

Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

Order of Worship Sunday, May 30, 2021 Trinity Sunday

Reflection: *In some ways the Trinity is the first community, the model for how we are called to connect with one another, without prejudice, without inequality, without competition, and always with perfect love.*
—Reverend Dean Wolfe

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ignatius of Antioch, first century

Michael Kersten

One: Believers, be like stones of a temple,
All: **which are prepared beforehand for the building of God.**
One: Be hoisted up to the heights
All: **by the crane of Jesus Christ, which is the cross.**
One: Be a living tether, using as a rope the Holy Spirit.
All: **For all are lifted and united in the dance of the trinity.**

HYMN BH 355

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

HYFRYDOL

**God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-spiced flame and hovering dove,
Breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love,
Give to those who lead your people, fresh anointing of your grace.
Send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.**

**Triune God mysterious being, undivided and diverse,
Deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse,
Help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim,
That our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.**

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Michael Kersten

Holy and dynamic God, we enter into the eternal dance with you—we create with you, we redeem with you, we nourish and sustain with you. Help us to keep step with your holy rhythms. You show us that the divine balance is never still. Praise to you from whom all blessings flow, Creator, Word, Spirit. Amen.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Leslie O'Brien

SOLO

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. R. Walters

SCRIPTURE READING

Michael Kersten

John 3:1-12

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?"

SERMON

How Can These Things Be?

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

SOLO

Pax vobiscum

F. Schubert

"Now peace be unto you."
This was our Christ's blessing,
God's peace which passes understanding.
"Though you may have great tribulation here,
be of good cheer, the world have I overcome."
Our God keeps that man in perfect peace,
whose mind has ever stayed upon our God.
Be of one mind and live in peace.

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

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 467

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

ANDREW

Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form,
offering me your food of light,
grain of new life, and grape of love,
your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurturing one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flower, until I know.

BENEDICTION

