



# Orinda Community Church

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, November 28, 2021, 10 am  
First Sunday of Advent

**Reflection:** *The family is the first essential cell of human society.*  
*Pope John XXIII.*

*Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who  
belong to us, we see the past, present, and future.*  
*Gail Lumet Buckley*

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Reverend Barry Cammer

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Nancy Thursby

**One:** God asks, “Did I conceive all this people?”

**All:** **Yes, you gave birth to us!**

**One:** We remember how you carried us in your bosom, as a nurse  
carries a nursing child.”

**All:** **You have protected us as a mother bear protects her cubs.**

**One:** You have nestled us as a hen gathers her chicks.

**All:** **Loving Mother, you have caused us to be born again  
to a living hope.**

HYMN\* RED HYMNAL 184

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

11th cent.

\* *Stand as you are able*

## COMMUNITY PRAYER

Nancy Thursby

**Loving Mother, Loving Father, Your presence within us is rooted so deep that we can't find its origin. We pray that you will create a balance within us: we are children of our mothers and our fathers, of all those who came before. You extend through us to our children. We pray you will connect and harmonize us within your legacy. Infuse us with your peace and your justice and your love. Amen.**

## WORD OF ASSURANCE

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

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Tom and Karen Norris

## READINGS

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Psalm 33:22

Hope is being able to see there is light, despite all of the darkness.

Desmond Tutu

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

## UNISON PRAYER

**Holy spirit, give us stubborn hope, patient hope, inspired hope, healing hope, hope in the face of grave injustice, hope for all occasions. Help us, in the depths of grief or despair, to walk together toward hope as toward a flame in the darkness. Let hope be a flame we feed with love and with our actions. Help us to nurse hope as you do our spirits so that we might grow into grace and fellowship with all of the living world. Amen.**

\* *Stand as you are able*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Mary Volmer

**WE LISTEN**

SOLO

Nikolas Nackley, soloist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Nancy Thursby

Matthew 1: 1-17

Luke 3: 23-37

SERMON

*Are You My Mother?*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**WE RESPOND**

HYMN\* BH 111

*O Loving Founder of the Stars*

Piae Cantiones, 1582

A TIME OF PRAYER

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

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.**

\* *Stand as you are able*

MOMENT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME OF GIVING

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY SOLO

Jesslyn Thomas, soloist

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 102

*O How Shall I Receive You*

Melchior Teschner, 1615

BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

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

### **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.
- Contemplative services are held in the chapel on **Wednesdays at 10 a.m.** 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 The Dark Interval, by John Dominic Crossan. 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 30<sup>th</sup>**.  
***For the link, check your eblast or go to our website:  
orindacommunitychurch.org***

**AND IN OTHER NEWS:**

**Thank you to this week's ushers:  
John Skidgel, Gail Mead, Lani Shepp, and Phillip Bernard**

**And speaking of ushers. . .**

**Ushers and Greeters Needed:** About four friendly volunteers are needed to join our usher teams for the 2022 calendar year. Youth are especially encouraged to volunteer. Two additional greeters are also needed to focus on welcoming first-time visitors to our worship services. The commitment for both ushers and greeters is for just one Sunday a month. These service opportunities are a great way to meet and serve all who attend our worship services and to provide an extravagant welcome to people in the greater community.

If you would like to volunteer or for more information, contact Mike Kersten, the usher coordinator, at [mikejkersten@aol.com](mailto:mikejkersten@aol.com)

**Thank you to all who have turned in their pledge cards. If you haven't turned yours in, we ask you to consider making a pledge to the church.**

**Thank you!**

**Advent Story Hour Coming Soon!**

**Tuesday Nights 7:00 pm**

**11/30/21, 12/7/21 & 12/14/21**

**Our first story hour will be Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Join us for an interfaith journey with Leah Taylor and Mary Ann Wittenberg with story and music to celebrate Channukah.**

**ADVENT Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm Crafts, music and fun for all!**