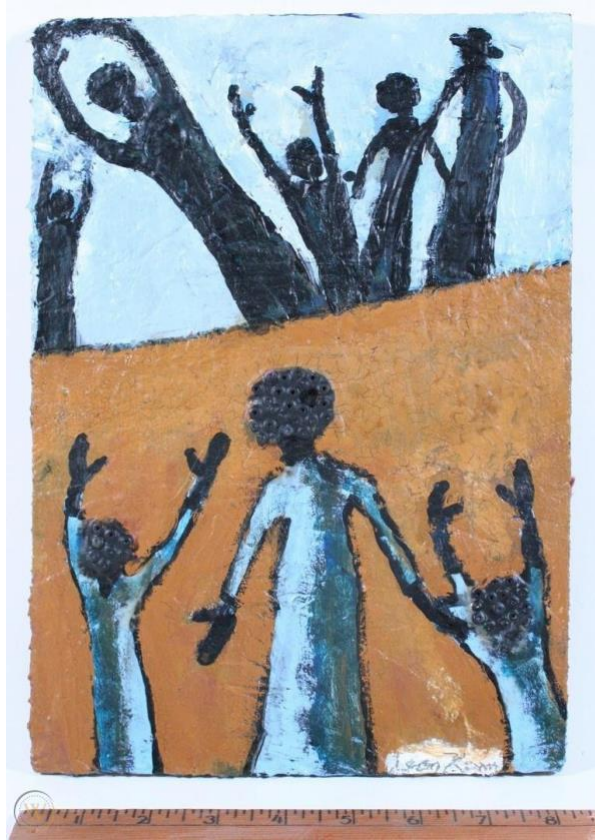




## Orinda Community Church

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

### ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday, February 20, 2022, 10am



*Painting by Leon Kennedy*

**Reflection:** *For thousands of years people have been healed by the honest expression of joy and pain through musical and poetic means. Even when the music or poetry isn't exactly about God, nevertheless, on another level — as spirit poured out through one's mouth, as love or despair or fury expressed in song — it's still about the struggle toward God. That struggle involves some vague inner vision of God's perfect kingdom and perfect love, and whether one is reaching toward it, being denied it, or foolishly running in the other direction.—Mark Nielsen*

\* *Stand as you are able*

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE Greg McCall and David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR The Acolytes

INTROIT *Come Sunday* Duke Ellington

WELCOME Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP\* (*from a Blind Willie Johnson song*) Roger Samuelson

**One:** Well, I want someone to tell me. Answer if you can.

**All:** We want someone to tell us: What is the soul of a human?

**One:** I've traveled in different countries, I've traveled in foreign lands  
I've found nobody could tell me, just what about the soul of a human?

**All:** We read the bible often, and we try to read it right.  
As far as we could understand, a person is more than their mind.

**One:** When Christ stood in the temple, the people all stood amazed.  
He was teaching the lawyers and the doctors,  
how to raise a body from the grave.

**All:** God, we want somebody tell us, answer if you can!  
We want somebody tell us, just what is the soul of a human?

HYMN\* BH 369

*Over My Head*

Spiritual

\* *Stand as you are able*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

*by Paul Lawrence Dunbar*

Roger Samuelson

**O LORD, the hard-won miles  
Have worn my stumbling feet:  
Oh, soothe me with thy smiles,  
And make my life complete.  
The thorns were thick and keen  
Where'er I trembling trod;  
The way was long between  
My wounded feet and God.  
Where healing waters flow  
Do thou my footsteps lead.  
My heart is aching so;  
Thy gracious balm I need.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

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

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**WE LISTEN**

SOLO

*Give Me Jesus*

Spiritual

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Roger Samuelson

Psalm 42

Like a hind crying for water,  
my soul cries for You, O God;  
my soul thirsts for God, the living God;  
O when will I come to appear before God!

\* *Stand as you are able*

My tears have been my food day and night;  
I am constantly taunted with, "Where is your God?"

When I think of this, I pour out my soul:  
how I walked with the crowd, moved with them,  
the festive throng, to the House of God  
with joyous shouts of praise.

Why so downcast, my soul,  
why disquieted within me?  
Have hope in God;  
I will yet praise you, Divine One  
for your saving presence.

O my God, my soul is downcast;  
therefore I think of You  
in this where deep calls to deep  
in the roar of our cataracts;  
all Your breakers and billows have swept over me.

By day may God vouchsafe care to all faithful followers,  
so that at night a song to God may be with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.

I say to God, my rock,  
"Why have You forgotten me,  
why must I walk in gloom,  
oppressed by my enemy?"

