

Orinda Community Church
Order of Worship
Sunday, February 19, 2023, 10:00 a.m.



In his *Summa Theologica*, Saint Thomas Aquinas said, “To love is to will the good of the other.” The modern philosopher Michael Novak refines this further by adding two words: “To love is to will the good of the other as other.” He continues: “Love is not sentimental, nor restful in illusions, but watchful, alert, and ready to follow evidence. It seeks the real as lungs crave air.”

—Arthur C. Brooks

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR The Acolytes

WELCOME Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT SOLO

CALL TO WORSHIP* Mike Kersten

One: Holy Spirit, well-spring of true life and love.
We give You permission.

**All: Awaken in our hearts, minds, souls, and lives.
Let Your Love come into our past, present and future.**

One: Let Your Love unfold in us.
That I let Love reveal who I am.

**All: God, in Whose Image we've been made, nurture us.
That we let Love define us.**

One: God, in Whose Likeness we've been formed, shape us.

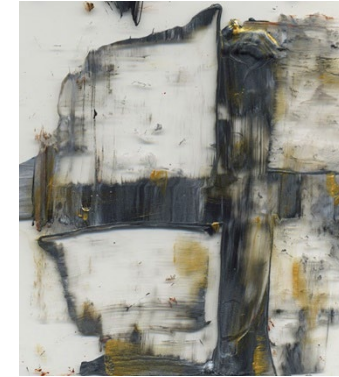
HYMN* RH 192 *There's a Spirit in the Air* Brian Wren

COMMUNITY PRAYER Mike Kersten

God, we often need you to stop us, to hear your discernment as you ask us, "Who are you?" We need you to remind us that it is your love that created us. It is your love that is our purpose. We pray to receive you with our whole hearts. We pray that we hear you alive in the voices of people with whom we deeply disagree, whom we would even call enemies. God, help us to understand that in the Beloved Community, there are no enemies. There is one table where we all sit together, listening and listening. And there, we always hear you. Amen.

**Stand as you are able*

ASH WEDNESDAY



We welcome you to an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 22 at 10 a.m. in chapel. The service will include readings, music, and prayer. The imposition of ashes will be available for those who would like to receive them.

The Office will be closed for President's Day
Monday, 2/20/23





Thank you to this week's ushers:
Jeane & Roger Samuelsen and Nancy & John Thursby

Please join us after services on February 26th
for the 2nd Hour
"Christian Nationalism"



WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WE LISTEN

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READING

Mike Kersten

Matthew 18:18-22

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Then Peter came up and said to Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

SERMON

Run Towards Contempt

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* RH 557

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Johann Nageli

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.**

MOMENT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

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!**

**Stand as you are able*

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!

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



Confirmation?

God?

COME JOIN US FOR
**SPRING
RETREAT**

The Bible?

Justice?

There will be games, food, and teachings
on what the heck all *this* is about.

 March 18th - 19th

 11am Sat - 2pm Sun

 Orinda Community Church

 An event for Bay Area UCC Youth
Students from 8th grade to 12th grade



HYMN* RH 102

Now Thank We All Our God

Johann Cruger

BENEDICTION*

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

In addition to 10 am Sunday worship, we offer these weekly:

- ❖ 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, February 23, at 2:00 pm.

And these very 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, February 21, 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, February 23, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.

TURKEY & SYRIA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE



If you would like to help with the Earthquake Response in Turkey and Syria, you can be certain that with your financial support through the United Church of Christ will go the right folks who will be there helping those in need.

There are 4 easy ways to do this:

1. You can go to ucc.org and click the "DONATE NOW" button on the top which will take you to the earthquake relief page – OR --
2. You may text UCCDISASTER to 41444 – OR --
3. Check your eblast for a link – OR --
4. You can mail a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194**. Please be sure to note "Turkey and Syria" on your check in the memo section.

All donations will be deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for "Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response". Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery.