

**Orinda Community Church**  
**Order of Worship**  
**Sunday, August 20, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**



*Painting by Alex Katz*

**Reflection:**

Only from the level of spiritual awareness do you begin to see and trust that all is held in the divine Mercy. But once grounded in that certainty, you can begin to reach out to the world with the same wonderful, generous vulnerability that we see in Christ. — Cynthia Bourgeault

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Nik Nackley

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Kurt Sunderbruch

**One:** God, as we awaken under the blessing and protection of your compassionate light, we pray you grant us the courage to face all challenges on this day.

**All:** We pray you grant us the patience to accept all setbacks on this day; we pray to you to grant us the strength to carry out all work on this day.

**One:** We pray to you to grant us the wisdom to be grateful for all causes and conditions on this day.

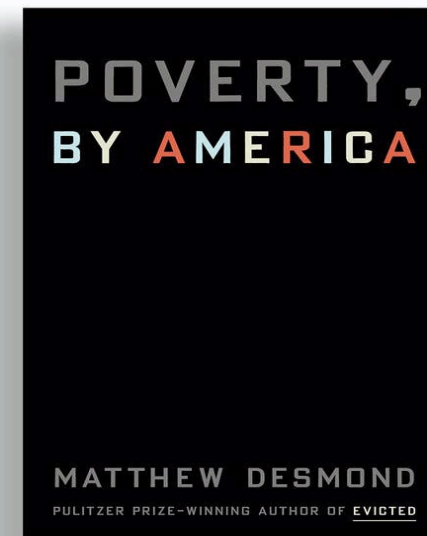
**All:** Oh great, compassionate God! Please help us increase our wisdom. Please help us open our minds.

**One:** May we be able to appreciate the wonders of sky and earth; may we be able to be grateful for the warmth of the world.

**All:** May we be able to assist all in need; may we be able to awaken to the depths of the gospel.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour

The Reading Group is holding a **2<sup>nd</sup> Hour Presentation** on September 10, about the book *Poverty, by America* by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Matthew Desmond. We encourage you to begin reading now so that you can be part of the discussion when we meet!





**A Thank you from Mercy & Justice Ministry**

**Hope Solutions Back Drive** was a huge success. See below from Sandibel Arnold at Hope Solutions:

“I am happy to let you know that we reached our goal of collecting/packing 629 backpacks for the children in our programs. All backpacks have made their way to the children in our programs to prepare them for a successful school year.”

“I am also happy to let you know that we received monetary donations from people at your church in support of our backpack drive. Thank you so much for spreading the word about our backpack drive and for all of your continuous support.”

**And Good News!** Some Safeways are taking more plastic than just bags plastic product wrap and plastic shipping supplies. This sign is from the Safeway in Alamo:



Check out your grocery store!

HYMN\* RH 145

*Morning Has Broken*

Carlton R. Young

COMMUNITY PRAYER *from a prayer by Therese of Lisieux* Kurt Sunderbruch

**O God! We offer you all our actions of today for the intentions enlarging your radiance. We desire to make holy every beat of our hearts, every thought, and even the simplest works, by uniting them with you. And where we fall short, are afraid, or become distracted, we cast all worry and error into the fire of your merciful love where the dross burns away and leaves only our conjoined light. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

**WE LISTEN**

ANTHEM

*\*Stand as you are able*

SCRIPTURE READING *Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-21* Kurt Sunderbruch

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them.

For everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

SERMON *Woke Awakening* Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

*\*Stand as you are able*



Thank you to this week's ushers:

**Jeane & Roger Samuelsen  
Karen Sanford  
Karl and Leslie Schonborn**



**The next Church Council Meeting is  
Wednesday, August 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**

**Keep an eye out for the Zoom link in your  
e-blasts if you would like to attend virtually.**



**Our hearts are with our sisters and brothers in Maui.**

**If you would like to make a donation to support those who were impacted by the devastating fires in Hawaii, you can give through the United Church of Christ by going to:**

**<https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>**

## **WE RESPOND**

HYMN\* BH 491     *Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve*     Phillip Doddridge

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

*\*Stand as you are able*

OFFERTORY SOLO

## Upcoming Events!

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!**

Please join us for these upcoming activities at the church:

- ❖ **September 10**, after services at 11:30 a.m., **Second Hour:** A discussion of *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond. We hope this conversation will initiate an ongoing examination of poverty and how we can become, as Desmond says, “poverty abolitionists.” You don’t need to have read the book to join us.
- ❖ **September 10**, 4:00 p.m. via Zoom: **Karen Llagas and Leticia del Toro will be our next Alta Mesa Center for the Arts readers**, sharing from their creative work.
- ❖ **September 24**, after services at 11:30 a.m., **Second Hour:** We are honored to have **Bill Abriel** share his **spiritual journey**.
- ❖ **October 15**, after church: **Electric Vehicle Show**. We will have a casual walkaround so that those who have electric cars and bikes can share them and talk about the benefits of non-polluting transport. If you have any kind of electric vehicle you would like to show off during this event please sign up with Nancy Thursby: [nlthursby@comcast.net](mailto:nlthursby@comcast.net)
- ❖ **October 22**, after services at 11:30 a.m., **Second Hour: Roger Samuelsen will lead a conversation about Common Hope**, an organization with which we have a long-time partnership. Each year, we bring together the funds to build a house, yes, a whole house! This Sunday will kick off our fundraising for this year’s house.

HYMN\* BH 85

*I Woke Up This Morning*

African American Spiritual

BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

Nik Nackley

*\*Stand as you are able*

**Stay tuned for our Homecoming plans!**

thank  
you

And now a moment of thanks for those who provide us with beautiful flowers on the altar week after week. Many thanks to Lani Shepp, Melody Ferreira, Joni Upshaw, Karen Sanford, Anne Barr, Tre Frane, Kathi Kling, Gwen McNeilus, Allison Skidgel, and Betty Wu. Your efforts make our worship time more beautiful and restorative.



Thanks to Betty for this gorgeous photo of one of her arrangements!

## Orinda Community Church

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office@orindachurch.org

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, August 17, at 2:00 pm.

**And these, every other week:**

- ✚ Two Tuesdays a month, the Writers Group shares and discusses their writings via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, August 22.
- ✚ Two Thursdays a month, starting at 3:45 p.m., the Reading Group meets via Zoom. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 24, at 4:00 p.m. The room opens at 3:45 p.m. for welcome and chatting.

## Alta Mesa Center for the Arts



**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.**

**AMCA presents a reading featuring poets Karen Llagas & Leticia Del Toro, Sept 10, 2023 at 4:00 pm on ZOOM**



Leticia Del Toro is a Mexican-American poet and fiction writer from Crockett, California. Her travels to Mexico, Spain and France, also inform her work. *All We Are Told Not to Touch*, is her debut poetry release from Finishing Line Press. Her writings have appeared in *Huizache*, *Zyzyva*, *About Place Journal* and more. Kore Press published her novella, *Café Colima* in 2018. Additional honors include residencies to Hedgebrook, Bread Loaf and Storyknife.

Leticia has also thrived in the writing communities of VONA and Macondo. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley and UC Davis. She was recently awarded a Jack Hazard Fellowship from the New Literary Project for high school teachers who are creative writers. Leticia is currently working on a novel called, *Return to Azucena*.



Karen Llagas's new chapbook, *All Of Us Are Cleaved*, is now out from Nomadic Press! Her first collection of poetry, *Archipelago Dust*, was published by Meritage Press in 2010. A recipient of the 2022 RHINO Founder's Prize, Filamore Tabios, Sr. Memorial Poetry Prize, an Elizabeth George Award and a Hedgebrook residency, her poems, translations, prose and reviews have also appeared in various journals and anthologies.

Born and raised in the Philippines, she has an MFA in Writing from Warren Wilson College and a BA from Ateneo de Manila. Karen lectures at UC Berkeley and works as a freelance translator & cultural consultant. She divides her time between San Francisco and Los Angeles with her husband and their two dogs, Boccia & Oso.

Check your eblasts to **REGISTER FOR THIS FREE, ONLINE EVENT**, or go to: <https://forms.gle/Ake74AnQhq5aCjYp>