

Orinda Community Church
Order of Worship
Sunday, March 5, 2023, 10:00 a.m.



Reflection:

To put it simply: the Holy Spirit bothers us. Because the Holy Spirit moves us, makes us walk, pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: 'Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!' ... But don't bother us. We want the Holy Spirit to doze off ... we want to domesticate the Holy Spirit. And that's no good. Because the Holy Spirit is God, is that wind which comes and goes and you don't know where. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us consolation and strength to move forward. —Pope Francis

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT SOLO

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Mary Volmer

One: We lift up our eyes to the hills—where does our help come from?

All: My help comes from God, the Maker of heaven and earth.

One: God will not let your foot slip—the Holy One who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, God who watches over us will neither slumber nor sleep.

All: The Loving One watches over us—God is our shade at our right hand; the sun will not harm us by day, nor the moon by night.

One: God keeps us from all harm and watches over our lives;

All: God will watch over our coming and going both now and forevermore.

HYMN* RH 420

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

William H. Doane

**Stand as you are able*

LIFE LONG LEARNING & SPIRITUAL FORMATION SECOND-HOUR SERIES COMING SOON!

Sunday, March 12: Lucina Lopez

Coming in April!

Interfaith Power & Light Faith Climate Action Week April 14—23, 2023
Theme: Living the Golden Rule: Just Transition to a Clean Energy Economy

From the Interfaith Power and Light Guide:

We have the “responsibility as people of faith and conscience to transition to energy sources that safeguard our common home and look at ways to respond to this challenge with just solutions for all.”

“We all want to live in a community of mutual respect, where everyone abides by the Golden Rule: treating others the way we want to be treated. We all want to have meaningful work that sustains our families and communities and to live in a clean and healthy environment.

We are already transitioning away from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy, and as people of faith and conscience we can ensure the transition is made with justice. We can have both a healthy economy and a clean environment, and the process for achieving this vision can be fair and not cost workers or community residents their health, environment, jobs, or economic assets. Working for a just transition is a faithful response to the call to care for our neighbor and the interconnected community of all life.”





Thank you to this week's ushers:

Carey Carpenter, Mike Kersten, Anna Maclean,
& Kathleen Wiegand



We are hosting the Winter Nights Family Shelter in Fellowship Hall **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!

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Mary Volmer

Holy Guide, our Compass and Map, help us find our way. We are prone to mistaking the signs you send us. We say, “Show us the way home,” and then want to stay where we are. Or we are surprised when we don’t reach our destination in a day. Let our prayer hold the contradiction of movement and stillness. We journey toward you. You are always with us. And so we offer gratitude for the haven of your love. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mary Volmer

Genesis 12:1-4

Now God said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as God had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he began this journey.

SCRIPTURE READINGS *(continued)*

Mary Volmer

Matthew 17:1-8

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

SERMON

The Long Transfiguration

Elizabeth Robinson

SAVE THE DATE!
WOMEN OF SPIRIT!



On St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th
11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall at Orinda Community Church for a warm, nourishing gathering, or virtually (Zoom).

More details to come.

Women of Spirit is a group of inclusive, curious women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with other women of diverse faith traditions. We are not affiliated with any religious institution, and are open to ALL.

For more info, visit

<https://www.womenofspiritlamorinda.org>
or <https://www.facebook.com/womenofspiritlamorinda>



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.

The Alta Mesa Center for the Arts presents:

A reading featuring acclaimed author **Allison Landa**
with **Julia Scheeres**

March 12, 2023 at 4:00pm (pst)

Register for this free, online event here:
<https://forms.gle/VSm8nCcnfJc62NKt5>



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

WE RESPOND

HYMN* **RH** 386

Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

Charles Wesley

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 ANTHEM

**Stand as you are able*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION SOLO

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN* RH 451

Be Thou My Vision

Carlton R. Young

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

In addition to 10 am Sunday worship, we offer these weekly:

- ❖ 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, March 9, at 2:00 pm.

And these very 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, March 7, 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, March 9, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.