



## Orinda Community Church

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

**Order of Worship**  
Sunday, May 1, 2022, 10 am  
Third Sunday of Easter

**Reflection:** “For a time, I rest in the grace of the world and am free.”  
-- Wendell Berry (from *The Peace of Wild Things*)

### WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Barry Cammer

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Marilyn Welland

**One:** We gather this morning to hear music, to sing, to give, to pray, to listen.

**Many:** We want those things, and we want more.

**One:** What more could you possibly want in addition to a full worship service?

**Many:** We want to feel the presence of the Holy in this place. We want to feel the presence of the Holy within us.

**One:** But that would change things. That might even change you.

**Many:** We might be afraid to change. This is unknown territory.

**One:** So, what shall we do:

**All:** We will put our faith in God and each other.  
**Come Holy Spirit, CHANGE US!**

*\*Stand as you are able*

## TIME OF SILENCE AND CENTERING

HYMN\* BH 553

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

African American Spiritual

## COMMUNITY PRAYER

Marilyn Welland

**O Divine Source of Love, you call to us from the heavens, and from our innermost places. You whisper your love for us, you shout for justice in all creation. Yours is the voice of the lonely friend needing a kind word. Yours is the voice of unconditional acceptance we feel from our closest friends. Yours is the strong hand that comes to assist. Yours is the cry of those wracked by war and injury. Yours is the soothing arms that embrace us in our deepest sorrow and grief. Yours is the sound of unbounded joy and laughter. Hear our voices as your own. May we, too, be your voice in our world, in our communities, and in our homes. May we, too, be the voice of transformation from a world of suffering and violence to a world of justice and mercy. From a world filled borders and fences to a world of true community, true oneness. Change us, and make of us, changemakers.  
Amen.**

## WORD OF ASSURANCE

**Pastor:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## WE LISTEN

## READINGS

Marilyn Welland

Acts 9:1-6, 17-19

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around

*\*Stand as you are able*

him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul<sup>[b]</sup> and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

*The Peace of Wild Things* by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

SERMON

*Gratitude and Grace*

Reverend Leonore Cruise

**WE RESPOND**

HYMN\* BH 438

*When Peace Like a River*

VILLE DU HAVRE 1876

A TIME OF PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

*\*Stand as you are able*

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. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

Reverend Leonore Cruise

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Reverend Barry Cammer

WORDS OF INSTITUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

SOLO

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN\* BH 475

*God's Eye Is On the Sparrow*

SPARROW 1905

BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Barry Cammer

*\*Stand as you are able*

## **Orinda Community Church**

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA

(925) 254-4906

office@orindachurch.org

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

Reverend Barry Cammer, Adjunct Pastor

David Milnes, Director of Music

Anna Gregory, Office Administrator

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



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 Alta Mesa Center for the Arts  
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)  
Look under Arts and Alta Mesa Center for the Arts.**

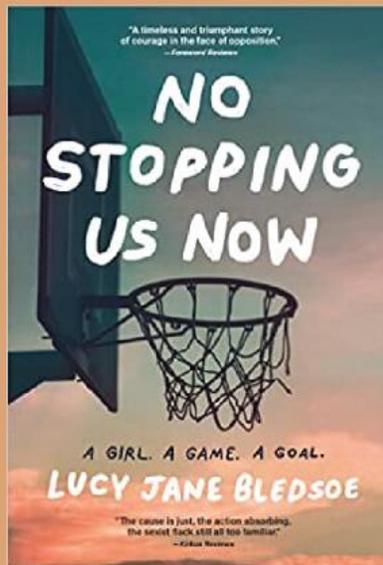
(see flyer on the next page)

## 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. \*\*\*please note, there will be no service on 5/4/22
- ✚ 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, May 5, at 2:00 pm.
- ✚ Life and Loss Group meets every Thursday in the Fireside Room at 12 noon. You are welcome to simply attend, or if you have questions, please email Reverend Barry Cammer at: **[barry@healthypathcounseling.org](mailto:barry@healthypathcounseling.org)**
- ✚ We also have a Choir as well as 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, May 3, 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)**

# LIFE AND LOSS



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

OCC's grief support group has been meeting for the last 9 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. 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).

# Ushers & Greeters



**A BIG Thank you to our ushers this week:  
Bill Carpenter, Carey Carpenter and Gwen McNeilus**



**Reverend Elizabeth Robinson  
will be out for some rest and  
relaxation  
May 1 – May 8**

Reverend Barry Cammer will be available for any pastoral needs. You can reach Barry by email at [barry@healthypathcounseling.org](mailto:barry@healthypathcounseling.org) or phone (925) 254-1348, and of course, you can always call the office (925) 254-4906 and Anna will make sure he gets your message.

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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>**



Check out our own Leslie Darwin O'Brien at:

Ristorante Amorama Presents  
Leslie Darwin O'Brien on vocals with Karen Weichert on piano  
Every Tuesday from 6:00 – 7:30 pm  
360 Park Street, Moraga, CA  
925-377-ROMA



And on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 8 pm  
you will find Leslie with Terry Miller and Mike Williams performing at the  
Canyon Club Brewery  
1558 Canyon Road, Moraga

