

# Orinda Community Church

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

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

Friday, December 24, 2021

5:00pm in the Sanctuary



*Master of the Winking Eyes, from the Grimaldi Fava Collection, 15<sup>th</sup> Century*

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

*Ave Maria*  
Amelia and Judy McCall

Bach/Gounod

*O Holy Night*  
Weston Carpenter

Adam/Kauflin

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT

*Torches*  
Chancel Choir

J. Joubert

WORDS OF WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

*I Wonder As I Wander*

Jesslyn Thomas, soloist

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*by St. Ephraim the Syrian, 4<sup>th</sup> C.*

Chris Mead

**One:** The feast day of your birth resembles You, Beautiful God, because it brings joy to all humanity. Old people and infants alike enjoy your day.

**All:** **Your day is celebrated from generation to generation.  
Kings and rulers may pass away, but your birth will be remembered until the end of time.  
Your day is a means and a pledge of peace.**

**One:** When you were born, heaven and earth were reconciled, since you came from heaven to earth on that day. You gave us so many gifts on the day of your birth: a treasure chest of spiritual medicines for the sick.

**All:** **Spiritual light for the blind; the cup of refreshment for the thirsty; the bread of life for the hungry.**

**One:** In December when seeds are hidden in the soil, the staff of life springs forth from the virgin womb. In the winter when trees are bare, you give us the most succulent spiritual fruit.

**All:** **In the frost when the earth is barren,  
You bring new hope to our souls.**

*\*Please stand, as you are able*

\*CAROL Black Hymnal 135 *O Come All Ye Faithful*

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;*

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; [Refrain]*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Chris Mead

**O Loving One, break us open into your love. We have waited so long for this star to guide us. We have hoped so deeply for the living hope of this baby, Jesus. Lift off our despair and discouragement like fog from a gray night. See, the light shines in the darkness. Our light is born! We are made new in the light of Jesus's birth. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE CHRISTMAS PEACE

Elizabeth Robinson

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you.  
**Many:** And also with you.

*\*Please stand, as you are able*

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY AND PAGEANT

INTRODUCTION AND INVITATION

Leslie O'Brien

THE PROMISE: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Chris Mead

CAROL *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Chancel Choir

ARRIVAL IN BETHLEHEM: Luke 2:1-5

CAROL BH 133 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

***For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondrous love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!***

JESUS IS BORN: Luke 2:6-7

CAROL BH 124 *Away In a Manger*

***Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.***

***The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; protect me I pray,  
And stay by my side until night turns to day.***

*\*Please stand, as you are able*

THE ANGELS: Luke 2:8-14

CAROL BH 144 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

THE SHEPHERDS: Luke 2:15-20

CAROL BH 154 *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

***Refrain:***

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!***

***While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]***

***The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]***

***Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]***

THE VISIT OF THE MAGI: Matthew 2:1-12

CAROL *We Three Kings*

Chris Jackson, soloist

***Solo: We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.***

***All: O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.***

***Solo: Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever ceasing never, over us all to reign.***

***All: O star of wonder...***

*\*Please stand, as you are able*

*Solo: Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worship God on high.*

*All: O star of wonder...*

*Solo: Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing sighing, bleeding, dying sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

*All: O star of wonder...*

## CLOSING RESPONSE

**One:** This child brought love, forgiveness, and understanding.  
This child brought acceptance of all people.

**All: This child brought justice and compassion for those in need.  
This child brought peace.**

**One:** People came from near and far to see this child born in a manger and  
bring whatever gift possible.

**All: Whether it be ourselves, a sheep, or gold and myrrh, on this night  
of all nights, let each of us be mindful of the gifts we each possess.**

**One:** We each have so much to offer. So let us ponder this question, both  
now and the whole year through: "What gift can I bring?"

