

Orinda Community Church
Order of Worship
Sunday, December 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love



Painting by Dieric Bouts, c. 1455-60

Reflection:

It was easy to love God in all that was beautiful. The lessons of deeper knowledge, though, instructed me to embrace God in all things. —Francis of Assisi

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT



If you sponsored a poinsettia, you may pick yours up following the 5:00 pm service tonight, December 24.



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!

CALL TO WORSHIP* *from a litany by the Sisters of Life* Kathi Kling

One: Loving God, we give You permission.
Reign in our hearts, minds, souls, and lives.

All: **Let Your Love come into our past, present and future.
Let Your Love unfold in us.
Let that Love reveal who we are.**

One: God, in Whose Image we've been made, nurture us.
Let that Love define us.

All: **May we let Love love us to the depths of our beings.
May we let Love liberate us from all my fears,
and Love reconcile me to wholeness and peace.**

One: That we let Love awaken us,
And let Love lead us in every moment.

All: **That we let Love challenge us to live in and for love,
Come Holy Spirit.**

HYMN* BH 122

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley

COMMUNITY PRAYER

from Julian of Norwich

Kathi Kling

Gracious God, from love we are made and to love we shall return. May our love for one another kindle flames of joy and hope. May the light and warmth of your grace inspire us to follow the Way of Jesus, and serve you in your Beloved Community, now and forever. Amen.

**Please stand, as you are able*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE 4th ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE Kathi Kling

ANTHEM

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Kathi Kling

Ezekiel 31:2-4a

Thus says our God:

The people who survived the sword

found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Again I will build you, and you shall be built.

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS (continued)

Kathi Kling

John 17:23

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

SERMON *I in Them and You in Me* Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 111

O Loving Founder of the Stars

Ruth Duck

A TIME OF PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

**Please stand, as you are able*

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

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 stand, as you are able*

THANK YOU TO

Bill & Vangie Abriel

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:
John Skidgel, Phil Bernard,
Leslie Dickson & Gail Mead**



ARE NEEDED!

About 4 friendly volunteers are needed to join our usher teams for the 2024 calendar year. Youth are especially encouraged to volunteer. Two 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 opportunities for service 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, please contact our Usher Coordinator, Mike Kersten, at mikejkersten@aol.com or by cell **925-254-2209**

HYMN* BH 148

What Child is This

Isaac Watts

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

David Milnes

**Please 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

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, January 4.

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, January 9.
- ✚ 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, January 11.

Please join us tonight
for our Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm

