

Orinda Community Church
Order of Worship
Sunday, December 10, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent: Peace



Mosaic from St. Peter's Basilica, 12th C.

Reflection:

You say, the times are troublesome, the times are burdensome, the times are miserable. Live rightly and you will change the times. The times have never hurt anyone. Those who are hurt are human beings; those by whom they are hurt are also human beings. So, change human beings and the times will be changed.

– Saint Augustine

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

Advent Hope by Derek K. Hakes The Chancel Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP*

by Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A. Roger Samuelsen

One: In these days of trouble, fear, and sorrow, deliver us from the despair of shattered hopes, from the violence that seems to fill the world.

All: **Deliver us from those who are planning acts of violence and from the greed, thirst for power, and injustices that perpetuate racism, poverty and conflict.**

One: Deliver us from the temptation to demonize and dehumanize others and from the fear that grows into hatred for those who are different from us.

All: **Deliver us from all that prevents the flourishing of every human being, and from our hope in anything other than you. God of all that is good, loving and peaceful, have mercy on our broken world, and bestow healing on you people.**



SPONSORSHIP ORDER FORM Christmas 2023 Sponsor a Memorial/Honorary Poinsettia

Your name _____

Name 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 Sunday, December 24.
Return form to church office or put in offering plate by December 17, 2023.



Elementary aged kids are welcome to join us in the Agape Center each week for some learning and fun! Kids start in the Sanctuary for Sunday service and then are excused part way through, to go to Sunday School.

For any questions about Sunday School or if you want to volunteer, please contact Amy Parlett at saparlett@comcast.net

STEWARDSHIP TIME



You may have received your pledge card in the mail.

In case you have not received yours yet, you will find extra pledge cards with the ushers.

Because of YOU our church changes lives.

If you haven't sent in your pledge card yet, please do so now!
There is no OCC without your support!

HYMN* BH 101 *Comfort, Comfort O My People* Johannes Olearius, 1671

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Roger Samuelsen

A prayer for peace by John of the Cross

O Blessed Jesus, grant me stillness of soul in Thee. Let Thy mighty calmness take hold in me. Guide me, O thou Gentleness, O thou Peace. Give me control, control over my words, thoughts and actions. From all irritability, want of meekness, want of gentleness, O dear One, deliver me. By thine own deep patience give me patience, stillness of soul in Thee. Make me in this, and in all, more and more like Thee. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE 2ND ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

Karen Sanford

ANTHEM

**Stand as you are able*

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Roger Samuelson

Genesis 8:8-12

Then Noah sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him anymore.

Matthew 10:16

See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

SERMON

Wise and Innocent

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* **RH** 184 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Aurelius Clemens Prudentius

**Stand as you are able*

SAVE THE DATE JANUARY 14, 2024

LUKAS VESELY PRESENTS SONGS OF GRATITUDE

Lukas Vesely - piano and bass

Jonathan Bautista - sax

Joe De Rose - drums

January 14, 2024

1 pm

Orinda Community Church

Sanctuary

10 Irwin Way

Orinda, CA 94563



**Winter Nights will be at OCC
February 12 through February 26, 2024**

Winter Nights is a shelter program for families who are unhoused.

The shelter moves to different churches for two weeks each, through the nine months it is open. Each church provides a warm, hospitable environment, healthy food and friendly volunteers. Winter Nights staff are always on hand while families are in residence.

Many volunteer opportunities will be available. The sign-up for the various tasks will take place beginning Sunday, January 7. Meals preparers and servers, child care, tutoring, overnight helpers are among the volunteer tasks.

The Christmas offering collected at OCC will be dedicated to Winter Nights. Also, you can just put Winter Nights in the note on your check any time between now and Christmas.

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

**Stand as you are able*

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 730

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

R.B.Y. Scott

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

David Milnes

Sanctuary & Handbell Choirs

Present



“Have Yourself A

MARY

Little
Christmas”

December 16, 2023 @ 7pm

Featuring our own Nancy Thursby, Kathi Kling,
Kathleen Wiegand & Sharon Kurk.

Walnut Creek United Methodist Church
1543 Sunnyvale Ave
Walnut Creek, CA

**Stand as you are able*

THANK YOU TO
Phil and Kasey Bernard
for providing coffee and refreshments today.



If you're able to take on this greatly appreciated service
for one Sunday, please sign up today!
The ushers have the Coffee Hour sign-up sheet.



Thank you to this week's ushers:

Jill Oberheim, Lani Shepp,
Marilyn Welland & Betty Wu

ADVENT



Please join us for 2 more
Advent Wednesday Night Special Events:

December 13, 7 pm in the Sanctuary:
Reading of *The Velveteen Rabbit*

December 20, 7 pm in Fellowship Hall:
Solstice Service and Labyrinth Walk

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

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. No need to sign up. Please stop by if you are interested.
- ✚ Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m., our **Theology and Scripture** group meets via Zoom to discuss theology, the bible, and other topics. The next meeting is Thursday, December 14.

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, December 12.
- ✚ Two Thursdays a month, starting at 3:45 p.m., the **Reading Group** meets via Zoom. The room opens 15 minutes early for welcome and chatting. Our next meeting is Thursday, December 14.

POINSETTIAS FUN FACT OF THE DAY

Poinsettias can grow up to 15 feet tall. In their native tropical environment in Mexico and Central America, poinsettias are a perennial woody shrub that grows as high as 10 to 15 feet tall – more like a small tree than a houseplant!

Each Christmas, we offer sponsorship of the poinsettias that are used to decorate the Sanctuary.



If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone, the form is at the end of the bulletin.