\*CAROL, Black Hymnal 132 *JOY TO THE WORLD*

*Joy to the world, The Lord is come! Let earth its praises bring;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

*Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of God's righteousness  
And wonders of God's love, and wonders of God's love,  
And wonders, wonders of God's love.*

\*Please stand, as you are able

## WE LISTEN AND PREPARE

THE CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

SPECIAL MUSIC *Rejoice!* from Handel's *Messiah*

Julia Hathaway, soloist

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INVITATION TO THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

*O Magnum Mysterium*, Tomás Luis Victoria

Chancel Choir

*O great mystery and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger!*

*O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb  
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you.*

*The Blessed is the Virgin whose womb  
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.*

*Alleluia!*

## THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD John 1:1-5, 10-12, 14, 16

PROCESSION OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*O Holy Night*, Nikolas Nackle, soloist

*\*Please stand, as you are able*

**\*THE GREAT CIRCLE OF LIGHT**

The congregation is invited to step out of the pews and encircle the sanctuary. The light of Christ will be passed around the circle as we sing the concluding hymn, *Silent Night*. For safety's sake, please ask young children to use our battery candles, which they are welcome to take home as a reminder of this night.

**\*CAROL**                    *Silent Night, Holy Night*

***Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!***

***Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.***

**\*CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**POSTLUDE**

David Milnes

*\*Please stand, as you are able*

**PAGEANT NARRATORS**

Prudence Hurley, Mimi McCall, Nicole Parlett, Ava Skidgel

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

Barbara Beck, Julia Hathaway, Jesslyn Thomas, Babs Winbigler,  
Rosa Grundig, Kathi Kling, Judy McCall, Carrie Milnes, Ellen Prater, Nancy Thursby,  
Chris Jackson, Fred Matteson, Robert Steiner, John Thursby,  
Peter Hartdegen, Greg McCall, Miles McCall, Chris Mead, Nik Nackley, Tom Norris, Bob Winbigler

**USHER AND GREET TEAM**

Carey, Bill, Weston & Georgia Carpenter, Karl & Leslie Schonborn, Roger & Jeane Samuelsen and Mike Kersten.





## **Orinda Community Church**

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563

(925) 254-4906

[office@orindachurch.org](mailto:office@orindachurch.org)

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor  
Leslie Darwin O'Brien, Pastoral Outreach & Family Ministry  
David Milnes, Director of Music  
Anna Gregory, Office Administrator

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During the week between Christmas and January 1, the church office will be closed as the pastor and staff take time with their own families. (But we will have regular church services!) If you have pastoral needs, please contact Elizabeth at [elizabeth.orindachurch@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.orindachurch@gmail.com) or at (303) 601-2118.

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We send love and blessings to our church community for Christmas and the coming year. Below are just a few of the ways you can get involved and participate in the life of the church.

### **Upcoming Events in 2022**

*We look forward to a year of joy, justice, contemplation, and creativity.  
Please mark your calendars for the following:*

Each week, in addition to our 10 a.m. Sunday worship, the church offers regular programming:

- Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel, we host Centering Prayer. Don't know what that is? We'd be glad to tell you more about it!
- Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., we hold a brief Contemplative Service in the chapel. It includes readings, music, prayer time, and silence. This service also goes out electronically.
- Thursdays at 1, via Zoom, lovers of music are invited to sing along with Leslie Darwin O'Brien. Check your eblast for the link! We'll meet again on 1-6-22.

- Thursday afternoons at 2:00, our Theology and Scripture group meets via Zoom to discuss theology and the bible, and other topics.
- We also have a choir and a bell ensemble to which you are warmly invited!

Every other week:

- Two Tuesdays a month, the Writers' Group shares and discusses their writings via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. (Their work is featured in the narthex; take a look!)
- Two Thursdays a month, starting at 3:45, the Reading Group is doing a close study of the novels of Marilynne Robinson, starting with *Gilead*. We meet via Zoom.

**Women of Spirit** is a monthly gathering of inclusive, curious women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with other women of diverse faith traditions. We are not affiliated with any religious institution, and are open to all. For more info, visit:

<https://www.womenofspiritlamorinda.org> - or -  
<https://www.facebook.com/womenofspiritlamorinda>.

Please join us on Tuesday, January 25 from 7:30-8:45pm to kick off the new year. Katherine Figuracion will share some words of inspiration with us. We will have plenty of time for connection in our breakout rooms.

Please check your eblast for the link. All are welcome!

**Zoom links are posted weekly in our eblasts, and we always welcome new attendees.**

Upcoming dates:

- January 23: Annual meeting - Immediately after service in the Sanctuary. We need you there!
- January 25: Women of Spirit
- January 30: Service of release and celebration for Leslie Darwin O'Brien

**For links to events, dates, and more information, please go to our website:  
[www.orindacommunitychurch.org](http://www.orindacommunitychurch.org)**



Through our exciting new endeavor, Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, we have a number of literary readings and a lecture this spring!

