

**Orinda Community Church**  
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

**Order of Worship**  
Sunday, April 18, 2021

**Reflection:**

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP

**One:** In the beginning was formlessness and chaos.

**All:** **And God, out of abundance of love, gave us light, form, and meaning.**

**One:** Humans accepted the gift and then hoarded it.

**All:** **Formlessness and chaos returned.**

**One:** It is now time for us to repair and share.

**All:** **We pray that the Beloved Community will be rich with light, water, rich soil, and the peace of mutual welcome.**

HYMN BH 7

*All People That On Earth Do Dwell*

Geneva, 1551

COMMUNITY PRAYER

*from a Lakota Prayer*

**Oh, Great Spirit,**

**Whose voice I hear in the winds  
and whose breath gives life to all the world.**

**Hear me! I need your strength and wisdom.**

**Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes  
ever hold the red and purple sunset.**

**Make my hands respect the things you have made  
and my ears sharp to hear your voice.**

**Make me wise so that I may understand  
the things you have taught my people.**

**Let me learn the lessons you have hidden  
in every leaf and rock. Amen.**

WORD OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SOLO

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### *Ohlone Prayer in the Four Directions*

The East is the direction from which the new day comes into the world. It is the direction of renewal. It is the place of innocence, guilelessness, spontaneity, joy and the capacity to believe in the unseen. In the East is the rising sun, the dawn of a new day. As we walk the sacred path of life today, help us, Creator God, to grow in wisdom and strength.

The South is the direction of the sun at its highest point. It is the place of summer, of fullness, of youth, of physical strength and vigor. It is also the time that people work to prepare for the fall and winter months. Hence, symbolically, it is a time of preparing for the future, of getting ready for the days ahead. To the South, where new and fresh rains come, we ask your help, gracious Creator, to walk in the ways of goodness and gentleness in heart and speech.

The West is the direction from which darkness comes. It is the direction of the unknown, of going within, of dreams, of prayer and of meditation. The West is the place of testing, where the will is stretched to its outer limits so that the gift of perseverance may be won. To the West, the place of the setting sun, we thank you, good and generous God, for our day, we ask forgiveness for the times we caused disharmony today.

The North is the place of winter, of white snows that remind us of the white hair of our elders. It is the dawning place of true wisdom. Here dwell the teachers of intellectual gifts symbolized by the great mountain and the sacred lake. Some of the special gifts that await the traveler in the North include the following capacities: to think, to synthesize, to speculate, to predict, to discriminate, to solve problems, to imagine, to analyze, to understand, to calculate, to organize, to criticize, to remember, and to interpret hidden meanings. To the North we find courage to walk each day and ask your help to overcome fears and anxieties.

And now we bend down and touch our mother the earth...

And now we stand up and reach out and up towards our Grandfather who watches over us...

### *Psalm 24: 1-2*

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for God founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, OFFERTORY INVITATION

SOLO

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.**

HYMN BH 11

*Bring Many Names*

Carlton Young, 1989

BENEDICTION