



Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

ORDER OF WORSHIP Sunday, July 31, 2022, 10 am

Reflection: Here's another little gem from Marcus Borg that, I will leave you with. Believing in God is one thing, loving God is something completely different. Marcus Borg reminds us that, before the year 1600 the verb "to believe" had a different meaning than it does today. Before 1600 the verb "to believe" did not mean to believe something to be true. Back then object of the verb was not an idea, statement or a theory, but always a person. To say that we believed someone meant that we trusted them, felt loyal to them and loved them. Borg says, "Most simply, to believe meant to "belove." These days believing is all about buying into certain ideas, statements or theories. If someone's ideas, statements of theories differ from ours, the love gets lost. — Reverend Dawn Hutchings

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT AND RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP*

from Hosea 2

Kathi Kling

One: "There will be a day," declares God, "you will call me 'my spouse, my partner'; you will no longer call me 'master.'"

All: **In that day God will make a covenant with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky, and the creatures that move along the ground.**

One: God will abolish bow and sword and battle from the land, so that all may lie down in safety.

* *Stand as you are able*

All: God says, “I will betroth you to me forever.”

One: We will be betrothed in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.

All: We will be joined with God in faithfulness, and we will acknowledge God for all that God is.

TIME OF SILENCE AND CENTERING

HYMN* BH 510

Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You

Quem Pastores, 14th c.

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Kathi Kling

God, you are sometimes incomprehensible to us. Why so much difficulty? Why is the world so full of turmoil? We feel as though we are in a knot that tightens as we struggle to untie ourselves. We are so unsure about your plans and directions that we think you are punishing us. Help us to see that you are reaching out. Faith is sometimes clumsy. Help us to believe in you, and to trust that all love is your love. Amen.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

WE LISTEN

SOLO

* *Stand as you are able*

SCRIPTURE READING

Hosea 1

Kathi Kling

The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, king of Israel. When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.” So he went and took Gomer, and she conceived and bore him a son.

And the Lord said to Hosea “Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the Lord said to him, “Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”

When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. And the Lord said, “Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”

Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.” And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

SERMON

Does God Get Discouraged?

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

WE RESPOND

HYMN* BH 501

We are Dancing Sarah's Circle

Jacob's Ladder

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 AND INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

DOXOLOGY* BH 785

We Give You But Your Own

Cantica Laudis

**We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

HYMN* BH 616

I Want to Be Ready

Spiritual

BENEDICTION*

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE

* *Stand as you are able*

Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA

(925) 254-4906

office@orindachurch.org

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.

Next up at The Alta Mesa Center for the Arts

A reading and discussion of:

THE ENCOUNTER: A HANDBOOK OF POETIC PRACTICE

with contributors:

Rae Armantrout, Paul Hoover, and Elizabeth Robinson

August 14th, at 4:00pm (Pacific)

To register, go to **orindacommunitychurch.org**
under Arts, look under Alta Mesa Center for the Arts.

(Flyer on next page)

Alta Mesa Center for the Arts presents:

**A Reading and discussion of:
THE ENCOUNTER: A HANDBOOK OF POETIC PRACTICE**

with contributors: Rae Armantrout,
Paul Hoover, and Elizabeth Robinson

August 14th at 4:00pm (pacific)

Register for this free, online event here:
<https://forms.gle/TWaYgs5x1QoYv3bu6>



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



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 at 12 noon. 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. Our next meeting is Thursday, July 28, 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; take a look!) Next meeting is Tuesday, August 9, 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, starting with Gilead. We meet via Zoom. Next meeting is Thursday, August 12, at 4 pm. The room will open at 3:45 pm for welcome and chatting.



AUGUST ADVENTURES

For all four Sundays in August, OCC invites your children (ages 5-12) to join us for **AUGUST ADVENTURES**.

This isn't Sunday school or summer camp but more like an organized play date for children in our community.

Each Sunday in August we will gather together from 11:30 to 2 pm at OCC for a meal, playtime around themes of nature, gardening, pets, and serving our diverse community. We will also offer craft time, story time, prayer and role-playing Jesus' parables. Adults from our church have volunteered to help, and parents are more than welcome to visit and/or join in an activity.

Children are welcome to come each of the four Sundays or just come on the Sundays when they are free.

If you have questions, please call me at (916) 342-4821 or text me and I will call you.

Thanks to Pastor Elizabeth Robinson and Moderator Anne Barr for making this month of children's ministry a reality.

With love and excitement,
Elisabeth Kersten

Ushers & Greeters



THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS THIS WEEK:

Joyce Crawford, Karen Sanford,
Robin Spencer, and Karl Schonborn

LAST CHANCE TODAY TO GO CHECK OUT
KAREN SANFORD'S AMAZING ARTISTRY!

MAINSTREETARTS

From Clay to Table

Pat Alger
Donna Arganbright
Mary Ellen Brownell
Kate Chenok
Nicole Collins
Kathleen Jensen
Olga Jusidman
Mary Leigh Miller
Karen Sanford



Main Street Arts Gallery
613 Main Street • Martinez • 925-269-8049
<<http://www.mainstreetarts.net>>

One more time ...

For the fourth year in a row, our gallery has the privilege to present the always successful ceramics show. This time we have the works of nine Bay Area artists showing their best strictly functional pieces ...

From Clay to Table

• **Opening Day**
Saturday, June 25

Join us for a reception from 4 to 7 pm
to celebrate together ... life after COVID

• **Show Continues**
through Sunday, July 31

• **Gallery Hours:**
Wednesday through Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm
Sunday, 10 am - 2 pm

And our own Leslie Darwin O'Brien is back at Ristorante Amoroma on Tuesday Nights:

The poster is yellow with blue circular accents in the corners. It features two musical notes in the top left and bottom left, and a blue circle with two musical notes in the top right. A dark blue rectangular box is positioned on the left side. The text is arranged as follows:

Ristorante Amoroma
Presents
37¢

Tuesdays from 6-7:30
on the patio

360 Park Street, Moraga, CA
925-377-ROMA

Leslie Darwin O'Brien
Vocals

Karen Weichert
Piano