Crushing my bones,  
my foes revile me,  
taunting me always with, "Where is your God?"

Why so downcast, my soul,  
why disquieted within me?  
Have hope in God;  
I will yet praise the Divine One,  
my ever-present help, my God.

SERMON

*Spiritual(s) & the Blues*

Rev. Elizabeth Robinson

## **WE RESPOND**

HYMN **Red Hymnal** 533

*We Shall Overcome*

Spiritual

\* *Stand as you are able*

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

*Standing in the Need of Prayer*

Spiritual

DOXOLOGY **RH** 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

HYMN\* BH 282

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Spiritual

BENEDICTION\*

POSTLUDE

Greg McCall and David Milnes

\* *Stand as you are able*

## **Orinda Community Church**

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, 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

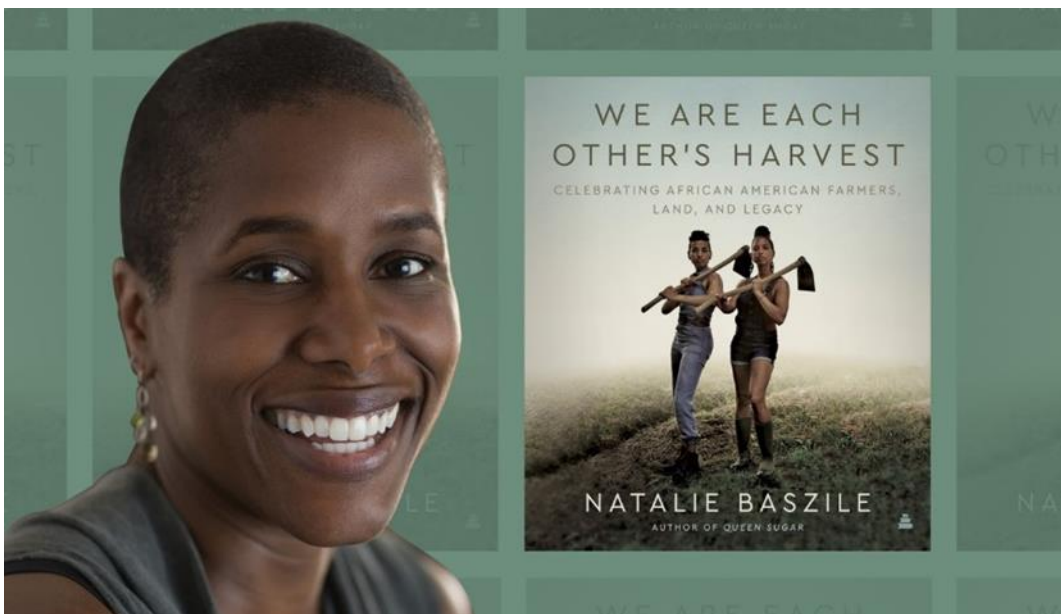


Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, under the leadership of Mary Volmer, is an interfaith arts and spirituality hub, housed within and sponsored by Orinda Community Church.

### **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 (PST)  
10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563 (in the Sanctuary)



## Upcoming Events

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.
- **Ladies Luncheon** every **Thursday at 11:30 a.m.** at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Road.
- **Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m.**, our **Theology and Scripture** group meets via Zoom to discuss theology and the bible, and other topics. Our next meeting is Thursday, 2/17/22, at 2:00 pm.
- We also have a choir and a bell ensemble to which you are warmly invited! If interested, email us at [office@orindachurch.org](mailto:office@orindachurch.org)

### **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!) Next meeting is Tuesday, 2/22/22 at 10 am.
- 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. Next meeting is Thursday, February 24, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.

**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 Thursday, March 4 at 12 noon

**Please check your eblast for the link. All are welcome!  
Questions? Contact Leslie at (925) 285-0996**

## **CALLING ALL RINGERS!!!**



## **HANDBELLS IN NEED OF HELP**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Handbell Choir is short one ringer to play on Palm Sunday, April 10th, and at the wedding of one of the ringers on Saturday, June 4th. Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm and continuing every Tuesday thereafter until June 4th. Please contact Nancy Thursby if you can help out and play with us: [nlthursby@comcast.net](mailto:nlthursby@comcast.net)



**Thank you to this week's ushers, Jan Rosefield, Jeane & Roger Samuelsen,  
and John Thursby.**



**~ GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP ~**

In response to the losses we have experienced in our community,  
we are planning to create a grief support group. If you would like  
to participate in this, please contact Elizabeth at

[elizabeth.orindachurch@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.orindachurch@gmail.com)

**Zoom links are posted in our eblasts and on our website and we  
always welcome new attendees!**

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