

Orinda Community Church  
Order of Worship  
Sunday, November 26, 2023, 10:00 a.m.



*Painting by John Reynolds*

**Reflection:** What we were not taught, for the most part, is to anticipate that we will feel grateful. The **gift-thanks** model leaves us keeping score and can lead us to focus on what is not happening.

The **thanks-gift** model is fueled by optimism, faith and a belief in abundance. When we anticipate that good things will happen and celebrate that notion, we move in joy and we help to generate the positive outcomes we crave. By delivering our thanks before the miracle, as author Ann Voskamp reminds us, we remember the good thing that hasn't even happened yet.

—Jennifer Einolf

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT SOLO

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*from Psalm 95*

Mike Kersten

**One:** O come, let us sing to our Loving One; let us make a joyful noise!

**All:** Let us come into the holy presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

**One:** In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are there also.

**All:** The sea is God's who made it, and the dry land, which divine hands have formed.

**One:** O come, let us give thanks in wonder and reverence!

**All:** For this is our God, and we are the people of the most lush pasture, and the sheep of the Loving One's Hand. Amen.

*\*Stand as you are able*



Frog Hollow Community Supported Agriculture

Bringing exceptionally flavorful, regenerative, organic fruit to the Orinda Community!

Orinda Community Church is hosting Frog Hollow Farm Community Supported Agriculture by offering them a drop-off/pick up spot for their produce.

Every Tuesday, Frog Hollow drops off boxes of fruit and folks that have signed up for weekly or bi-weekly boxes pick them up.

It's east to sign up, go to [www.froghollow.com](http://www.froghollow.com) and choose Orinda as your pick-up location. The boxes are deposited on the parking lot side of Fellowship Hall for pickup.



Questions? You can ask Anna in the office, or go to their website [www.froghollow.com](http://www.froghollow.com) or email them at [csa@froghollow.com](mailto:csa@froghollow.com)



Elementary aged kids are welcome to join us in the Agape Center each week for some learning and fun! Kids start in the Sanctuary for Sunday service and then are excused part way through, to go to Sunday School.

For any questions about Sunday School or if you want to volunteer, please contact Amy Parlett at [saparlett@comcast.net](mailto:saparlett@comcast.net)

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The Joan Moderes Memorial  
will be held in the Chapel  
on Saturday, December 9, at 11 am.



HYMN\* BH 277

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Reginald Heber

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Mike Kersten

**Loving God,  
We gratefully acknowledge Your Face. When we step onto a path  
of your blessing, we prepare ourselves for wonder. Holy One,  
your spirit lives and endures. You return our souls to us with  
compassion; How great is your faith in us!  
With gratitude we say, Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

**WE LISTEN**

ANTHEM

*\*Stand as you are able*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mike Kersten

*Ephesians 1: 16-18a*

I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that God may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know the Holy One more deeply, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which you will be called.

*Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-23*

For thus says our GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of our sacred land, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains.

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

## LUKAS VESELY PRESENTS SONGS OF GRATITUDE

*Lukas Vesely - piano and bass*  
*Jonathan Bautista - sax*  
*Joe De Rose - drums*

*January 14, 2024*  
*1 pm*

*Orinda Community Church*  
*Sanctuary*  
*10 Irwin Way*  
*Orinda, CA 94563*

## Advent will be here before you know it!



Save the dates!

**Advent Workshop - Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 pm.**

**Advent Wednesday night special events all at 7 pm:**

**December 6: A joint service of Taize Music with The Good Table**

**December 13: Annual reading of *The Velveteen Rabbit***

**December 20: Solstice service and labyrinth walk**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS *(continued)*

Therefore, thus says the Holy One to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, trustworthy, who shall feed them: who shall feed them and be their shepherd.

SERMON     *Gratitude as Preparation*     Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

## WE RESPOND

HYMN\* RH 131

*We Gather Together*

Edward Kremser

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.  
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 SOLO

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!**

**Local Boy Scouts of America Troop 402G is the biggest  
all-girl Scout troop in the nation!**

**They will be selling Christmas wreaths again this year,  
right here at Orinda Community Church  
after Sunday services TODAY & December 3.**



**Troop 402**

## The Case of the Missing Tablecloths. . .



**About half of our blue tablecloths are missing from Fellowship Hall, and they have been gone for a few months.**

**If you took them home to wash them, thank you,  
but please don't forget to return them!**

HYMN\* BH 459

*Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

Robert Robinson

BENEDICTION\*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

David Milnes

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## STEWARDSHIP TIME



You may have received your pledge card in the mail.

In case you have not received yours yet,  
you will find extra pledge cards in the pews.

Because of **YOU** our church changes lives.

Please send in your pledge card now!

*\*Stand as you are able*

## Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563

(925) 254-4906

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.
- ✚ 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, the bible, and other topics. The next meeting is Thursday, November 30.

**And these, every other week:**

- ✚ Two Tuesdays a month, the Writers Group shares and discusses their writings via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 28.
- ✚ 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. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 30.

**Today's Coffee Hour is brought to you by**

**Bill & Vangie Abriel**

**The ushers have the Coffee Hour sign-up sheet.  
We are looking for volunteers!**



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

**We need volunteers for December!**



**Thank you to this week's ushers:**

**Phil Bernard, Leslie Dickson,  
Gail Mead & John Skidgel**