

Orinda Community Church
Order of Worship
Sunday, September 3, 2023, 10:00 a.m.



Reflection:

The silence is all there is. It is the alpha and the omega, it is God's brooding over the face of the waters; it is the blinding note of the ten thousand things, the whine of wings. You take a step in the right direction to pray to this silence, and even to address the prayer to "World." Distinctions blur. Quit your tents. Pray without ceasing. —Annie Dillard

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Nik Nackley

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP* *a collage of quotes from Annie Dillard* Marilyn Welland

One: We wake, if ever at all, to mystery.

All: There are no events but thoughts and the heart's hard turning, the heart's slow learning where to love and whom.

One: Anything we do not give freely and abundantly becomes lost to us.

All: We are here to witness the creation and to abet it.

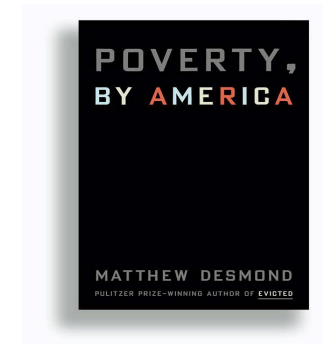
One: We live in all we seek.

All: Let us wake to the mystery. Let us become consummate seekers.

**Stand as you are able*

2nd Hour September 10

Life Long Learning is holding a **2nd Hour Presentation** on September 10, about the book *Poverty, by America* by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Matthew Desmond. We encourage you to begin reading now so that you can be part of the discussion when we meet!



HOME COMING

GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD FOOD & LOTS OF FUN!

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 17, AFTER CHURCH



A Thank you from Mercy & Justice Ministry

Hope Solutions Back Drive was a huge success. See below from Sandibel Arnold at Hope Solutions:

“I am happy to let you know that we reached our goal of collecting/packing 629 backpacks for the children in our programs. All backpacks have made their way to the children in our programs to prepare them for a successful school year.”

“I am also happy to let you know that we received monetary donations from people at your church in support of our backpack drive. Thank you so much for spreading the word about our backpack drive and for all of your continuous support.”

And Good News! Some Safeways are taking more plastic than just bags plastic product wrap and plastic shipping supplies. This sign is from the Safeway in Alamo:



Check out your grocery store!

HYMN* BH 282

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

African American Spiritual

COMMUNITY PRAYER *adapted from Annie Dillard's writing* Marilyn Welland

Oh Holy and Loving One, we are sorry we ran from you. And we are still running, running from that knowledge, that eye, that love from which there is no refuge. For you meant only love, and love, and we felt only fear, and pain. So once in Israel love came to us incarnate, stood in the doorway between two worlds. Let that love shine and brighten our darkness. For we cannot cause light, but we can put ourselves in the path of its beam. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

**Stand as you are able*

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Marilyn Welland

1 Chronicles 16:11

Look to God and God's strength; seek God's face always.

Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God for you.

James 5:13

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

SERMON

Prayer

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson



Thank you to this week's ushers:

**Carey Carpenter
Michael Kersten
Anna MacLean
Kathleen Wiegand**



Electric Vehicle Celebration Show October 15

The Orinda Community Church first ever **Electric Vehicle Show!** This will be a fun activity to celebrate how church folks are going electric!

Do you own an electric vehicle - A car? A bike? A golf cart?

Contact Nancy Thursby to have your vehicle in the show:
nlthursby@comcast.net



Our hearts are with our sisters and brothers in Maui.

If you would like to make a donation to support those who were impacted by the devastating fires in Hawaii, you can give through the United Church of Christ by going to:

<https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>



We are seeing new scam contact attempts. DO NOT reply to emails that seem to be from Elizabeth asking you for money or gift cards. Elizabeth is NOT asking anyone for any kind of help with gift cards or money. Elizabeth's true email is elizabeth.orindachurch@gmail.com PLEASE DON'T GET SCAMMED!

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 283

Spirit of the Living God

Daniel Iverson

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

**Stand as you are able*

OFFERTORY SOLO

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION SOLO

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN* BH 472 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Thomas A. Dorsey

BENEDICTION* Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE Nik Nackley

Upcoming Events!

