how to see.”
-Richard Rohr

Hózhó is the deepest essence of human existence that Diné people strive to recognize in every moment. Joy is the natural result when we are able to see with an unclouded mind and clear eyes the beauty of creation which breathes all around us and within us.”
- Lyla June

“Perhaps the problem is not that our vision has become too small, but that we are using too little of ourselves to see.”
- Cynthia Bourgeault

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Mary Volmer

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Brian McLaren, *Learning to See*

Robin Holmes

One: We do not see everything.
Many: **So we do not know everything.**
One: We do not even know how much we do not know,
Many: **nor do we know how much of what we know is actually impartial, distorted, or false.**
One: That is why we seek to open our eyes,
Many: **to encounter the world afresh in humility and in silent wonder, to learn to see.**

* *Stand as you are able*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Brian McLaren, *Learning to See*

Robin Holmes

Source of wonder, help us see with wonder. Depth of mystery, help us find delight in truth so profound that it surpasses all knowing. Fountain of compassion, help us see with compassion. Bringer of justice, help us to see with justice. Revealer of truth, help us to see what is real. Holy wisdom, whose presence fills our ever-expanding universe, help our horizons ever to expand. Light of glory, help us to see with humility and awe. Amen.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

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

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Leslie O'Brien

WE LISTEN

SOLO

Jesslyn Thomas

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Robin Holmes

Matthew 9:27-31

1 Corinthians 13:12

From Plato's *Analogy of the Cave*

At first, when any one of [the prisoners] are liberated and compelled suddenly to stand up and turn his neck around and walk and look towards the fire light, he will suffer sharp pains; the glare will distress him; he will be unable to see the realities of which in his former state he had seen in the shadow. . .

And if he is compelled to look straight at the light, will he not have a pain in his eyes which will make him turn away to take refuge in the objects of vision which he can see and which he had conceived to be reality.

SERMON *Learning to See Through the Eye of the Heart* Mary Volmer

HYMN BH 290 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* MORECAMBE

WE RESPOND

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

A TIME OF GIVING

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY SOLO

Nikolas Nackley

DOXOLOGY*

OLD HUNDREDTH, 1551

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

HYMN BH 282 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* Spiritual

BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE*

* *Stand as you are able*

Orinda Community Church

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Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor
Leslie Darwin O'Brien, Pastoral Outreach &
Family Ministry David Milnes, Director of
Music
Anna Gregory, Office Administrator



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.

Coming up at Alta Mesa Center for the Arts

Alta Mesa Center Reading Series:

October 10th at 4:00pm AMCA hosts an afternoon reading and discussion to celebrate Indigenous People's Day and benefiting the Sogorea Te' Land Trust.

Featuring James Thomas Stevens and Aja Couchois Duncan.

To register for this free online event, go to: <https://forms.gle/92aVuSzm5aJ2Nw3A6> or check our website at **orindacommunitychurch.org** for a link.

(Sogorea Te' Land Trust is "an urban Indigenous women-led land trust that facilitates the return of Indigenous land to Indigenous people.")

NEW: Bimonthly Generative Writing Workshops:

October Theme: Remembrance
Oct 2nd & October 16th at 10:00am – 12:00pm
In-Person at the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall
10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA
(vaccine and masks required as suggested by the CDC)
Space limited to 15 in-person writers.



In this dynamic, two-day writing workshop, we will read and discuss poems and short prose pieces that celebrate life and give voice to loss in haunting, hopeful, and healing ways. Then, in a series of guided, writing exercises, suitable for prose writers (fiction and nonfiction) and poets, we will generate new work to help us honor and begin to reconcile the losses of the last several years.

Instructor: Mary Volmer

\$60.00 suggested donation for both sessions (2 hours each).
(You are welcome to donate more to support the community.)
No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Can't make it both days, no problem. Just let us know which day you'll be joining us. For a link to register, please go to our website at
orindacommunitychurch.org

REGULAR WEEKLY OFFERINGS AT THE CHURCH

- **Mondays at 9:30 am** we have centering prayer in the chapel. This is a time of silent, contemplative prayer. We will begin with a reading, spend 15 minutes in silent prayer, and then offer a time for processing.
- We are piloting in-person contemplative services in the chapel on **Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.** We may offer only one Wednesday service depending on how many are in attendance. This is a short service that includes readings, music, and time for prayer. The church will continue to send out an electronic version of the contemplative service each Wednesday as well.
- Join Leslie via zoom for an interlude of uplift, refreshment and music, **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** *For the link, check your eblast or go to our website: orindacommunitychurch.org*
- The Bible study has rebranded itself as the **Theology and Scripture Group**. It continues at **2:00 p.m. on Thursdays** via Zoom. We are now reading the second chapter in a study of Elaine Pagels' book *Beyond Belief, the secret gospel of Thomas*. Please join us for lively and meaningful conversation. *For the link, check your eblast or go to our website: orindacommunitychurch.org*
- **Sunday Insanity!** The Youth Group meets **immediately after services on Sunday.**
- The Writers' Group meets every other week **Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.** via Zoom. All are welcome. The next meeting date is **September 21st.** *For the link, check your eblast or go to our website: orindacommunitychurch.org*

* Stand as you are able

AND IN OTHER NEWS:

Ushering Services were provided this week by Jan Rosefield, John Thursby, and Jeane & Roger Samuelsen. Thank you!

HELP WANTED! Babysitter/Nursery Nanny

Do you know someone who might be interested in being our Baby Sitter/Nursery Nanny? We are looking for someone who is responsible, warm, loving, and fun and available to work from 9:45 am to 11:45 am on Sundays (with possible additional hours later). The job includes watching infants and toddlers. SAFE Church fingerprinting procedures will be required.

If interested, please email us: office@orindachurch.org



The family of Ronald Skilton invites you to a memorial service celebrating his life today, **Sunday, September 19th, 1:30 p.m.**, at Orinda Community Church.

*******Elizabeth will be away on vacation from September 7 – 21*******
For Pastoral Care or Urgent Matters, call Leslie (925) 285-0996.

Save the date! On **October 3rd**, we will celebrate our annual **Homecoming** after church with a meal and fun activities. Then, at 2:00 p.m., we will celebrate the **Installation** of Elizabeth as the pastor of OCC, so please join us for that service!

LASTLY, the best email to reach the church office is:

office@orindachurch.org