

Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 22, 2023, 10 am



Painting by Ivanka Demchuk

Reflection:

To share out your soul freely, that is what metanoia (a change of mind, or repentance) really refers to: a mental product of love. A change of mind, or love for the undemonstrable. And ... you give up the fleshly resistance of your ego. Repentance has nothing to do with self-regarding sorrow for legal transgressions. It is an ecstatic self-emptying. — Christos Yannaras

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT SOLO

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Isaiah 42

Kathleen Wiegand

One: The Holy One puts a divine spirit on us. Do not falter or be discouraged.

All: **God has called us in righteousness; God will take hold of our hands, and will keep us and will make us to be a covenant for all people.**

One: God calls us to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

All: **Before new things spring into being, God announces them to us.**

One: Sing to the LORD a new song!

All: **For God promises to lead us blind souls by ways we have not known. God will turn the darkness into light before us.**

HYMN* RH 206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson

**Stand as you are able*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Kathleen Wiegand

by Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow, 1782 – 1 December 1867

God, I don't know what to ask of You. You alone know what my true needs are. You love me more than I myself know how to love. Help me to see my real needs which are concealed from me. I dare not ask either a cross or consolation. I can only wait on You. My heart is open to You, visit me and help me for Your Great Mercy's sake. Surprise me and heal me, cast me down and raise me up, I worship in silence Your Holy Will and Your inscrutable ways. I offer myself as a sacrifice to You. I put all my trust in You. I have no other desire than to fulfill Your Will. Teach me how to pray. Pray Thou Thyself in me. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE LISTEN

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-17

Kathleen Wiegand

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

**Stand as you are able*

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

SERMON

Turning

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

HYMN* **RH** 453

More Love to Thee, O Christ

William H. Doane

WE RESPOND

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.**

**Stand as you are able*

MOMENT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHANCEL RINGERS

Canto Amorosa

Fred Merrett

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 23

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick William Faber

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

Prelude in Classic Style by Gordon Young

Trudi Garland

**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



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.

Second Sunday Reading Series

Featuring:

a reading and discussion with
Palestinian American poets

Issam Zineh and Carolina Ebeid



February 12, 2023 at 4:00pm (Pacific)

To Register for this free online event, check your eblast **or** go to our website orindacommunitychurch.org and look under "Arts" and "Alta Mesa Center for the Arts" **or** go directly to: <https://www.maryvolmer.com/alta-mesa-center-for-the-arts.html>

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, January 26, 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, January 24, 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. We meet via Zoom. Next meeting is Thursday, January 26, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



Ushers & Greeters Ministry

Thank you to this week's ushers:

Phil Bernard, Leslie Dickson, Gail Mead & John Skidgel

And speaking of ushers. . .

Ushers and Greeters Needed: About 4 friendly volunteers are needed to join our usher teams for the 2023 calendar year. Youth are especially encouraged to volunteer. 2 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, mikejkersten@aol.com

**TODAY, PLEASE STAY FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING
IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICES**





We will again be hosting the Winter Nights Family Shelter in Fellowship Hall from **February 20 thru March 6**, and again from **May 1 thru May 15**.

Winter Nights creates a warm, dry, healthy place to stay — with hot, nutritious food and friendly helpers!

This project requires volunteers and financial support from OCC members to make it all work.

Donations are still being accepted — just be sure to mark your donation for Winter Nights.

Questions? Want to know how you can help?
Contact Lani Shepp at lshepp@icloud.com