

Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 12, 2023, 10 am



Mosaic by Alma Thomas

Reflection:

True love does have the power to redeem but only if we are ready for redemption. Love saves us only if we want to be saved.

A generous heart is always open, always ready to receive our going and coming. In the midst of such love we need never fear abandonment. This is the most precious gift true love offers - the experience of knowing we always belong.

—Bell Hooks

WE GATHER

PRELUDE David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR The Acolytes

WELCOME Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT SOLO

CALL TO WORSHIP* Lani Shepp

One: Love is patient and kind.

All: Love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude.

One: Love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful.

All: Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with truth.

One: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

All: So now, faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

HYMN* BH 443 *How Like a Gentle Spirit* Alfred M. Smith

COMMUNITY PRAYER *by Dennis Yount, who died of AIDS in the early 1990's* Lani Shepp

**In the Name of Love, we have come.
In the Name of Love, we are here.
And, in the Name of Love we will go,
knowing in our Hearts and in our Souls
that what we have experienced is truly Divine. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE LISTEN

SOLO

SCRIPTURE READING

Lani Shepp

Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of God who is in heaven. For God makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your friends and family, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as the Holy One is perfect.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 8-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

SERMON

Love is Not a Cliché

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

HYMN* BH 449

Softly and Tenderly

Will J. Thompson

**Stand as you are able*

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF PRAYER

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

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 ANTHEM

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** 408

The Gift of Love

Hal Hopson

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

**Stand as you are able*

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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.

Second Sunday Reading Series

TODAY

Featuring:

a reading and discussion with
Palestinian American poets

Issam Zineh and Carolina Ebeid



February 12, 2023 at 4:00pm (Pacific)

To Register for this free online event, check your eblast **or** go to our website orindacommunitychurch.org and look under “Arts” and “Alta Mesa Center for the Arts” **or** go directly to: <https://www.maryvolmer.com/alta-mesa-center-for-the-arts.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 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, February 16, 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, February 21, 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, February 23, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



Ushers & Greeters Ministry

Thank you to this week's ushers:
Jill Oberheim, Lani Shepp, Marilyn Welland, and Betty Wu

Please join us after services today in Fellowship Hall
for the 2nd Hour

Kurt Sunderbruch Spiritual Journey





Confirmation?
God?
The Bible?
Justice?

COME JOIN US FOR SPRING RETREAT

There will be games, food, and teachings on what the heck all *this* is about.

- 📅 March 18th - 19th
- 🕒 11am Sat - 2pm Sun
- 📍 Orinda Community Church
- ✚ An event for Bay Area UCC Youth Students from 8th grade to 12th grade




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!

Questions? Want to know how you can help?
Contact Lani Shepp at lshepp@icloud.com

TURKEY & SYRIA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE



Boston Globe

If you would like to help with the Earthquake Response in Turkey and Syria, you can be certain that with your financial support through the United Church of Christ will go the right folks who will be there helping those in need.

There are 3 easy ways to do this:

1. You can go to ucc.org and click the “DONATE NOW” button on the top which will take you to the earthquake relief page – OR --
2. You may text UCCDISASTER to 41444 – OR --
3. Check your eblast for a link – OR --
4. You can mail a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194**. Please be sure to note “Turkey and Syria” on your check in the memo section.

All donations will be deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for “Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response”. Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery.

