



Orinda Community Church

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday, February 13, 2022, 10am



image by Kiki Smith

Reflection: *Love does not bring an end to difficulties, it gives us the strength to cope with difficulties in a constructive way.—bell hooks*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

* *Stand as you are able*

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Robin Holmes

One: How unfortunate are those who trust in human life only and make human achievement alone their strength, for their hearts are not oriented to God.

All: **They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. Their spirits live in the parched places.**

One: Blessed are those who trust in God, who make love their aim.

All: **They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.**

One: These faithful one do not fear when heat comes, and the leaves of their spiritual tree shall stay green.

All: **In the year of drought, we are not anxious, and we do not cease to bear fruit. Our faith and God's love lead us through the dry seasons.**

HYMN* BH 43

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley

COMMUNITY PRAYER

adapted from a poem by Langston Hughes

Robin Holmes

**We dream a world where no human
Will scorn another human,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
We dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world we dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every person is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such we dream, our world!**

* *Stand as you are able*

WORD OF ASSURANCE

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

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE LISTEN

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Robin Holmes

Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in a love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the mornings, what you will do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.

- *Pedro Arrupe, S.J.*

1 Corinthians 13: 1-8

If I speak in the tongues of humans or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

SERMON

Always Persevering

Rev. Elizabeth Robinson

* *Stand as you are able*

WE RESPOND

HYMN BH 472

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey

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

Minstrel Man

Margaret Bonds

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 454

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Spiritual

BENEDICTION*

* *Stand as you are able*

Orinda Community Church

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925 254 4906

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



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.

READING SERIES:

Sunday, February 13 at 4:00 PM

An afternoon reading by poet/pastor Rev. Elizabeth Robinson featuring her writing about homelessness and benefiting **FEET FORWARD***, with guest Jennifer Livovich.

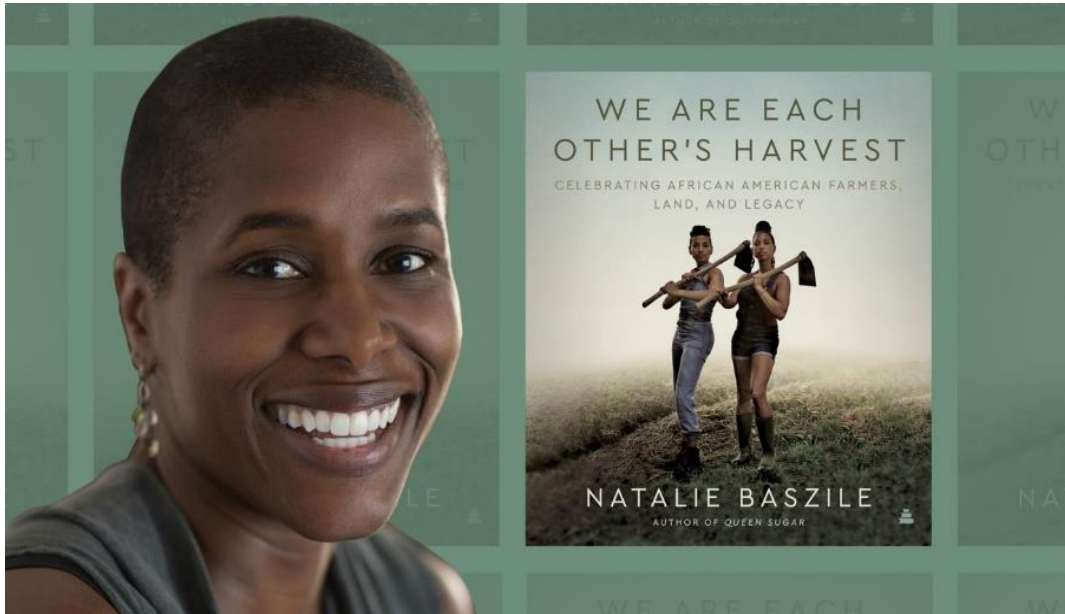
Register for this free, online event, by checking your e-blasts or go to our website:
www.orindachurch.org,
go to **ARTS**, then **ALTA MESA CENTER FOR THE ARTS**.

* [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)
10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563
Sanctuary



Upcoming Events

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.
- [Ladies Luncheon](#) every **Thursday at 11:30 a.m.** at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Road.
- **Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m.**, our [Theology and Scripture](#) group meets via Zoom to discuss theology and the bible, and other topics. Our next meeting is Thursday, 2/17/22, at 2:00 pm.
- We also have a choir and a bell ensemble to which you are warmly invited! If interested, email us at office@orindachurch.org

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 Tuesday, 2/22/22 at 10 am.
- 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. Next meeting is Thursday, February 24, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.

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 Thursday, March 4 at 12 noon

**Please check your eblast for the link. All are welcome!
Questions? Contact Leslie at (925) 285-0996**

**Zoom links are posted in our eblasts and on our website and we
always welcome new attendees!**

www.orindachurch.org



~ GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP ~

In response to the losses we have experienced in our community, we are planning to create a grief support group. If you would like to participate in this, please contact Elizabeth at

elizabeth.orindachurch@gmail.com