**Alta Mesa Center for the Arts Reading Series  
Second Sunday of each Month**

**Next up:**

AMCA presents an Asian American Pacific Islander Writer Showcase  
with Lillian Howan, Maw Shein Win, and Dawn Angelicca Barcelona.  
January 9th at 4:00pm

*For the link, please check your e-blasts or go to our website [www.orindacommunitychurch.org](http://www.orindacommunitychurch.org) and look under "Arts" and "Alta Mesa"*

**Alta Mesa Center for the Arts Generative Workshop  
January 22, 2022**

1:00-3:00 pm (Pacific)

**Inviting the Muses: A Writing Workshop**

with Dawn Angelicca Barcelona, Lillian Howan, and Maw Shein Win

Muses come in many forms. In this two hour workshop we will identify, honor and engage with our muses. Join Dawn Angelicca Barcelona, Maw Shein Win, and Lillian Howan as they share the ways that muses can inspire, energize, and deepen your writing practice.

***(THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT FOR THE WRITER IN YOUR LIFE)***

Price: \$40.00

Scholarships and sliding scale available: To inquire, write [altamesacenter@gmail.com](mailto:altamesacenter@gmail.com)

*To register, please check your e-blasts or go to our website [www.orindacommunitychurch.org](http://www.orindacommunitychurch.org)*

**Alta Mesa Center for the Arts Reading Series**

AMCA an afternoon reading by poet/pastor  
Rev. Elizabeth Robinson featuring her writing about homelessness  
and benefiting [FEET FORWARD](#), with guest Jennifer Livovich.

February 13th, at 4:00pm (pacific)

*To register, please check your e-blasts or go to our website [www.orindacommunitychurch.org](http://www.orindacommunitychurch.org)*

[Feet Forward](#) is "an organization that empowers unhoused individuals in Boulder County by removing barriers to services and meeting basic needs, such as food, clothing, and sustained peer-led advocacy and navigation."

**Orinda Community Church Annual Lecture**

Featuring  
Natalie Baszile, author of  
*WE ARE EACH OTHER'S HARVESTS: Celebrating African American Farmers, Land, and Legacy*

Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 4:00 pm (pacific)  
Details soon to follow.



## Poinsettias Given in Memory of

Dr. Marion and Albert Andersen *by In Suk Kim-Andersen*

Doug and Beverly Finlayson *by Leslie Dickson and Family*

Andree & James Hull and Bob Elkington *by Joy Anne Elkington-Walker and Carl Walker*

Fran Herndon *by Reverend Elizabeth Robinson*

Delia and Bill Kling *by Kathi Kling*

Mr. Samuel C. Lapidge and Mrs. Margaret S. Lapidge *by Rev. John A. Thursby and Mrs. Nancy L. Thursby*

Linnea Lenkus *by Reverend Elizabeth Robinson*

Laura Long *by Anne and Richard Long*

Ron Loos *by Beverly Loos*

Jim and Jane Mead *by Chris and Gail Mead*

Bruce Robinson *by Reverend Elizabeth Robinson*

Reg and Christine Robinson *by Chris and Gail Mead*

Jamie Samuelsen *by Jeane and Roger Samuelsen*

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sicotte *by Marilyn Welland*

Reverend Irvin G. Thursby and Mrs. Louise Thursby *by Rev. John A. Thursby and Mrs. Nancy L. Thursby*

Allan, Margaret and Scott Walker *by Joy Anne Elkington-Walker and Carl Walker*

John R. Welland *by Marilyn Welland*

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Welland *by Marilyn Welland*



## Poinsettias Given in Honor of

Missionary Julie I.O. Kim *by In Suk Kim-Andersen*

Jill and Tom's Family *by Jill Oberheim*



We will again be hosting the Winter Nights family shelter from January 31 to February 14, 2022. Our days for providing volunteers and all food are February 10-13. We will be preparing home cooked meals again this year and providing the usual volunteer help with the children.

We will take sign-ups in early January.

Please think about what you can do to help with hosting this year!

Donations being accepted now to support this important work.