

# Orinda Community Church

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

**Order of Worship**  
Sunday, January 8, 2023, 10 am



**Reflection:** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.”  
-- from Revelations 1:17

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE		David Milnes
BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR		The Acolytes
WELCOME		Kurt Sunderbruch
CALL TO WORSHIP*	<i>Adapted from Psalm 22</i>	Judy McCall

**One:** All who see me mock me; they sneer at me; they shake their heads.

**All:** **Fear not, sayeth the Lord.**

**One:** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

**All:** **Fear not, sayeth the Lord.**

**One:** I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

**All:** **You who honor the LORD, praise God! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify in awe of God, all you offspring of Israel! For God did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted. the Lord did not hide God's countenance from me but heard when I cried out to the Lord.**

HYMN\* BH 441

*Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me*

John E. Gould

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Judy McCall

**Heavenly protector, sometimes our lives feel overwhelming. We see constant and confusing change. There are threats to our lives and our world that we don't understand. We face setbacks in life. We fear for our families, our friends, ourselves. We call out to you from our lowly estate. We wait on your covenant. Be steadfast in our time of trial. Comfort us in our time of need. Our trust resides in you. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Reverend Leonore Cruise

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

**People:** And also with you.

**WE LISTEN**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Judy McCall

*Luke 1:28-30*

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

*Matthew 1:20-21*

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

*Luke 2:8-14*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."

SERMON

*Be Not Afraid*

Kurt Sunderbruch

*\*Stand as you are able*

## WE RESPOND

HYMN\* RH 440

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

Martin Luther c. 1529

A TIME OF PRAYER

Reverend Leonore Cruise

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. 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

Kurt Sunderbruch

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Reverend Leonore Cruise

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION SOLO

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*\*Stand as you are able*

HYMN\* RH 438

*When Peace, Like a River*

Horatio Spafford

BENEDICTION\*

Kurt Sunderbruch

*\*Stand as you are able*



## **Orinda Community Church**

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(925) 254-4906  
office@orindachurch.org

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.

**TODAY at 4 pm Alta Mesa Center for the Arts presents:**

A reading and discussion featuring  
**novelist, journalist, essayist**

**Susanne Pari**

author of

**IN THE TIME OF OUR HISTORY**

**with Jane Ciabattari**

Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 4:00pm (PST)

To Register for this free, online event, go to: <https://forms.gle/csDqE3vzRufywUA7>

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

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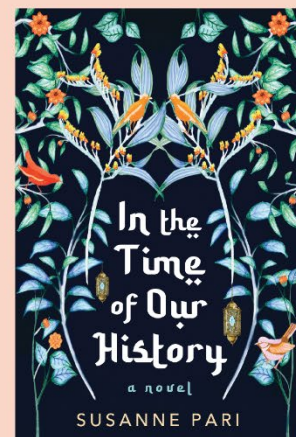
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Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, an interfaith arts hub, is housed and sponsored by Orinda Community Church.

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

## 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, January 12, 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 10, 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, January 12, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



# Ushers & Greeters



Thank you to our Ushers this week!

Jill Oberheim, Lani Shepp, Marilyn Welland & Betty Wu

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## And speaking of ushers. . .

**Ushers and Greeters Needed:** About 4 friendly volunteers are needed to join our usher teams for the 2023 calendar year. Youth are especially encouraged to volunteer.

2 additional greeters are also needed to focus on welcoming first-time visitors to our worship services. The commitment for both ushers and greeters is for just one Sunday a month. These service opportunities are a great way to meet and serve all who attend our worship services and to provide an extravagant welcome to people in the greater community. If you would like to volunteer or for more information, contact Mike Kersten, the usher coordinator, [mikejkersten@aol.com](mailto:mikejkersten@aol.com)

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**PLEASE STAY FOLLOWING SERVICES TODAY FOR A QUICK BUDGET MEETING**

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## **ANNUAL MEETING**

January 22, 2023 Immediately after services in the Sanctuary. We need you there.



We will again be hosting the Winter Nights Family Shelter in Fellowship Hall from **February 20 thru March 6**, and again from **May 1 thru May 15**.

Winter Nights creates a warm, dry, healthy place to stay — with hot, nutritious food and friendly helpers! This project requires volunteers and financial support from OCC members to make it all work. Will you help?

We are still accepting donations for this worthy program!

We will take volunteer sign-ups in early January.

Questions or want to get involved?  
Contact Lani Shepp at [lshepp@icloud.com](mailto:lshepp@icloud.com)