



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



The Shape He Makes, by Jan Richardson

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021

OUR PURPOSE

Love God • Love Each Other • Be God's Love in the World

At Danville Congregational Church we welcome you to a progressive spiritual community that is open and affirming, celebrates differences, and encourages alternate views. We explore the Bible with curiosity and enthusiasm, taking it seriously but not literally. Taking Christ's call passionately to love our neighbor, we extend our faith into action for the betterment of all. Wherever you are on life's journey, we offer you a place of peace and hope.

Danville Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming church, welcoming all of God's people – of diverse race, gender, sexual orientation, family status, economic condition, and physical, mental and emotional ability.

A NOTE TO WORSHIPERS

Wearing a mask is mandatory. Please sit in designated pews as directed by the ushers and move to the center of the row, so those who come in after you can more easily be seated. The left-hand section of pews as you enter the sanctuary has been designated for those who are free of scents and perfumes. **Please refer to the list of in-person guidelines on the inside back page.**

Please silence your cell phone when you enter the sanctuary.

If you would like to use one of our listening assistance devices, please see the sound technician in the back of the sanctuary.

Following worship, **please wait for an usher to dismiss your row before you depart the sanctuary.** All are welcome to join us on the patio for a time of coffee, conversation, and community.

First time visitor? Welcome to Danville Congregational Church! We are glad you are here with us today. If you are interested in getting additional information about Danville Congregational Church, after the worship service, in the narthex, you will find someone holding a **red bag**. In the bag you will find helpful information about the church. We look forward to meeting you!

***The DCC sanctuary is available for meditation and quiet prayer
during the week during normal business hours.***

Please feel free to come by any time — enter through the office.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

*All the Way, He Leadeth Me
Lord I Want to be a Christian*

arr. Michael Wilson
arr. Gregg Sewell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Eric Sherlock &
Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

*To offer a joy or concern, please fill out a Prayer Card, which will be collected during Prayer Time.
If you are joining us online, type your prayer request using the chat feature.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Luci Beaver

**All are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

One: Jesus asks the disciples:

All: “Who do people say I am?”

One: They answer,

“Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah;
and others say one of the prophets.”
But Jesus presses them:

All: “Who do you say I am?”

One: Peter answers,

“You are Christ—God’s anointed one, God-with-us!”
Now Jesus pushes us: “What about you?
Here, in this moment, in this community,

All: Who do you say I am?”

One: Where do we find the wisdom to answer?

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Paloma Jackson Kimball

Holy Wisdom of God

You call to us from the depths of our hearts,
where we long for connection with you and with one another.
You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods,
Where human pain and possibility are most urgent.
You call to us from our sacred stories,
where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort.
Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and
help us see with your eyes
the ways which lead to beloved community
where Christ Jesus is at the center.

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you

One: Let us greet one another with waves and smiles
from where we are located.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Pastor: Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

People: For by one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Pastor: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "yet you have come to me!"

People: Jesus said, "Let it be so for now, for in this way, we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.

Pastor: As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

**People: Then a voice said from heaven,
"This is my dear Son, with whom I am well pleased."**

Pastor: At another time Jesus said: go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given part in Christ's ministry. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible grace: the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the death of self and the rising to a life of service, discipleship, and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on those whom God has chosen as children of God. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

All: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, chosen as God's people, and made one in Christ.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE(S)

Pastor: Anne, Katie, Luci:
Do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce evil and injustice and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus as the center of your faith?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith, and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care, to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

People: I promise my love, support, and care.

PRAYER AND THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Pastor: Holy One, may your Spirit pour out into these waters.
By your Spirit, may we be cleansed of our sin and be your sanctified people. Create a new life in Anne, Katie, and Luci, baptized this day, may they each one rise in Christ.
Glory to you O God, the One who was, and is, and always shall be.
Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

Pastor: I baptize you in the name of the Father,
And the Son,
And the Holy Spirit,
One God, Mother of us all.
May God's blessing be with you now and forevermore Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all people, for the ones baptized today, and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend these new members of the Body of Christ. Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Mark 8:27-38](#)

Katie Beaver

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

SERMON

Take Up That Cross

Pastor Eric

*"Take up your cross," the Savior said,
"if you would my disciple be;
forsake the past, and come this day,
and humbly follow after me."*

*Take up your cross; let not its weight pervade
the soul with vain alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
sustain your heart, and nerve your arm.*

*Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let your foolish heart rebel;
for you the Lord endured the cross
to save your soul from death and hell.*

*Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear a golden crown.*

RITE OF CONFIRMATION AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION

This is indeed a joyful day in the life of our church, where we welcome into the full life of the church three confirmation students and four new members. It has been a special joy to accompany these folks to this point in their journey and look forward to their full participation and membership in this community of faith.

