



Orinda Community Church

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, May 8, 2022, 10am

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Reflection: *We worshiped Jesus instead of following him on his same path.*

We made Jesus into a mere religion instead of a journey toward union with God and everything else. This shift made us into a religion of "belonging and believing" instead of a religion of transformation.

Richard Rohr

The person who must always be in control and autonomous will not be able to access healing and transformative process. If you cannot submit, you cannot die, and if you cannot die, you cannot get reborn.

Robert Moore, The Archetype of Initiation

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Barry Cammer

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Lani Shepp

One: Each one of us is on our own unique path.

Many: Yet we are also all on the same road. The same road with Saul.

One: And occasionally, on the road, God comes to us as a bright light, or as a gentle whisper ----- or a shout.

Many: We sometimes notice, but often we are too busy to notice, caught up in all the details of our lives.

**Stand as you are able*

One: We miss opportunities to notice, moments of awakening, invitations for transformation.

All: **So we gather in community today, in this place, where we can safely consider our own change, our own transformation. WE'RE READY!!**

TIME OF SILENCE AND CENTERING

HYMN* BH 474 *I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me* African American Spiritual

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Lani Shepp

O You who are the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, You who are Creator, Holy Spirit, and Incarnate One, we acknowledge that we are sometimes afraid of change. Living in the protection of our routines and habits makes us feel very safe in a world that too often feels like a black hole of suffering, greed, and power struggles. Remind us, Holy One, that your love is stronger than our fears, and that you are ready to hold our fears, to hold us, as we take a small step into the spiritual unknown of your vision for us. Be patient with us. Encourage us. Help us to feel safe, but not too safe. Nudge us, even when we say “no”. Remind us, time and again, that when we enter the great unknown, we will always find you there waiting for us.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

Reverend Barry Cammer

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

CELEBRATION OF MOTHER'S DAY

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

Mary Volmer

**Stand as you are able*

WE LISTEN

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Lani Shepp

John 9:1-22

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 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." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ^{and} here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul 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.

Saul Preaches in Damascus

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

**Stand as you are able*

SERMON

Transformation

Kurt Sunderbruch

WE RESPOND

HYMN BH 479

God is My Shepherd

BROTHER JAMES' AIR

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

**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 495

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Barry Cammer

**Stand as you are able*

Orinda Community Church

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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 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

Look under Arts and Alta Mesa Center for the Arts.

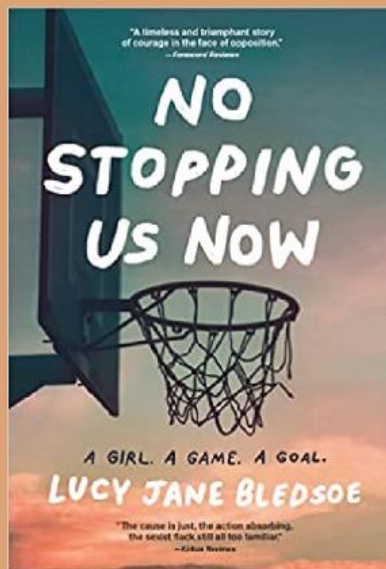
(see flyer on the next page)

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/6tFdHbWpDpTzMFm8>



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

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
- ✚ 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 call the office or email Reverend Barry Cammer at: **barry@healthypathcounseling.org**
- ✚ 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 12, at 2:00 pm.
- ✚ 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

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 17, 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 19, 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**

Ushers & Greeters



Thank you to our ushers this week:

Mike Kersten
Lin Lyons
Jill Oberheim
Marilyn Welland

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>



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.

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 20th, 6 – 8 pm
you will find Leslie with Terry Miller and Mike Williams performing at the
Canyon Club Brewery
1558 Canyon Road, Moraga



