

Orinda Community Church
Order of Worship
Sunday, December 3, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent: Hope



Painting by Georgia O'Keefe

Reflection:

Not being afraid
Of what I don't know
I unanxiously await the emergence.

—*Nikki Giovanni, from "Space"*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Kathi Kling

One: We come from a world of darkness

All: Into Christ's world of light.

One: We come from a world of weariness

All: Into God's strength and hope.

One: We come from a slumbering world.

All: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Living Hope.

**Stand as you are able*

Walnut Creek UMC

Sanctuary & Handbell Choirs

Present



“Have Yourself A

MARY

Little
Christmas”

December 16, 2023 @ 7pm

Featuring our own Nancy Thursby, Kathi Kling, Kathleen Wiegand & Sharon Kurk.

Walnut Creek United Methodist Church
1543 Sunnyvale Ave
Walnut Creek, CA



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

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



HYMN* BH 116 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Translated by JM Neale

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Kathi Kling

God, you bless us with *your* hope—hope that we can be faithful to your love, hope that we can use your energy to create peace and justice. You hope that we can become joyful and whole, and your hope becomes faith and then confidence and then fulfillment in us! Thank you for restoring us to you. You arrive like a cup of fresh water to a tired, thirsty traveler. We pray in thanks. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE 1st ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Robin Holmes

**Stand as you are able*

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Kathi Kling

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Jurgen Moltmann, from *Theology of Hope*

Faith, whenever it develops into hope, causes not rest but unrest, not patience but impatience [...] . . . those who hope in Christ can no longer put up with reality as it is, but begin to suffer under it, to contradict it.

1 Peter 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

SERMON

Living Hope

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 46

Hope of the World

Georgia Harkness

**Stand as your are able*

SAVE THE DATE JANUARY 14, 2024

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 IS HERE!



**Advent Workshop – TODAY Sunday, December 3rd,
at 4 pm in Fellowship Hall.**

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

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

SOLO

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN* BH 102

O How Shall I Receive You

Paul Gerhardt

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

David Milnes

**Stand as you are able*

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO GET YOUR WREATH!



**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

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 with the ushers.

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

Please send in your pledge card now!

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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, December 7.

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, December 12.
- ✚ 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, December 14.

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!



Thank you to this week's ushers:

**Carey Carpenter, Anna MacLean,
Kurt Sunderbruch and Kathleen Wiegand**