We would like to invite the candidates for confirmation to come forward, along with their confirmation mentors

Luci Beaver

Katie Beaver

Paloma Jackson-Kimball

We would also like to invite our new member candidates to come forward:

Anne Bremer and Antonio Moran

Chris and Stephanie Taddeo

INVITATION

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. Our confirmation students and candidates for membership have found nurture and support amid this family of Christ. They have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their Baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of this church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Pastor: Respecting divine mystery beyond our human knowing,
revealed but not contained in the stories of our faith,
will you strive to walk humbly with God?

Candidates: I will.

Pastor: Celebrating the fullness of Jesus' witness
flowing from the baptismal waters at the river Jordan
and the stories of bread broken and shared,
do you confess the God made known in the one we call Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Believing Jesus about God and trusting his example,
will you accept the cost and joy of following him;
welcoming the unwelcome-able, speaking the unspeakable,
touching the untouchable, and suffering the insufferable?

Candidates: I will.

Pastor: Honoring the Spirit revealed in the paradoxical,
will you live the questions of our faith,
open to the continuing revelation of our still-speaking God?

Candidates: I will.

Pastor: Discerning strength in vulnerability,
do you acknowledge your interdependence
and mutual accountability with all of creation?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Claiming God's grace abundant in our common life,
will you covenant together to cherish inquiry,
embrace diversity, and honor vulnerability?

Candidates: I will.

Pastor: As a member of this faith community,
do you covenant to participate in the life
and mission of this family of God's people,

Candidates: I do.

ACT OF BLESSING

We rejoice, O merciful God, with these young people who, of their own accord, have made their declarations of faith.

We rejoice, O loving God, with these new friends who have chosen to join this community of faith.

And we rejoice, O compassionate God, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life.

We give you thanks that each of them has been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves.

Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing always toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor: Let us, the members and friends of Danville Congregational Church, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ by reading our church's covenant:

All: We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the holy scriptures, and to walk in the ways of God, made known or to be made known to us.

We hold it to be the mission of the church to proclaim the gospel to all humankind, to exalt the worship of the one God and labor to advance knowledge, promote justice, further the reign of peace, and realize our common humanity, depending, like the faithful before us on the continuing guidance of our Creator to lead us all into truth. We work and pray for the transformation of the world into the kingdom of God.

We promise to sustain and cherish our spiritual home, to take part in its worship, seek its increase, and share its work in faith, hope and love.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in peace, serve God and walk in the way of Jesus.

Confirmation Students, Mentors, and New Members may return to their seats

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

All: Hear our prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Loving God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

TIME OF GIVING

Bette Felton

Invitation to Giving

For those of you who have already made a gift by check or automated giving, we are grateful. If you would like to make a gift today, please leave it in the basket in the back of the sanctuary as you leave or [give using our web site](#).

*Doxology **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Offertory Prayer

*CLOSING HYMN

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

See page 11.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Eric

POSTLUDE

Today We Are Called to be Disciples

arr. Jason W. Krug

Please wait for an usher to dismiss your row before leaving the sanctuary.

Community of Christ

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Shirley Erena Murray, 1985

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
 4 When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,

live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;

The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
 Dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
 Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

Shirley Erena Murray has grown up within the Ecumenical Movement and addresses related themes such as Christian unity and social justice in her hymnody. This text was first sung at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.

Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.
 Traditional Hebrew melody
 Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

