



Orinda Community Church

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday, October 31, 2021, 10 am

Reflection: *The only use of a knowledge of the past is to equip us for the present. The present contains all that there is. It is holy ground; for it is the past, and it is the future.*
—Alfred North Whitehead

WE GATHER

PRELUDE *Ô mort, poussière d'étoiles*, by Gabriel Fauré (1906) Nikolas Nackley, soloist

O death, starry dust,
Rise up where I tread!
Come, gentle wave that shines
In the darkness:
Bear me off into your void!
Come, dark sigh in which I tremble,
Like a wind-intoxicated flame!
It is in you that I wish to be absorbed,
To be extinguished and dissolved,

Death, to which my soul aspires!
Come, break me like a flower of foam,
A speck of sun in the crest
Of the waves,
And like a golden amphora's
Flaming wine of heavenly fragrance,
Pour my soul
Into your abyss, that it might perfume
The dark earth and the breath of the dead.

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Isaiah 25

Reverend Lee Cruise

One: In this holy place, God will make a great feast for all peoples, a feast of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

All: **And here God will destroy the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; God will swallow up death forever.**

One: Then our God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the trauma will be healed. God will take that away from all the earth. This is God's promise.

* *Stand as you are able*

All: It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; the one that we have waited for, so that we could be saved. This is the God for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in this salvation.

HYMN* BH 299

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE 1906

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Reverend Lee Cruise

**Our Friend, Ever Living, Ever Steadfast God,
We often find ourselves living lives of separation and loss. We ask you to help us deepen in your wisdom and your vision. Through your Being, all is full. Your grace brings us into a reunion with you, with those we love, with ourselves. Let our faith defy loss and brokenness. Be our lifeblood, the heartbeat circulating through us. Forever and ever we join you in the great communion of saints. Blessed be. 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

O Tod by Johannes Brahms (1896)

Nikolas Nackley, soloist

O death, how bitter is the remembrance of you to a person at peace with his possessions, to a man undistracted and prospering in everything and still having strength to welcome a luxury.

O death, your judgement is good to a person who is needy and lacking strength, who is in extreme old age and is anxious about everything and who is disobedient and has lost hope.

* *Stand as you are able*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Reverend Lee Cruise

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-4, 7, 9

from a 2017 All Saints' Day Homily by Pope Francis

The Solemnity of All Saints is 'our' feast: not because we are good, but because the holiness of God has touched our lives. Saints are not perfect models, but are people whose lives God has crossed. They can be compared with the stained-glass windows of a church, which allow light to enter in different shades of color.

The saints above all are our brothers and sisters who have welcomed the light of God into their hearts and have passed it on to the world, each one according to their own 'tone', no matter the color that shines out "all of them are transparent."

They have fought to take away the stains and darkness of sin, so as to let the gentle light of God pass through; this is the purpose of life, for all of us.

SERMON

Holy Ground

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

TIME OF REFLECTION AND REMEMBRANCE

SOLO

Elegie, by Gabriel Fauré (1880)
Prayer by Ernest Bloch (1924)

Judy McCall, soloist

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 295

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

GRAND ISLE 1940

A TIME OF PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

* *Stand as you are able*

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

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

A TIME OF GIVING

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY SOLO *Litanei* by Franz Schubert(1816) Jesslyn Thomas, soloist

Rest in peace, all souls
who have had done with anxious torment,
who have had done with sweet dreams who,
sated with life and hardly born,
have departed from this world:
all souls rest in peace!

Maiden souls, full of love,
whose tears cannot be counted,
whom a false friend has abandoned,
and the blind world has disowned;
all who have parted from here,
all souls rest in peace!

And those who never smiled at the sun,
keeping watch on the thorns beneath the moon,
to see God in the pure heavenly light
and look him just once in the face:
all who have parted from here,
all souls rest in peace!

* *Stand as you are able*

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 293

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Doris Akers, 1962

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

Après un rêve by Gabriel Fauré (1877)

Judy McCall, soloist

In Memoriam

Debbie Barnell
John Brook
Ral Clundy
Kelly Cruise
Sarah Winbigler DeYoung
Mike Dodson
Jim Frane
Lillian and Preston Gray
Preston Gray, Jr.
Charles Edward Haman
Grace Hartdegen
Daniel Oliver Holmes
Betty Karplus
Rev. Carl Kohn

Ron Loos
Lloyd MacDonald
Michele McInaney
Kay Merkoski
Dennis McNeilus
Mark McNeilus
Carolyn Riddervold
Al Schue
Jamie Samuelsen
Scott Sherman
William Simpson
David Starkweather
Mary Alice Townsend
Br. Martin Yribarren

* *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:

November 14th at 4:00pm AMCA hosts an afternoon reading celebrating **ESSENTIAL TRUTHS: The Bay Area in Color**

featuring:

Joyce E. Young

Max Leung

Shizue Seigel

Vickie Y-Rong Chang

Sridevi Ramanathan

Tehmina Khan

Register for this free online event at <https://forms.gle/ZqF4mqg1dbjVzkBn7>

Or for the link, check your eblast or go to our website:

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 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.
- The **Theology and Scripture Group** continues to meet 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*
- The Writers' Group meets every other week **Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.** via Zoom. All are welcome. The next meeting date is **November 2nd**.
*For the link, check your eblast or go to our website:
orindacommunitychurch.org*

AND IN OTHER NEWS:

**Thank you to this week's ushers:
Bill & Carey Carpenter, Karl Schonborn, and Mike Kersten**

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, or if you know of someone who is, please email us:
office@orindachurch.org**



AUCTION SLIPS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX!!!