

**Orinda Community Church
Order of Worship
Sunday, October 22, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**



Reflection:

To lament means to express sorrow or regret. Lamenting something horrific that has taken place allows a deep connection to form between the person lamenting and the harm that was done, and that emotional connection is the first step in creating a pathway for healing and hope. We have to sit in the sorrow, avoid trying to fix it right away, avoid our attempts to make it all okay.

— LaTasha Morrison

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Nik Nackley

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Lamentations

Mary Volmer

One: God is good to those who wait for God,
to the soul that seeks.

All: **It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Holy One.**

One: It is good for one to sit alone in silence
when God has decided upon silence.

All: **Even as we lament, we pause in reverence,
for there may yet be hope.**

One: Yet God will have compassion
according to the abundance of God's steadfast love.

All: **You have taken up our cause, O God;
you have redeemed our lives.**



COVID Advisory Group: Update

As an acknowledgement to the uptick in regional COVID cases, the COVID Advisory Group met this week. After some reflection and conversation, we decided that we simply want to reaffirm the health and safety suggestions we had previously adopted:

1. We believe that masks are a good way to protect wearers and help stop the spread of the disease. You are welcome to wear a mask to church, and we will make sure that masks and hand sanitizer are available in the narthex.
2. Our sanctuary is spacious! Feel free to spread out and practice social distancing.
3. New COVID boosters will soon be available, and we feel that boosters for COVID and other diseases like RSV, flu, and pneumonia offer good protection.

In addition, we use a fan each Sunday that filters the air in the sanctuary every twenty minutes. We will be purchasing air purifiers for the narthex and keeping the narthex doors open as long as the weather permits.

We thank you for the collaborative spirit of O.C.C. as we walk through a period of many unknowns. Thanks to your care for yourselves and each other, COVID has had a limited impact on our church population.

We hope to stay healthy and happy together!



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.

Thank you to the many people who have already signed up to teach! We are always looking for additional volunteers to help with the kids (one main teacher and one helper adult each week). Simple online training and live scan fingerprinting are required.

If you would like to help at Sunday School, please contact Anna in the office who can help you take the 2 easy steps to get cleared to volunteer.

For any questions about Sunday School itself,
please contact Amy Parlett at saparlett@comcast.net

Today's Coffee Hour is brought to you by
Roger Samuelsen

The ushers have the Coffee Hour sign-up sheet.
We are looking for volunteers!



**If you're able to take on this greatly appreciated service for
one Sunday, please sign up today!**

HYMN* BH 483

Out of the Depths I Call

Nahum Tate & Nicholas Brady

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Mary Volmer

God, amid the world's upheaval, we turn to you in relief and gratitude. When all else breaks down, you are here. You exist.

Show us the way to your center. We want to know you as our source of being. We pray for you to act in our lives, in all lives, in all creation. Help us to act *with* you, participating in the pain and extremity of others as a means of bearing forth your love. May we all be carried on your healing current. 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

Mary Volmer

Lamentations 3:1-3, 7-9, 17-18, 21-24, 40-41, 54-58

I am one who has seen affliction
under the rod of God's^lwrath;
God has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;
against me alone God turns his hand,
again and again, all day long.

God has walled me about so that I cannot escape;
and has put heavy chains on me;
though I call and cry for help,
God shuts out my prayer;
The Holy One has blocked my ways with hewn stones;
and made my paths crooked.

My soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, "Gone is my glory
and all that I had hoped for from God."

But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of our God never ceases,
whose mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.



Thank you to this week's ushers:
Phil Bernard, Leslie Dickson, Gail Mead and John Skidgel



Online Auction beginning Sunday, October 29, 2023

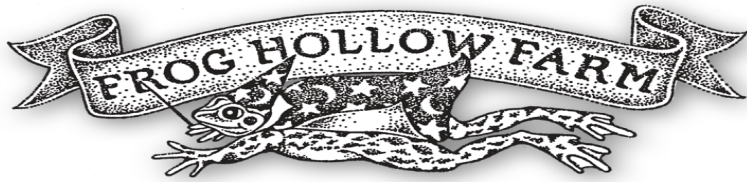
Pick-up and In-Person Auction Sunday, November 5, 2023

Want more information?

Contact Gail Mead

Mobile (510) 414-6222

grmead@comcast.net



CSA

Frog Hollow Community Supported Agriculture

Bringing exceptionally flavorful, regenerative, organic fruit to the Orinda Community!

Have you signed up yet for your weekly or bi-weekly boxes of fruit?

Orinda Community Church is hosting Frog Hollow Farm Community Supported Agriculture by offering them a drop-off/pick up spot for their produce.

Every Tuesday, Frog Hollow drops off boxes of fruit and folks that have signed up for weekly or bi-weekly boxes pick them up.

It's easy to sign up, go to www.froghollow.com and choose Orinda as your pick-up location. The boxes are deposited on the parking lot side of Fellowship Hall for pickup.



Questions? You can ask Anna in the office, or go to their website www.froghollow.com or email them at csa@froghollow.com

SCRIPTURE READING (continued)

“God is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in God.”

Let us test and examine our ways
and return to the HOLY ONE.

Let us lift up our hearts as well as our hands
to God in heaven.

I said, “I am lost.”

I called on your name, O GOD,
from the depths of the pit;
you heard my plea, “Do not close your ear
to my cry for help, but give me relief!”

You came near when I called on you;
you said, “Do not fear!”

You have taken up my cause, God;
you have redeemed my life.

SERMON

Lament. And Listen.

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 423

Great Is Your Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisolm

**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

STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY SOLO

**Stand as you are able*

TODAY'S 2nd Hour

Today, October 22, after services, at 11:30 a.m., **Roger Samuelson 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 will kick off our fundraising for this year's house.

We have pledged to raise, yearly, enough money to help Common Hope build a house for one of their participating families.

The "Help Build a House" board is in the Narthex. Our fundraising to build a house for Common Hope, has already reached its goal, and all surplus donations (which are most welcome) will go toward the costs of surgery for a young Guatemalan girl who needs surgery to repair her cleft palate. Karen Sanford can help people with their donations after church or you can send a check to church, made out to **Orinda Community Church with Common Hope House in the memo line.**

We have raised \$800 from the congregation to add to the \$1000 allocated from the Mercy and Justice budget for this purpose.

If you don't know about Common Hope and want to know more check out the website at CommonHope.org.

Please plan to come and learn about other ways to help the Common Hope families.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 491 *Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve* Philip Doddridge

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

Nik Nackley

**Stand as you are able*



The Good Table, in El Sobrante, is a sister U.C.C. church doing wonderful things! They are making a new church that will share property with a Planting Justice nursery, a business that trains and employs formerly incarcerated people.

**There is a community work day the
last Saturday of every month 12-3pm
5166 Sobrante Ave, El Sobrante 94803**

October 28, 2023 is the next work day.

Here's an invitation from The Good Table:

Wear sturdy shoes, clothes you don't mind getting dirty, and bring work gloves, gardening tools if you have them, and a mask to help us tend our beautiful planting beds and continue to clean up our construction site. Or just stop by for a tour! We've made lots of progress towards opening our pay-what-you-can and pay-it-forward community cafe, food and craft marketplace, organic tree and plant nursery and gathering space for the arts, education, music, and spiritual community. Help get the site closer to Opening Day-ready!

Orinda Community Church

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(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. 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, the bible, and other topics. The next meeting is Thursday, October 26.

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, October 31.
- ✚ 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, November 2.