

Orinda Community Church

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 21, 2022
10 am in the Sanctuary



Still from the film "Corpus Christi"

Reflection:

God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say.
Yes, to be sure, but he does what is still more wonderful:
he makes saints out of sinners. —Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

* *Stand as you are able*

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Psalm 107

Reverend Leonore Cruise

One: Give thanks to God who is so good! God's steadfast love endures through all things.

All: **Let us redeemed ones tell our stories. Yes, the Holy One has redeemed us from trouble and gathered us in from wherever we were found.**

One: Some of us wandered in heartbreak, finding no place to rest, hungry and thirsty in spirit.

All: **Our souls fainted within us. Then we cried to God in our trouble. and God's compassion delivered us from our distress.**

One: Now God leads us by a straight way, till we have reached home.

All: **We thank you, God, for your steadfast love, for your wonderful works, your care for us fragile humans.**

TIME OF SILENCE AND CENTERING

HYMN* BH 23

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Reverend Leonore Cruise

**God of compassion,
Sometimes our edges seem to fray. We are afraid that our scars deform us. God, please take our experience and redeem and deepen it with your love. Made in your image, we look to your warmth and care. May our prayer be an act of translation that helps us to absorb your love, and then use your love to heal and accompany others. Amen.**

* *Stand as you are able*

WORD OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

WE LISTEN

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READING

Reverend Leonore Cruise

Romans 2:1

You therefore have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

Romans 14:13

Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

from "Loving Your Enemies" by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Now there is a final reason I think that Jesus says, "Love your enemies." It is this: that love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals. Just keep being friendly to that person. Just keep loving them, and they can't stand it too long. Oh, they react in many ways in the beginning. They react with guilt feelings, and sometimes they'll hate you a little more at that transition period, but just keep loving them. And by the power of your love they will break down under the load. That's love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love. There's something about love that builds up and is creative. There is something about hate that tears down and is destructive. So love your enemies.

SERMON

Is Redemption Possible?

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

* *Stand as you are able*

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 8

Praise to the Living God

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 AND INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

DOXOLOGY* BH 785

We Give You But Your Own

Cantica Laudis

**We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

HYMN* BH 2

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

* *Stand as you are able*

Orinda Community Church

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Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

David Milnes, Director of Music

Anna Gregory, Office Administrator



AUGUST ADVENTURES CONTINUES TODAY!

For all four Sundays in August, OCC invites your children (ages 5-12) to join us for **AUGUST ADVENTURES**.

This isn't Sunday school or summer camp but more like an organized play date for children in our community.

Each Sunday in August we will gather together from 11:30 to 2 pm at OCC for a meal, playtime around themes of nature, gardening, pets, and serving our diverse community. We will also offer craft time, story time, prayer and role-playing Jesus' parables. Adults from our church have volunteered to help, and parents are more than welcome to visit and/or join in an activity.

Children are welcome to come each of the four Sundays or just come on the Sundays when they are free.

If you have questions, please call me at (916) 342-4821 or text me and I will call you.

Thanks to Pastor Elizabeth Robinson and Moderator Anne Barr for making this month of children's ministry a reality.

With love and excitement, Elisabeth Kersten

Weekly 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**.
- ✚ Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., we hold a brief **Contemplative Service** in the chapel, which includes readings, music, prayer time, and silence. This service also goes out electronically.
- ✚ **Life and Loss Group** meets every Thursday in the Fireside Room at 12 noon. You are welcome to simply attend, or if you have questions, please call or email the office.
- ✚ 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, August 25, at 2:00 pm.

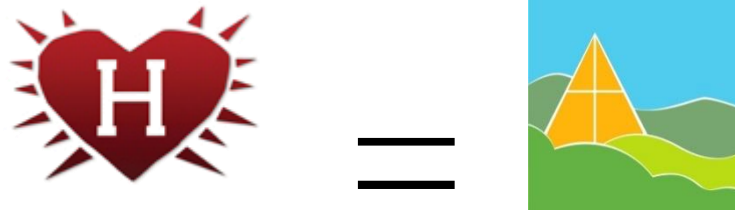
Every other week:

- ✚ 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, August 23, 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, the Gilead series. We meet via Zoom. Next meeting is Thursday, August 25, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS THIS WEEK:

Jan Rosefield, Jeane & Roger Samuelson, and Karen Sanford



We are looking for a volunteer to serve a term as the church representative to Holden High School's board. This entails 7 (Zoom) meetings per year. Please consider participating in this very important partnership and ministry of the church. If interested, please contact the office or Elizabeth.

Check out Leslie Darwin O'Brien at Ristorante Amoroma on Tuesdays

Ristorante Amoroma
Presents
37¢

Tuesdays from 6-7:30
on the patio

360 Park Street, Moraga, CA
925-377-ROMA

Leslie Darwin O'Brien
Vocals

Karen Weichert
Piano

