

Orinda Community Church

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

Order of Worship
Sunday, December 4, 2022, 10 am
Second Sunday of Advent



The Embrace of Elizabeth and the Virgin Mary
St. George Church, Kurbinovo, North Macedonia, 1191

Reflection:

Knowledge is in the end based on acknowledgement.
— Ludwig Wittgenstein

Attention is an important resource.
— Bell Hooks

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Nik Nackley

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP*

From Psalm 72

Robert Steiner

One: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people and the lands.

All: **In righteousness, may the Holy One defend the cause of the poor people, give deliverance to the needy, and subdue all the oppressors.**

One: May our Guide live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

All: **May God-With-Us be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**

One: In the coming days, may righteousness flourish.

All: **And may we recognize and unite with our God so that peace abounds.**

HYMN* **RH** 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Thomas Helmore

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Robert Steiner

God of all times and all places, open your presence to us now. Uncurl our stiff fingers to reach out to you. Bring light to our eyes so that we see you. Warm our skin with your touch. But most of all, make our hearts a cup that hold you as you hold us. You are here, always. We need only to know what is already deepest in our hearts, most central to our souls. You are here, already born within us. We give thanks. Amen.

**Stand as you are able*

LIGHTING OF THE 2nd CANDLE OF ADVENT: LOVE

Katrina Staten

WORD OF ASSURANCE

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 1:39-45

Robert Steiner

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

SERMON

The Leap

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* **RH** 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Shozo Koyama

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 ANTHEM

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

SOLO

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN* **RH** 202

People, Look East

Martin Shaw

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA

925 254 4906

office@orindachurch.org

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

David Milnes, Director of Music

Anna Gregory, Office Administrator

*Welcome to Fellowship time in the
courtyard after the service!*



Please remember to dispose of waste responsibly:

Blue Recycling Container: bulletins

Green Compost Container: dirty cups, napkins, wood stirrers

Black Landfill Container: anything else

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 from 12:15 pm to 1:45 pm. 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. The next meeting is Thursday, December 8, 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, December 13, 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. We meet via Zoom. Next meeting is Thursday, December 15, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



Ushers & Greeters



Thank you to our Ushers this week!

Bill and Carey Carpenter, Mike Kersten, and Kathleen Wiegand

Can you help with rides for the evening Advent services? If so, please contact the office.

office@orindachurch.org

(925) 254-4906

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A POINSETTIA TO HONOR OR REMEMBER
SOMEONE YOU LOVE, THE FORM IS AT THE END OF THE BULLETIN!



Christmas is a Sunday!



We welcome you to a simple Christmas service at 10 am. Depending how many people come, we may snuggle up in our beautiful chapel to celebrate and spend time together. **Please let us know if you expect to be there** so we can plan accordingly. Tell Anna in the office by email office@orindachurch.org, phone (925) 254-4906, or just stop by!

It would very helpful to get a rough headcount to see if the Chapel can accommodate us. Thank you!



WE ARE EXCITED FOR A RICH ADVENT SEASON AT ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH!

Please join us for our **Advent Workshop** Today, December 4th, 4 pm - 7 pm.

We also hope you will join us for our **Advent Wednesday** evening services at 7:00 pm:

December 7: Reading of the Velveteen Rabbit

December 14: Sarah Elovich is offering a performance and meditation on **Channukah**

December 21: Our Solstice service with the labyrinth in Fellowship Hall

Each service will be accompanied by wonderful music by our remarkable musicians.

December 24: We welcome you to our 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service. We will be conducting this a little bit differently this year, not with the traditional children's pageant, but with all the usual magic.

December 25: Is a Sunday! We welcome you to a simple Christmas service at 10 am. Depending how many people come, we may snuggle up in our beautiful chapel to celebrate and spend time together. **Please let us know if you expect to be there** so we can plan accordingly. Tell Anna in the office by email office@orindachurch.org, phone (925) 254-4906, or just stop by!

IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO ANY OF THE EVENING SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AND WE WILL TRY TO ASSIST WITH CARPOOLING.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH RIDES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING 12/25, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW



SPONSORSHIP ORDER FORM Christmas 2022
Sponsor a Memorial/Honorary Poinsettia

Your name _____

Name(s) of memorial or honoree (**circle one**) _____

Number of flowers at \$18.00 each: _____

Check for \$_____ enclosed

Flowers can be picked up following the 5:00 pm service on Saturday, December 24.
Return form to church office or put in offering plate by December 14, 2022.

