



# Orinda Community Church

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 24, 2022, 10 am



Reflection: *When one tugs at a single thing in nature,  
that person finds it attached to the rest of the world.* — John Muir

## WE GATHER

### PRELUDE

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP\* *adapted from a poem by Jane Hirshfield*

Chris Mead

**One:** Today when persimmons ripen  
Today when fox-kits come out of their den into snow  
Today when the spotted egg releases its wren song  
Today when the maple sets down its red leaves

**All: Today when windows keep their promise to open  
Today when fire keeps its promise to warm**

**One:** Today when rain leaps to the waiting of roots in their dryness  
Today when starlight bends to the roofs of the hungry and tired  
Today, let this light bless us

**All: With these friends let it bless us  
With snow-scent and lavender bless us**

**One:** Let the vow of this day keep itself wildly and wholly  
Spoken and silent, surprise us inside our ears  
Sleeping and waking, unfold itself inside our eyes

**All: Let its fierceness and tenderness hold us  
Let its vastness be undisguised in all our days**

### TIME OF SILENCE AND CENTERING

HYMN\* BH 28

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

*\*Stand as you are able*

**Through the silence of nature,  
 I attain the Holy One's divine peace.  
 Oh sublime nature,  
 in your stillness let my heart rest.  
 God, you are patient await the moment  
 to manifest through the silence of nature.  
 Oh nature sublime, speak to me through silence,  
 for, like you, I am awaiting in silence the call of God.  
 Oh nature sublime,  
 through your silence I hear God's voice.  
 My heart is tuned to the quietness,  
 that the stillness of nature inspires. Amen.**

## WORD OF ASSURANCE

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

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

## MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**WE LISTEN**

## SOLO

## READINGS

Chris Mead

*from the Song of Songs*

2:11-13  
 1 For, behold, the winter is past.  
 The rain is over and gone.  
 The flowers appear on the earth.  
 The time of the singing has come,  
 and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.  
 The fig tree ripens her green figs.  
 The vines are in blossom.  
 They give out their fragrance.

*\*Stand as you are able*

4:1-3

Behold, you are beautiful, my love.  
Behold, you are beautiful.  
Your eyes are doves behind your veil.  
Your hair is as a flock of goats,  
that descend from Mount Gilead.  
Your teeth are like a newly shorn flock,  
which have come up from the washing,  
where every one of them has twins.  
None is bereaved among them.  
Your lips are like scarlet thread.  
Your mouth is lovely.  
Your temples are like a piece of a pomegranate behind your veil.  
Your two breasts are like two fawns  
that are twins of a roe,  
which feed among the lilies.  
Until the day is cool, and the shadows flee away,  
I will go to the mountain of myrrh,  
to the hill of frankincense.  
You are all beautiful, my love.  
There is no spot in you.

8:6-7

Set me as a seal on your heart,  
as a seal on your arm;  
for love is strong as death.  
Jealousy is as cruel as Sheol.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
a very flame of Yahweh.  
Many waters can't quench love,  
neither can floods drown it.

*Touching Trees*

by Laurel Reader Taatjes

Everything  
touches the trees  
Both the sky  
and the earth  
Blue birds  
in the bright sunlight  
Owls  
in the dark  
A soft breeze  
Wet rainfalling in a curtain  
Everything  
touches the trees  
The soft entrance  
of the plants down below  
The arching clouds  
above  
All the creatures  
coming and going  
Everything  
touches the trees  
Including me

*\*Stand as you are able*

SERMON

*The Time of Singing Has Come*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**WE RESPOND**

HYMN\* BH 83

*I Sing as I Arise Today*

*SEED OF LIFE 1986*

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\* **RH** 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN 1623

**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 32

*God of the Sparrow*

ROEDER 1983

BENEDICTION\*

*\*Stand as you are able*

**Orinda Community Church**

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA  
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Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor  
Reverend Barry Cammer, Adjunct Pastor  
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.

Next up at AMCA  
May 8th, 2022 at 4:00pm

An afternoon with Lucy Jane Bledsoe  
Author of NO STOPPING US NOW  
and a celebration of Title IX's 50th Anniversary  
with Mary Volmer

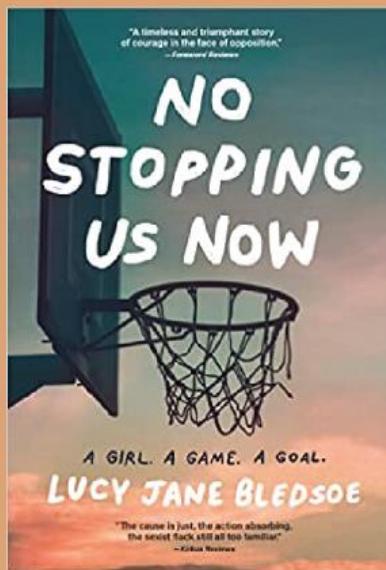
Register for this free online event by going to our website  
[www.orindacommunitychurch.com](http://www.orindacommunitychurch.com)  
Under Arts and Alta Mesa Center for the Arts.

## The Alta Mesa Center for the Arts presents:

An afternoon with Lucy Jane Bledsoe, author of *NO STOPPING US NOW*,  
and a celebration of Title IX's 50th anniversary with Mary Volmer

Join us on Zoom at 4:00pm (pacific) on May 8th, 2022

Register for this free online event here: <https://forms.gle/6tFdhBwpDpTzMFMn8>



Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, an interfaith arts hub, is housed and sponsored by  
Orinda Community Church.

Questions? Contact Mary Volmer: [altamesacenter@gmail.com](mailto:altamesacenter@gmail.com)

## 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.
- ✚ 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, 4/28/22, 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](mailto: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, 5/3/22 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, May 5, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.

**Zoom links are posted in our eblasts and on our website:**

**[www.orindacommunitychurch.org](http://www.orindacommunitychurch.org)**



# Ushers & Greeters



**A BIG Thank you to our ushers this week:  
John Skidgel, Gail Mead and Kathi Kling**

**Those wishing to support Ukrainians may want to donate through  
the United Church of Christ. We have confidence that funds  
directed this way will reach people in need.**

**<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>**



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## **Grief Support Group Welcomes New Members**

OCC's grief support group has been meeting for the last 8 weeks and has decided to continue meeting on an ongoing basis. We meet:

**Every Thursday from Noon-1:30 pm in the Fireside room.**

This group is open to anyone who has experienced significant loss of any kind. Sometimes, moving and living through loss is challenging. The Grief Support Group gives us a chance to share our journeys with others who understand what's going on. It gives us an opportunity to support one another and to let the group support us, as well.

If you're interested in participating in this group, you can just show up, or call Rev. Barry Cammer at 925-254-1348, or email him at [barry@healthypathcounseling.org](mailto:barry@healthypathcounseling.org).





## **Lifelong Learning Comes ALIVE!**

As a result of the pandemic and other causes, the Life-Long Learning program for Orinda Community Church has been on hiatus. It's now time to revitalize this program so that we can continue to be a congregation that is committed to life-long learning, our own faith formation, and to be a beacon in our community for thoughtfulness, learning, self- expansion, and information.

**TODAY, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15 am** (right after worship service), we will hold a 30-minute meeting in Fellowship Hall to re-form our Life-Long Learning program.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IF:**

- ✚ You have previously participated in any "LLL" program at OCC
- ✚ Or if you'd like to participate in any future program,
- ✚ Or if you have any ideas/suggestions for future events and programs,
- ✚ Or if you'd just like to come and see what we're up to.









