



# Orinda Community Church

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

## Order of Worship

Sunday, January 2, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

**Reflection:** *Any fool can know. The point is to understand.*  
— Albert Einstein

*By three methods we may learn wisdom:  
First, by reflection, which is noblest;  
Second, by imitation, which is easiest;  
and Third by experience, which is the bitterest.*  
— Confucius

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Sirach 24*

Robin Holmes

**One:** Wisdom says, "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
and covered the earth like a mist. I dwelt in the highest heavens,  
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud."

**All:** "Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and  
traversed the depths of the abyss."

**One:** Wisdom says, "Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,  
and over every people and nation I have held sway.  
Among all these I sought a resting place;  
in whose territory should I abide?"

**All:** Then the Creator of all things gave Wisdom a command:  
"My Creator chose the place for my tent. God said, 'Make your  
dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.'

*\*Stand as you are able*

**One:** Before the ages, in the beginning, God created Wisdom,  
and for all the ages she shall not cease to be.

**All:** Thus in the beloved city God gave Wisdom a resting place,  
and Wisdom took root in an honored people,  
in the portion of God, in the holy heritage.

HYMN\* BH 434

*All Beautiful the March of Days*

Vaughan Williams

COMMUNITY PRAYER

*from St. Augustine, 5<sup>th</sup> century*

Robin Holmes

**Look upon us, O God,  
and let all the darkness of our souls  
vanish before the beams of your brightness.  
Fill us with holy love,  
and open to us the treasures of your wisdom.  
All our desire is known to you,  
therefore perfect what you have begun,  
and what your Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer.  
We seek your face  
Turn your face to us and show us your radiance.  
Then shall our longing be satisfied,  
and our peace shall be perfect. Amen.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**Pastor:** The peace of Christ be with you.  
**People:** And also with you.

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

Leslie O'Brien

**WE LISTEN**

SOLO

*\*Stand as you are able*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Robin Holmes

Psalm 147:12-18

Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-18, 20-21

SERMON

*Wisdom*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**WE RESPOND**

HYMN\* BH 469

*O Grant Us Light*

HESPERUS

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. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And 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

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFERING

SOLO

*\*Stand as you are able*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

SOLO

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN\* RH 242

*Love Came Down at Christmas*

C. Rossetti

BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

*\*Stand as you are able*

## **Orinda Community Church**

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, 94563 CA

(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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Through our exciting new endeavor, Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, we have a number of literary readings and a lecture this Spring!

#### **Alta Mesa Center for the Arts Reading Series Second Sunday of each Month**

##### **Next up:**

AMCA presents an Asian American Pacific Islander Writer Showcase with Lillian Howan, Maw Shein Win, and Dawn Angelicca Barcelona.  
January 9th at 4:00pm

*For the link, please check your e-blasts or go to our website  
**[www.orindacommunitychurch.org](http://www.orindacommunitychurch.org)** and look under "Arts" and "Alta Mesa"*

**Alta Mesa Center for the Arts Generative Workshop**

**January 22, 2022**

1:00-3:00 pm (Pacific)

**Inviting the Muses: A Writing Workshop**

with Dawn Angelicca Barcelona, Lillian Howan, and Maw Shein Win

Muses come in many forms. In this two hour workshop we will identify, honor and engage with our muses. Join Dawn Angelicca Barcelona, Maw Shein Win, and Lillian Howan as they share the ways that muses can inspire, energize, and deepen your writing practice.

***(THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT FOR THE WRITER IN YOUR LIFE)***

Price: \$40.00

Scholarships and sliding scale available: To inquire, write [altamesacenter@gmail.com](mailto:altamesacenter@gmail.com)

*To register, please check your e-blasts or go to our website*

***[www.orindacommunitychurch.org](http://www.orindacommunitychurch.org)***

*and look under “Arts” and “Alta Mesa”*

**Alta Mesa Center for the Arts Reading Series**

AMCA an afternoon reading by poet/pastor

Rev. Elizabeth Robinson featuring her writing about homelessness

and benefiting [FEET FORWARD](#), with guest Jennifer Livovich.

February 13th, at 4:00pm (pacific)

[Feet Forward](#) is “an organization that empowers unhoused individuals in Boulder County by removing barriers to services and meeting basic needs, such as food, clothing, and sustained peer-led advocacy and navigation.”

*To register, please check your e-blasts or go to our website*

***[www.orindacommunitychurch.org](http://www.orindacommunitychurch.org)*** and look under “Arts” and “Alta Mesa”

**Orinda Community Church Annual Lecture**

Featuring

Natalie Baszile, author of

***WE ARE EACH OTHER'S HARVESTS: Celebrating African American Farmers, Land, and Legacy***

Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 4:00 pm (pacific)

Details soon to follow.



## Upcoming Events in 2022

*We look forward to a year of joy, justice, contemplation, and creativity.  
Please mark your calendars for the following:*

Each week, in addition to our 10 a.m. Sunday worship, the church offers regular programming:

- **Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** in the Chapel, we host Centering Prayer. Don't know what that is? We'd be glad to tell you more about it!
- **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.**, we hold a brief Contemplative Service in the chapel. It includes readings, music, prayer time, and silence. This service also goes out electronically.
- 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.**
- **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.**, via Zoom, lovers of music are invited to sing along with Leslie Darwin O'Brien. Check your eblast for the link! We'll meet again on 1-6-22.
- **Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m.**, our Theology and Scripture group meets via Zoom to discuss theology and the bible, and other topics.
- We also have a choir and a bell ensemble to which you are warmly invited!

Every other week:

- Two Tuesdays a month, the Writers' Group shares and discusses their writings via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. (Their work is featured in the narthex; take a look!)
- Two Thursdays a month, starting at 3:45, the Reading Group is doing a close study of the novels of Marilynne Robinson, starting with *Gilead*. We meet via Zoom.

**Women of Spirit** is a monthly gathering of inclusive, curious women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with other women of diverse faith traditions. We are not affiliated with any religious institution, and are open to all. For more info, visit:

<https://www.womenofspiritlamorinda.org> - or -  
<https://www.facebook.com/womenofspiritlamorinda>.

Please join us on Tuesday, January 25 from 7:30-8:45pm to kick off the new year. Katherine Figuracion will share some words of inspiration with us. We will have plenty of time for connection in our breakout rooms.

**Please check your eblast for the link. All are welcome!**

**Zoom links are posted weekly in our eblasts, and we always welcome new attendees!**

Upcoming dates:

- January 23: Annual meeting - Immediately after service in the Sanctuary. We need you there!
- January 25: Women of Spirit
- January 30: Service of release and celebration for Leslie Darwin O'Brien

**For links to events, dates, and more information, please go to our website:  
[www.orindacommunitychurch.org](http://www.orindacommunitychurch.org)**



**Many Thanks to today's Ushers & Greeter Team:  
Bill and Carey Carpenter, Kathleen Wiegand and Mike Kersten**

**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)**



**We will again be hosting the Winter Nights family shelter from January 31 to February 14, 2022. Our days for providing volunteers and all food are February 10-13. We will be preparing home cooked meals again this year and providing the usual volunteer help with the children.**

**We will take sign-ups in early January.**

**Please think about what you can do to help with hosting this year!**

**Donations being accepted now to support this important work.**