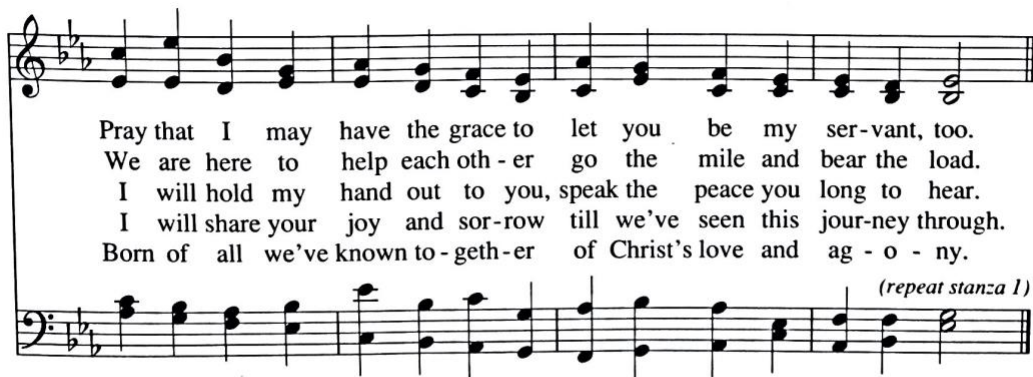
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Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as Christ to you?
 2 We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, we are trav-ellers on the road;
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad-ow of your fear;
 4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
 5 When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har-mo-ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.
 We are here to help each oth-er go the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
 Born of all we've known to-geth-er of Christ's love and ag-o-o-ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
 Richard Gillard, 1977
 Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

8:30am–9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
9:30am–10:30am	Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30am–11:00am	Time of Fellowship on the patio
11:00am	Outreach Commission Zoom
5:00pm	Youth Group

Our nursery is open for anyone who would like to make use of it during worship. There will be no Godly Play (for children ages preschool through 5th grade) until further notice. Children are welcome to borrow a book from our library in the back of the sanctuary as well as enjoy an activity bag they can take home with them.

For safety reasons, we request that no child be left on the playground without appropriate supervision. Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT DCC

Tuesday	1:30pm–3:30pm	Emmaus Committee Meeting
Wednesday	1:00pm–2:30pm	Tenant Relations Committee Meeting
Thursday	7:30pm–9:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

Today: Emmaus Team 3 (and friends)

Greeter: Joyce Klassen

Ushers: Judy Schreib, Trish Moosbrugger, Richard Stein

Candle Lighter: Hazel Furber-Dobson

Liturgists: Luci Beaver, Paloma Jackson-Kimball, Katie Beaver, Bette Felton

Friendship host: Nancy Dowell

Sound Technician: Brett Clark

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 4**.

This morning's altar flowers are provided by
Derek, Anita, Paloma, and Sabrina Jackson-Kimball.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sympathy to the Jang family



Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Randy and Janis Jang in the passing of Randy's father **Edward Jang**. They write, "We give thanks to God for the life of **Edward Jang** who passed away peacefully during an afternoon nap. He was able to live a full life and proudly make it to one hundred. Dad is now with Mom, his lifelong dance partner."
God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

6-Month Memorial for Tyrell Wilson this afternoon

Conscious Contra Costa is hosting a community memorial and vigil remembering Tyrell Wilson in front of the Danville Police Department (510 La Gonda Way, Danville) **on Sunday, September 12th at 3 PM**, "to hold the town accountable for its cultural acceptance of police violence against people of color which contributed to Tyrell's death. We would like our vigil to be rooted in compassion and inspired by visions of what a truly just and peaceful society looks like. Coming on the heels of a 9/11 memorial, it is also an opportunity to illustrate how remembering painful events in a mindful and respectful way can actually promote community healing. Please bring any readings or stories which inspire you to share, along with signs with Tyrell's name and flowers. We will meet in the parking lot in front of the police department and will follow the standard safety protocols."



Care Packages for Our College Students



School has restarted in person and our college students are back on campus. Therefore we will go back to a great DCC tradition of sending care packages. Starting today, we'll be collecting donations and in a few weeks (tentatively October 6) we'll have a packing party to prepare the boxes. You may donate in person or online at DCC by using the Other box and noting that your donation is for Student Care Packages. Thank you!!

