



Orinda Community Church

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 12, 2021, 10 am
Third Sunday of Advent



12th Century French Sculpture

Reflection: *Joy is the holy fire that keeps our purpose warm and our intelligence aglow.*
— Helen Keller

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Liebesträume No. 3

Franz Liszt

Weston Carpenter, pianist

BRINGING OF THE
LIGHT AND RINGING
OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

* *Stand as you are able*

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Kathleen Wiegand

from Philippians 4

One: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

All: **Let our gentleness be known to everyone, for God is near.**

One: Do not worry about anything! In everything, by prayer and with thanksgiving, we let our requests be made known to God.

All: **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.**

HYMN* BH 116

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

French, 15th century

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Kathleen Wiegand

God, your loving presence has rescued us from giving up; we will trust, and will not be afraid because you are our source of life. With joy, we lift our voices! Even if we are hoarse or out of tune, we sing to you in gladness, in hope, in love. Even if we don't know the words of your Divine song, we hum along in the great chorus. Amen.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

* *Stand as you are able*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

READINGS

Leslie O'Brien and children

As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. - Luke 1:44

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place. - 1 Chronicles 16:27

It is through joy that one resists. - White Eagle, Hopi Elder

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy. - Rabindranath Tagor

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Away in a Manger

UNISON PRAYER

Holy Spirit, teach us how to recognize and surrender to joy. Whatever sorrows burden us, whatever labors await, may we, like holy mothers, rejoice in the spirit quickening within each of us. May this quickening inspire action. Watch us dance with joy, sing with joy, weep with joy, work for justice with joy. May the stubborn persistence of our joy become part of the good news we are seeking. Amen

WE LISTEN

SOLO

Nikolas Nackley

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Kathleen Wiegand

1 Samuel 2:1-9

Luke 1:46-53

* *Stand as you are able*

SERMON *From Now On, All Generations Will Call Us Blessed* Reverend E. Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 106 *My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise* Swedish Folk Melody

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.**

A TIME OF GIVING

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY SOLO

Jesslyn Thomas, soloist

MOMENT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

* *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 148

What Child is This

English, 16th century

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

* *Stand as you are able*

Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way
Orinda, CA 94563
(925) 254-4906
office@orindachurch.org

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.

The Writers' Group meets every other week **Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.** via Zoom. All are welcome. The next meeting date is **December 28th**.

***For the link, check your eblast or go to our website:
orindacommunitychurch.org***

Holiday Story Hour, **Tuesdays at 7:00 pm**, in the Church Sanctuary. This **Tuesday, 12/14/21**, Reverend Elizabeth Robinson will read *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and music will be provided by our talented community members! All are welcome, please bring a friend!

For the link to watch the livestream, check your eblast or go to our website: orindacommunitychurch.org

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.

Please join us for a **Ladies Luncheon** every **Thursday at 11:30 a.m.** at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Road.

If you need a ride, please call Leslie O'Brien at 925-285-0996.

ZOOM Sing-a-long with Leslie every **Thursday at 1:00 p.m.** We'll do some Christmas and holiday songs and other fun stuff! All are welcome to join in so feel free to invite friends. Our next jam session will be **12/16/21.**

***For the link, check your eblast or go to our website:
orindacommunitychurch.org***

The **Theology and Scripture Group** continues to meet at **2:00 p.m. on Thursdays** via Zoom. We are now reading 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***

AND IN OTHER NEWS:



Friday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Nicole's home.

Bring a white elephant gift!

RSVP to Leslie at 925-285-0996

Thank you to this week's ushers:

Marilyn Welland, Jill Oberheim and Betty Wu

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**

**Thanks to all who have turned in their pledge cards!
If you haven't, please consider making a pledge today.**

***Please join us at Orinda Community Church for
Holiday Story Hour for people of all ages
with music and refreshments***

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
in the church sanctuary
(Masks, social distancing, and vaccinations, please!)

Tuesday, December 14

Elizabeth Robinson will read *The Velveteen Rabbit*, with music from our talented community members!



Tuesday, December 21

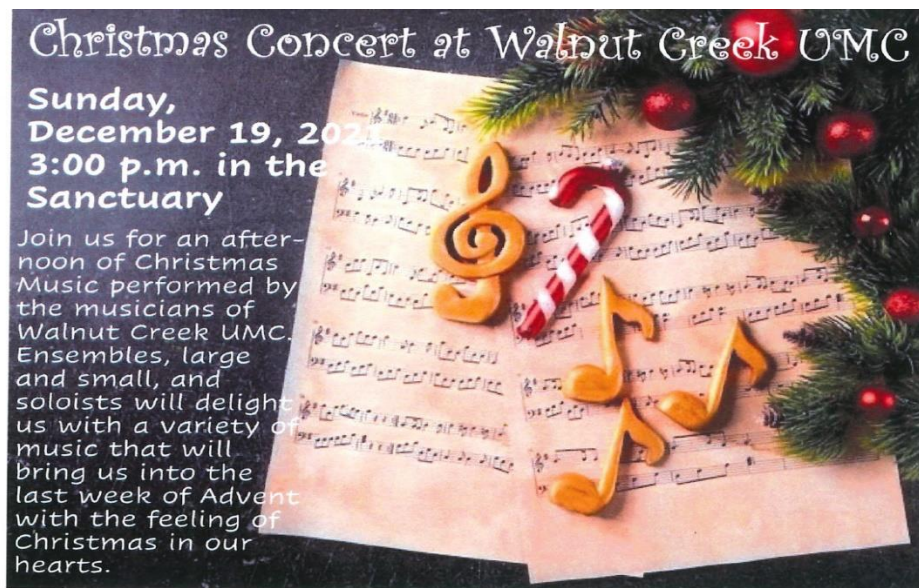
(In Fellowship Hall). Solstice Contemplative Service, music, & labyrinth walking.



All are welcome!

Christmas at Walnut Creek UMC

Come see our Bell Ringers perform, along with the WCUMC Sanctuary Choir and the LV's at Walnut Creek UMC, 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94597 Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.



ORDER FORM--Memorial/Honorary Poinsettias for Christmas 2021

Your name _____

Name of memorial or honoree (circle one) _____

Number of flowers at \$15.00 each: _____

Check for \$_____ enclosed

Flowers can be picked up following the 5:00 pm service on Friday, December 24.

Return form to church office or put in offering plate by December 14, 2021.