

Orinda Community Church
Order of Worship
Sunday, December 31, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

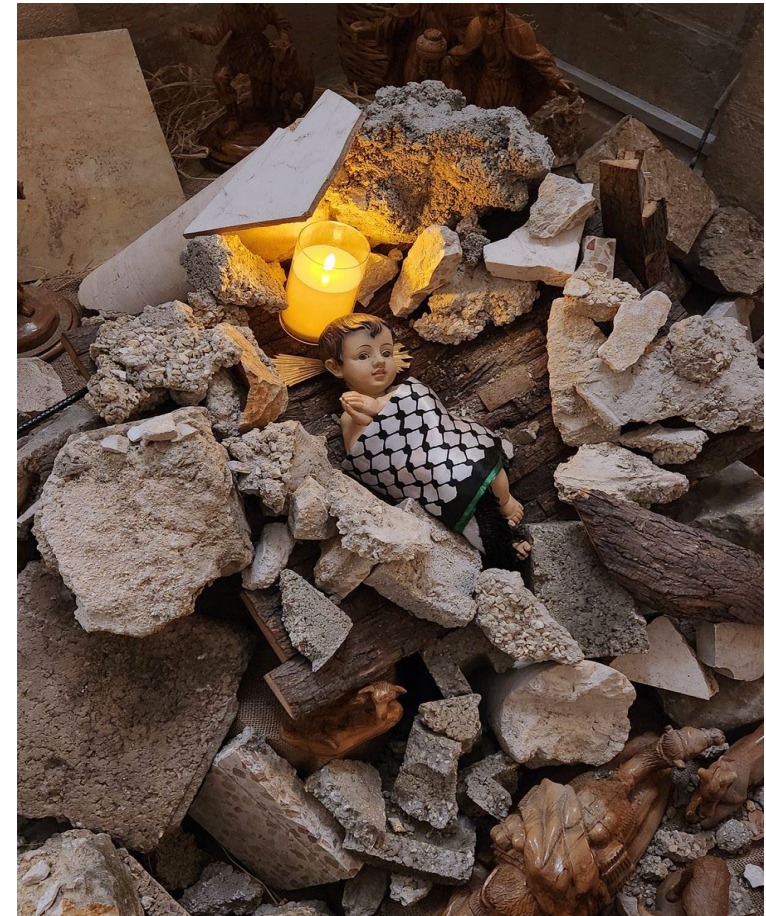


Photo by Munther Isaac, Bethlehem

Reflection: As Emmanuel, Cardinal Suhard says, "To be a witness does not consist in engaging in propaganda, nor even in stirring people up, but in being a living mystery. It means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist." — Madeleine L'Engle

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Mike Kersten

One: Divine Love, help us to walk steadily in your wisdom.

All: **We pray that our reverence will manifest as courage.**

One: Sacred Promise, we pray for clear eyes and a muscular faith.

All: **But above all, we pray that your love shapes our faith and brings it truly to life.**

One: May your fervor and truth be incarnated in us.

All: **Let our witness be our love enacted.**



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

Sunday School is taking a break over the Holidays.

See you in 2024!

HYMN* BH 83

I Sing as I Arise Today

William P. Rowan

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!

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Mike Kersten

God, our witness is only as good as the love it conveys. Holy God, you said to us, "Look, I make all things new." Grant us the vision to see you at work in our world, healing our brokenness and making us new. Grant us the wisdom to hear your voice through the noise that surrounds us. And grant us the courage to bring to fruition the world you are creating. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

SOLO

**Please stand, as you are able*

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mike Kersten

Luke 2:8-19

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Lukas Vesely Presents

Songs of Gratitude

Lukas Vesely - piano & bass

Jonathan Bautista - sax

Joe De Rose - drums

Sunday

January 14, 2024

1 pm

Orinda Community Church

Sanctuary



**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)

Mike Kersten

Galations 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

SERMON

Witnesses

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 113

Little Bethlehem of Judah

Martin F. Shaw

**Please stand, as you are able*

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

**Please stand, as you are able*

THANK YOU TO

Laurie & Brent Goetzel

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.**

January Volunteers Needed!



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**

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 102

O How Shall I Receive You

Paul Gerhardt

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.



Thank you to this week's ushers:

Joyce Crawford

Robin Holmes

Lin Lyons

Nancy Peterson

Jan Rosefield

Karl Schonborn