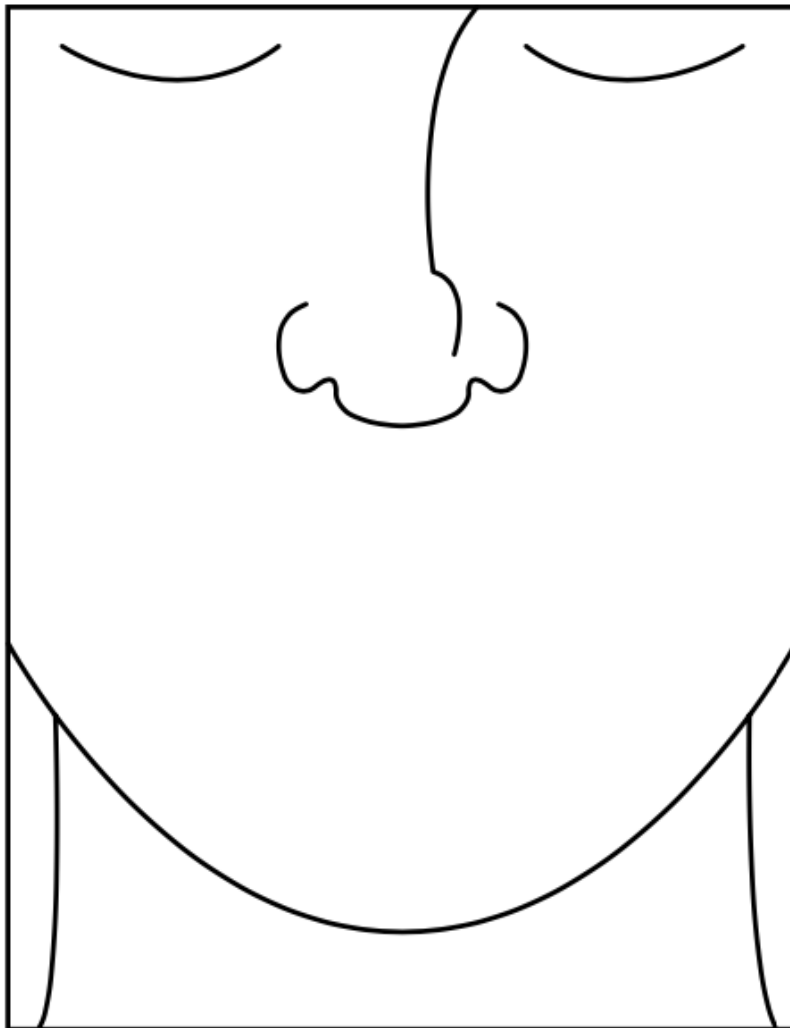
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

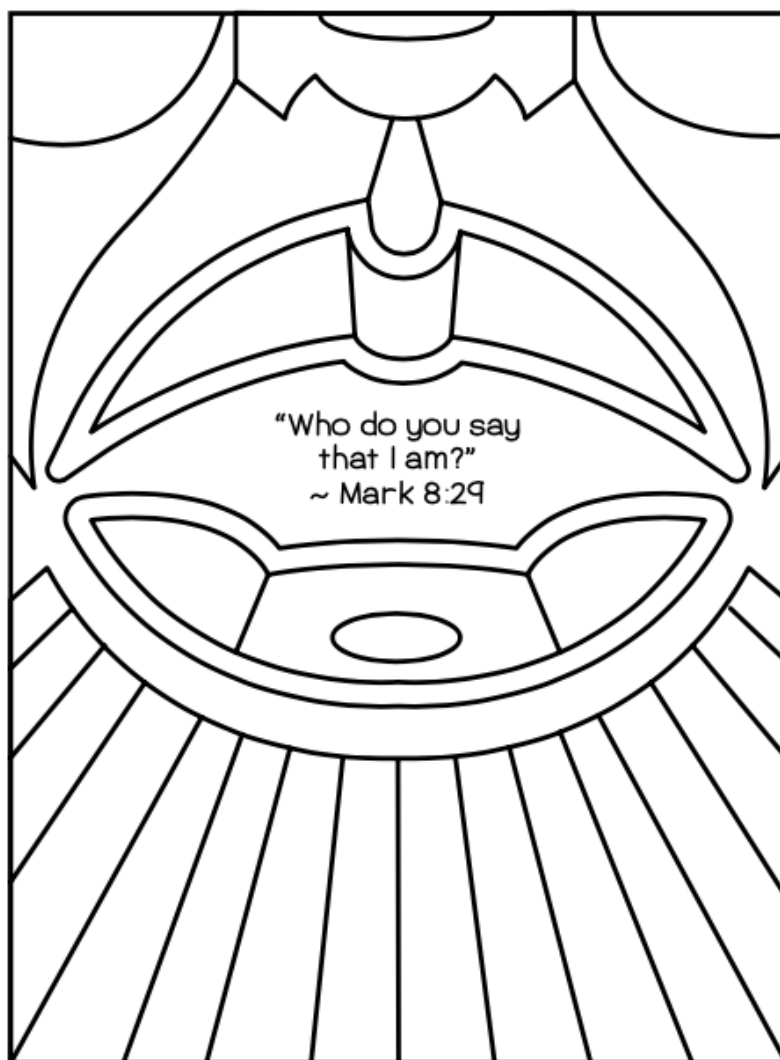
Activities based on Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38.



FINISH the DRAWING

In James 3, we remember the power of our mouths and the words we speak! Finish the drawing with a mouth. Inside it, write or draw things that are loving, kind, and compassionate to say.





Suggested for use on September 12, 2021 based on the RCL.
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Emmaus Team Responsibilities for Resuming In-Person Worship

These instructions are for Sunday, September 5 and the next 2-4 weeks, and then will be re-evaluated. [This information is available on our web site.](#)

MASKS MANDATORY FOR EVERYONE.

GREETERS (2)

- Initially, either Joyce Klassen or Karen Kawaguchi will greet, along with one member of assigned team.
- Greeters stand outside the main doors to narthex, greet worshippers, hand out bulletins, give masks to those who do not have them.
- Write out paper name tag for any visitors. (No sign-in book.)

CANDLE LIGHTER (1)

Initially, one of the ushers will serve as candlelighter.

USHERS (4)

- Keep sanctuary doors open at all times. Alternate pews will be marked unavailable.
- Usher tasks are in addition to putting up and taking down flags and counting and recording attendance.
- Open/close windows in sanctuary prior to/after service.
- 2 ushers stand **inside** sanctuary at back, guide people to pews as necessary.
- On Communion Sundays, hand out packaged elements, wear gloves.
- At end of service, dismiss people by pew starting at back of sanctuary.
 - One usher in back on side of Koinonia dismisses folks through Koinonia door;
 - one usher in back of sanctuary closer to center aisle dismisses folks through sanctuary door.
- 2 ushers seated at back of sanctuary during service
 - one usher serves as candlelighter,
 - both pick up prayer cards, hold collection plates at doors to accept offering, express gratitude for giving.

LITURGIST

- One person or one family from pulpit, or from area in front of chancel in case of mobility issues.
- May unmask at microphone.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS (3)

- Outdoors, on patio, set up 6-8 red chairs (do not use green chairs);
- 3 tables set-up: 1 for coffee plus tea, 1 for coffee only, 1 for water (may also serve lemonade after initial Sunday.)
- Use ceramic mugs for hot beverages. Sugar, sweetener in packets; cream poured by host. Hosts should be gloved. Hosts at tables pour beverages.
- No food served on 9/5; evaluate for future Sundays whether or not to serve food.
- Gloves and masks are located in closet in Library.

FLOWERS

Team responsible; occasional sign-up for specific date (contact Nancy Dowell)

Updated: 9/1/21 TAW via DS

Community Guidelines for In-Person Worship

The Reopening Team and Church Council have prepared these guidelines to help us gather safely. If you have any questions, reach out to our moderator Amy Furber-Dobson.

1. Masks must be properly worn (covering your mouth and nose) at all times regardless of your vaccination status unless eating or drinking on the patio after church.
2. Please avoid physical contact such as hugging or handshakes for now.
3. Please do not congregate in the Narthex. Think of the Narthex as a hallway.
4. The Passing of the Peace will be a continuation of waves and smiles from your seat.
5. The congregation will be seated every other pew to allow for distancing.
6. Doors to the outside will be open during the service.
7. There will be Time with Children. Children will have the option of coming forward.
8. Singing will be in a modified form.
9. On Communion Sundays, Communion will be pre-packaged. Please drop your communion packaging in the trash bin by the exit following the service.
10. There will be a basket at each door for offerings as well as a digital option in the bulletin.
11. At the end of the service, please wait for an usher to dismiss your row and walk to the patio for coffee hour. Dismissal will be from the back to the front.
12. Bathrooms will be open in the Narthex and near the office/choir room.

** Please note, if there is a positive COVID-19 case within our community, and the person(s) attended worship during the window of time they were positive, we will manage it on a case-by-case basis.*

Ministers—The Entire Congregation

Church Staff

The Rev. Eric Sherlock, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley, Associate Pastor

John Kendall Bailey, Music Director

Elizabeth Setlak-von Thury, Office Manager

Hugh Klassen, Youth Intern

The **DCC Prayer Team** prays daily for those in need of prayers.
If you would like to submit a prayer request for yourself or someone else,
contact a pastor or send an email to **prayers@danvillechurch.org**.
All requests are kept confidential unless specified otherwise.

Sonna Dhamrait, Dayspring Preschool Director

www.dayspringpreschool.org



Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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