

Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 18, 2022, 10 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Medieval fresco from Tingsted Church, Denmark

Reflection: The greatest gifts are not the things that please us. Rather, they are the things that grow us. Therefore, we may have gladly received an abundance of possessions, but we may not have accepted a single gift. — Craig D. Lounsbrough

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Craig Taatjes

One: Each one must give according to the leading of their own heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion.

All: **For God loves a cheerful giver.**

One: Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have.

All: **For such sacrifices are pleasing to God.**

One: Likewise, it is a grace to receive with pleasure and gratitude.

All: **Thanks be to God for God's inexpressible gift!**

HYMN* **RH** 250

Once in Royal David's City

Henry J. Gauntlet

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Craig Taatjes

Discerning and patient God, be with us, especially those who find the holiday season difficult. May your gift to us this season be the ability to hold memories, but discard grief and disappointment. We are trying to follow the advent encouragement to prepare and to be awake to your presence. Sometimes we get confused by the difference between expectation and preparation. Help us to embrace what we do not expect. We pray that we will encounter ourselves honestly. We pray that we will encounter you afresh and anew. We live by your loving light. Amen.

**Stand as you are able*

LIGHTING OF THE 4th ADVENT CANDLE – PEACE Reverend Leonore Cruise

WORD OF ASSURANCE Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE LISTEN

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READING Craig Taatjes

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect present is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Deuteronomy 15:10

You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

II Corinthians 8:12

For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, and not according to what that person does not have.

SERMON *Presents* Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

HYMN* RH 214 *Savior of the Nations, Come* J.S. Bach

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF PRAYER Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**Stand as you are able*

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.**

THE CHANCEL RINGERS *Canto Amoroso, Song of Peace*

Fred Merrett

MOMENT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

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* **RH** 242

Love Came Down at Christmas

TRADITIONAL IRISH MELODY

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**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

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.

Alta Mesa Center for the Arts presents:

A reading and discussion featuring

novelist, journalist, essayist

Susanne Pari

author of

IN THE TIME OF OUR HISTORY

with Jane Ciabattari

Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 4:00pm (PST)

To Register for this free, online event, go to: <https://forms.gle/csDqE3vzRufywUAt7>

Questions? Contact: Mary Volmer altamesacenter@gmail.com

(Flyer on next page)

The Alta Mesa Center for the Arts presents:

A reading and discussion featuring

novelist, journalist, essayist

Susanne Pari

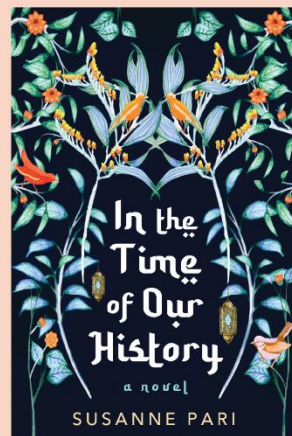
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Questions? Contact Mary Volmer: altamesacenter@gmail.com

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 from 12:15 pm to 1:45 pm. 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. The next meeting is Thursday, December 22, 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 and Fellowship Hall; take a look!) Next meeting is Tuesday, December 27, 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, December 29, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS THIS WEEK:

Roger & Jeane Samuelsen, John Thursby, and Joan Upshaw

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The office will have reduced hours over the next few weeks.

Office hours are:

12/19/22 Monday open 9 am – 2 pm
12/20/22 Tuesday OFFICE CLOSED
12/21/22 Wednesday open 9 am – 2 pm
12/22/22 Thursday 9 am – 2 pm
12/23/22 Friday OFFICE CLOSED

12/26/22 Monday OFFICE CLOSED
12/27/22 Tuesday OFFICE CLOSED
12/28/22 Wednesday open 9 am – 2 pm
12/29/22 Thursday open 9 am – 2 pm
12/30/22 Friday OFFICE CLOSED

The office will also be closed Monday, January 2nd, 2023



ADVENT SEASON AT ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH!

So far this Advent, we have had fun at the Advent Workshop. We enjoyed Leslie's reading of the Velveteen Rabbit, and this past Wednesday, Sarah Elovich offered us a performance and meditation on [Chanukah](#).

We hope you will join us for our next [Advent Wednesday](#) evening services at 7:00 pm:

December 21: Our Solstice service with the labyrinth in Fellowship Hall

Each service is accompanied by wonderful music by our remarkable musicians.

December 24: We welcome you to our 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service. We will be conducting this a little bit differently this year, not with the traditional children's pageant, but with all the usual magic.

December 25: Is a Sunday! We welcome you to a simple Christmas service at 10 am. Depending how many people come, we may snuggle up in our beautiful chapel to celebrate and spend time together. **Please let us know if you expect to be there so we can plan accordingly. Tell Anna in the office by email office@orindachurch.org, phone (925) 254-4906, or just stop by!**

IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO ANY OF THE EVENING SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AND WE WILL TRY TO ASSIST WITH CARPOOLING.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH RIDES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.



DEADLINE EXTENDED TO 12/19/22!

**SPONSORSHIP ORDER FORM Christmas 2022
Sponsor a Memorial/Honorary Poinsettia**

Your name _____

Name(s) of memorial or honoree **(circle one)** _____

Number of flowers at \$18.00 each: _____

Check for \$_____ enclosed

Flowers can be picked up following the 5:00 pm service on Saturday, December 24.
Return form to church office or put in offering plate by December 19, 2022.

