

# Orinda Community Church

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday, September 18, 2022, 10 am Ordinary Time



### Reflection:

What if the trail is rough with jagged rock, high granite-stepped, erose?  
It still will lead beyond where meadow grass and lupine fields are close

What if the trail is hot, sun-beaten, deep with griming dust replete?  
Not far off is a spot where forest shade and singing stream will meet.

What if the trail is steep, no respite gives to weary flesh distressed?  
The upward way invites to leisured pace; up there, in time, the crest!

– The Rev. Fred Morrow, *Pastor of Orinda Community Church 1945-1951*

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Roger Samuelson

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Roger Samuelson

**One:** Strangers and sojourners in a strange land,  
God knows us each by name,

**All:** God welcomes us, and we know we are home;  
God calls us, and we know we have far to go.

**One:** We are called to be a family of faith,  
a community of spirit, a people of action.

**All:** We are called to sing songs of hope in a world haunted by fear.  
We are called to choose love in the face of hate and indifference.

**One:** We are gathered now to celebrate the presence of God in our lives.

**All:** Let us celebrate each other.  
Let us celebrate our call to uphold the kingdom of God.  
Let us celebrate the journey which is our home!

HYMN\* BH 492

*I Would Be True*

Joseph Y. Peek, 1911

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Roger Samuelson

**Living God, surrounded as we are by transcendent grace, let us catch a glimpse of it day by day, so that life, faith, and the future may be renewed. Thank you for people who somehow radiate that grace, sharing with us the depths of grief and joy, making the ordinary come alive with meaning, and marking the way ahead with signs of hope. Thank you for people whose affection, generosity, compassion and courage have helped us through difficult times, saved us from despair, and shown us unexpected possibilities. Thank you for every event – pleasant or painful – that has opened our eyes, lifted our spirits, brought us to our own truth, or given us a view to your presence that calls us into deeper relationship with one another and with you. Thank you, God, most sincerely, for all the blessings of our lives. Amen.**

*\*Stand as you are able*

## WORD OF ASSURANCE

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

**Many:** **And also with you.**

## MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

### WE LISTEN

## SOLO

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Jeremiah 29:4-7, 11-13*

Roger Samuelson

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

## SERMON

*Following a Spiritual Path*

Reverend Frank Baldwin

### WE RESPOND

## HYMN\* BH 524

*This Little Light of Mine/This Joy I Have*

African American Spiritual

## A TIME OF PRAYER

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

*\*Stand as you are able*

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\* **RH** 590

*Christ Loves the Church*

Jane Marshall 1986

BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Frank Baldwin

## Orinda Community Church

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Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior 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.

### Fall Writing Workshop

September 22nd and September 29th

6:00pm - 8:00pm (on zoom)

**Writing Young Characters Authentically  
With Dallas Woodburn**



How does one create teenage characters who feel honest and compelling to the reader? Whether writing fiction for teenagers or adults, it can be difficult to present teenage characters in an interesting and genuine way. This workshop will provide guidelines and examples, as well as writing prompts and exercises, to help writers create young characters authentically in fiction.

**\$150.00**

**Scholarships and Payment Plans Available.**

Register Here: (<http://www.maryvolmer.com/writing-young-characters-authentically--with-dallas-woodburn.html>)

## Weekly 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**.
- ✚ Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., we hold a brief **Contemplative Service** in the chapel, which includes readings, music, prayer time, and silence. This service also goes out electronically.
- ✚ **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 or email the office.
- ✚ 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, September 22, at 2:00 pm.

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 and Fellowship Hall; take a look!) Next meeting is Tuesday, September 20, 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, September 22, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.

# Ushers & Greeters



## THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS THIS WEEK:

Jan Rosefield, Jeane & Roger Samuelsen, John Thursby, and Joni Upshaw



## CHANCEL RINGERS

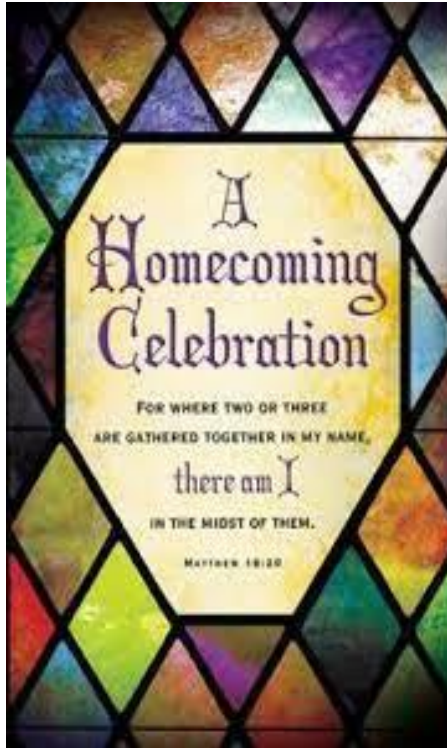


The handbell choir has resumed rehearsals on Tuesdays. If you have enjoyed listening to the bells and want the choir to continue, please consider joining. There are 3 open positions.

September is the perfect time to join! Being able to read music helps, but no handbell experience is necessary. All that is needed is a commitment to attend rehearsals, which are held every Tuesday evening from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, from September to Palm Sunday, with a break from mid-December to early January.

It is possible to play for a specific season only. This session is from September 13 thru October 30.

For more information and to join, please contact Director Nancy Thursby at [nlthursby@comcast.net](mailto:nlthursby@comcast.net)



Join us on Sunday,  
September 25<sup>th</sup>,  
after the church service for  
Homecoming! We will celebrate  
our life together with food and  
festivities right here at the  
church. Children most  
welcome! (Plans for a treasure  
hunt are afoot...)

Mark your calendars!

*And Another Save the Date!*



*Fall Festival and Auction Sunday, November 6, 2022*