Please join us for these upcoming activities at the church:

- ❖ **September 10**, after services at 11:30 a.m., **Second Hour:**
A **discussion of *Poverty, by America*** by Matthew Desmond. We hope this conversation will initiate an ongoing examination of poverty and how we can become, as Desmond says, “poverty abolitionists.” You don’t need to have read the book to join us.
- ❖ **September 10**, 4:00 p.m. via Zoom: **Karen Llagas and Leticia del Toro will be our next Alta Mesa Center for the Arts readers**, sharing from their creative work.
- ❖ **September 17, HOMECOMING**
- ❖ **September 24**, after services at 11:30 a.m., **Second Hour:**
We are honored to have **Bill Abriel** share his **spiritual journey**.
- ❖ **October 15**, after church: **Electric Vehicle Show**. We will have a casual walkaround so that those who have electric cars and bikes can share them and talk about the benefits of non-polluting transport. If you have any kind of electric vehicle you would like to show off during this event please sign up with Nancy Thursby: nlthursby@comcast.net
- ❖ **October 22**, after services at 11:30 a.m., **Second Hour: Roger Samuelson will lead a conversation about Common Hope**, an organization with which we have a long-time partnership. Each year, we bring together the funds to build a house, yes, a whole house! This Sunday will kick off our fundraising for this year’s house.

**Stand as you are able*



The church office will be closed Monday, September 4.

Centering Prayer is canceled, Monday, September 4.

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UPS

**The ushers have the Coffee Hour sign-up sheet.
We are looking for volunteers for next week,
September 10 and most of October.**



**If you're able to take on this greatly appreciated service for
one Sunday, please sign up today!**

Orinda Community Church

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office@orindachurch.org

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**. (Please note, Centering Prayer is canceled this week due to the holiday.)
 - ✚ 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, September 7, at 2:00 pm.
- And these, every other week:**
- ✚ 2 Tuesdays a month, the **Writers Group** shares and discusses their writings via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 5.
 - ✚ Two Thursdays a month, starting at 3:45 p.m., the **Reading Group** meets via Zoom. The room opens 15 minutes early for welcome and chatting. Please note a time/day change for our next meeting: Tuesday, September 12, at 10:00 a.m.

Alta Mesa Center for the Arts



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.

AMCA presents a reading featuring poets Karen Llagas & Leticia Del Toro, Sept 10, 2023 at 4:00 pm on ZOOM



Leticia Del Toro is a Mexican-American poet and fiction writer from Crockett, California. Her travels to Mexico, Spain and France, also inform her work. *All We Are Told Not to Touch*, is her debut poetry release from Finishing Line Press. Her writings have appeared in *Huizache*, *Zyzyva*, *About Place Journal* and more. Kore Press published her novella, *Café Colima* in 2018. Additional honors include residencies to Hedgebrook, Bread Loaf and Storyknife.

Leticia has also thrived in the writing communities of VONA and Macondo. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley and UC Davis. She was recently awarded a Jack Hazard Fellowship from the New Literary Project for high school teachers who are creative writers. Leticia is currently working on a novel called, *Return to Azucena*.



Karen Llagas's new chapbook, *All Of Us Are Cleaved*, is now out from Nomadic Press! Her first collection of poetry, *Archipelago Dust*, was published by Meritage Press in 2010. A recipient of the 2022 RHINO Founder's Prize, Filamore Tabios, Sr. Memorial Poetry Prize, an Elizabeth George Award and a Hedgebrook residency, her poems, translations, prose and reviews have also appeared in various journals and anthologies.

Born and raised in the Philippines, she has an MFA in Writing from Warren Wilson College and a BA from Ateneo de Manila. Karen lectures at UC Berkeley and works as a freelance translator & cultural consultant. She divides her time between San Francisco and Los Angeles with her husband and their two dogs, Boccia & Oso.

Check your eblasts to **REGISTER FOR THIS FREE, ONLINE EVENT**, or go to: <https://forms.gle/Ake74AnQhq5aCjYp>