



Orinda Community Church

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 16, 2022

Reflection: *We pay a heavy, very heavy price for the superhuman dignity of our calling. The ridiculous is always so near to the sublime. And the world, usually so indulgent to foibles, hates ours instinctively.* — Georges Bernanos, *The Diary of a Country Priest*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP* *from The Life of Symeon the Fool by Leontius of Neapolis* Jeane Samuelson

One: For what language could praise one who is honored beyond language? How can the wisdom of the tongue praise the one who obliterated all wisdom and prudence in God's folly?

All: **Like Jesus, the holy fool is truly human in face, but God in heart. Truly God will not see thus as a human sees.**

One: Truly no one knows a person's deeds without knowing the person's spirit. Truly we must not judge someone before the time, O friends of Christ, before God comes and illuminates everything.

All: **Knowing these things, beloved friends, let us also obey the one who counseled well, "Attend to yourself," not to outside influences, but to yourself alone, because each carries their own burden and will receive distinctly from the hand of Christ, to whom we are given in love with and the All-holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN* BH 474

Jesus Lifted Me

Spiritual

* *Stand as you are able*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Jeane Samuelsen

Strange and Inexplicable God, there are days when we recoil from people who use clumsy words or who have awkward and embarrassing ways. We do not recognize your presence in them. But you, God, show us that strange ways can be beautiful. You show us that foolishness can hold the deepest meaning. You meet us in our absurdity and make use of exactly who we are. Teach us to trust you, God. Every day you make us, your ridiculous children, more perfect in our nonsensical, searching hearts. Amen.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

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

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

Leslie O'Brien

WE LISTEN

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeane Samuelsen

1 Corinthians: 9-10

For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like people sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to other humans. We are fools for Christ's sake.

Two stories from the Desert Fathers:

It was revealed to Abba Anthony in his desert that there was one who was his equal in the city. He was a doctor by profession and whatever he had beyond his needs he gave to the poor, and every day he sang the Sanctus with the angels.

* *Stand as you are able*

Abba David related this about Abba Arsenius. One day a magistrate came, bringing Abba Arsenius the will of a senator, a member of his family who had left him a very large inheritance. Arsenius took it and was about to destroy it. But the magistrate threw himself at his feet saying, 'I beg you, do not destroy it or they will cut off my head.' Abba Arsenius said to him, 'But I was dead long before this senator who has just died,' and he returned the will to him without accepting anything.

SERMON

Holy Fools

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 509

How Deep the Silence of the Soul

Thomas Tallis, 1557

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

DOXOLOGY*

OLD HUNDREDTH, 1551

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

* *Stand as you are able*

HYMN* BH 497

Guide My Feet

Spiritual

BENEDICTION*

* *Stand as you are able*

Orinda Community Church

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Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor
Leslie Darwin O'Brien, Pastoral Outreach & Family Ministry
David Milnes, Director of Music
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Orinda Community Church is participating in a new endeavor! Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, under the leadership of Mary Volmer, is an interfaith arts and spirituality hub, housed within and sponsored by Orinda Community Church.

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

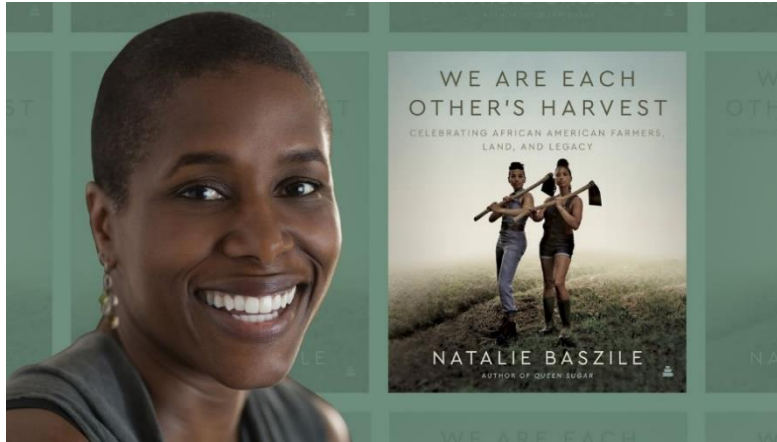
Scholarships and sliding scale available: To inquire, write altamesacenter@gmail.com

To register, please check your e-blasts or go to our website www.orindachurch.org and look under "Arts" and "Alta Mesa"

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.



REGULAR OFFERINGS

Each week, in addition to our 10 a.m. Sunday worship, the church offers regular programming. This is currently limited for obvious reasons, but we do continue to offer these events on Zoom:

- **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.**, via Zoom, lovers of music are invited to sing along with Leslie Darwin O'Brien. We'll meet again on 1/20/22. Check your e-blast!
- **Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m.**, our Theology and Scripture group meets via Zoom to discuss theology and the bible, and other topics. See you 1/20/22!

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!). Next meeting is 1/25/22.
- 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!

**For links to events, dates, and more information, please go to our website:
www.orindacommunitychurch.org**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

OCC ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 23
Immediately following services.



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.

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

Donations being accepted now to support this important work.

Questions? Contact Lani Shepp at lshepp@icloud.com