



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

BE THE CHURCH
Protect the environment.
Care for the poor.
FORGIVE OFTEN.
REJECT RACISM.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
EMBRACE DIVERSITY.
LOVE GOD.
Enjoy this life.

**Fifteenth
Sunday
After
Pentecost**

September 13, 2020

Zoom Worship

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Forgiveness

Tim Neumark

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Eric Sherlock

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Courtenay

One: God is merciful.

All: Let my whole being bless our God.

One: God is faithful.

All: Let my whole being bless our God.

One: God's work is righteousness.

All: God's will be done.

One: Let us give God honor and praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Eric

We say "forgive our debts" but we hold on to grievances. We say "your will be done" but we fail to let God move us. Forgive us, God of Mercy. Soften our hearts. Free us to respond in the generosity of your spirit. Amen.

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another with waves and smiles
and pass the peace of Christ using the chat feature.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mary Courtenay, Joy Davis, Marsha Mak, Jim and Shii Stickler, Mary Taylor

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONS OF THE NEW MEMBERS

One: 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?

Many: I will.

One: 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?

Many: I do.

One: 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?

Many: I do.

One: 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?

Many: I will.

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

Many: I do.

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

Many: I do.

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

Many: I do.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (WITH CONGREGATION)

One: Do you believe in God the Source, the fountain of life?

All: I believe in God.

One: Do you believe in Christ the Servant, embodied in Jesus of Nazareth and in the church?

All: I believe in Christ.

One: Do you believe in the Spirit the Guide, the liberating wellspring of life?

All: I believe in the Spirit.

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

One: Let us, the members and friends of Danville Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 18:21-35](#)

The Stickler Family

SERMON

Forgive Often

Pastor Eric

ANTHEM

Agnus Dei
from Mass in G Major
DCC Chancel Choir

Franz Schubert

(Sung in the original Latin)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

English translation

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

(Email your requests to Pastor Eric or type them in the chat window.)

All: Hear our prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (using these words or the words most familiar to you)

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.

Invitation to Giving

*During this time of virtual worship, we invite you to
[give online via our web site and clicking "Donate" in the upper right of the screen.](#)*

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

Help Us Accept Each Other

page 6

BENEDICTION

Pastor Eric

POSTLUDE

*Forgiveness
 from the musical Jane Eyre
 Gabrielle Goozee-Nichols, soprano*

Paul Gordon

*You mustn't be revengeful, you have to be strong
 To offer good for evil, return right for wrong
 We must not hold a grudge, and we must learn to endure
 Then as God is your judge at least your heart will be pure*

*Forgiveness is the mightiest sword
 Forgiveness of those you hate will be your highest reward*

*When they bruise you with words, when they make you feel small
 When it's hardest to bear, you must do nothing at all*

*Forgiveness is the simplest vow
 Forgiveness of all their crimes is your deliverance now*

*Bless those souls who would curse your name
 When the last bell tolls, you'll be free of blame
 You can continue to grieve, but know the Gospel is true
 You must forgive those who lie and bless them that curse you*

*Forgiveness is the mightiest sword
 Forgiveness of those you hate will be your highest reward*


*The time will come when we will leave this world,
 and then the injustice and the pain and the sin will fall away from us,
 and only the spark of the spirit will remain - returning to God who created it.*

*You must never lose faith, you must never lose heart
 God will restore your trust and I know you're afraid
 I'm as scared as you are, but willing to be brave
 Brave enough for love.*


There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23


Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.




1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

Help Us Accept Each Other 754

G Em Am7 B7 C



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

C G A A7 D



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,

G Em Am7 B7 C



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:

C G Em D7 G



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1974
 MUSIC: Doreen Potter, 1974
 Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

BARONITA
 7.6.7.6.D

Announcements

If you would like to submit a prayer concern or joy for next Sunday's Zoom Worship, please email it to Pastor Eric at eric@danvillechurch.org.

To keep up-to-date on news and announcements during this time of social distancing, **please read your email** from DCC thoroughly! All communication related to church news and events will be communicated via email!

Fall Edition of the *Good News*

The Fall edition of the *Good News* is out. You can download and [read your copy here](#). Special thanks to Chris Rauhen for his excellent work on this issue!

Upcoming Children's and Youth Ministries Activities

- **Youth Group** this Sunday will be via Zoom.

If the air quality improves:

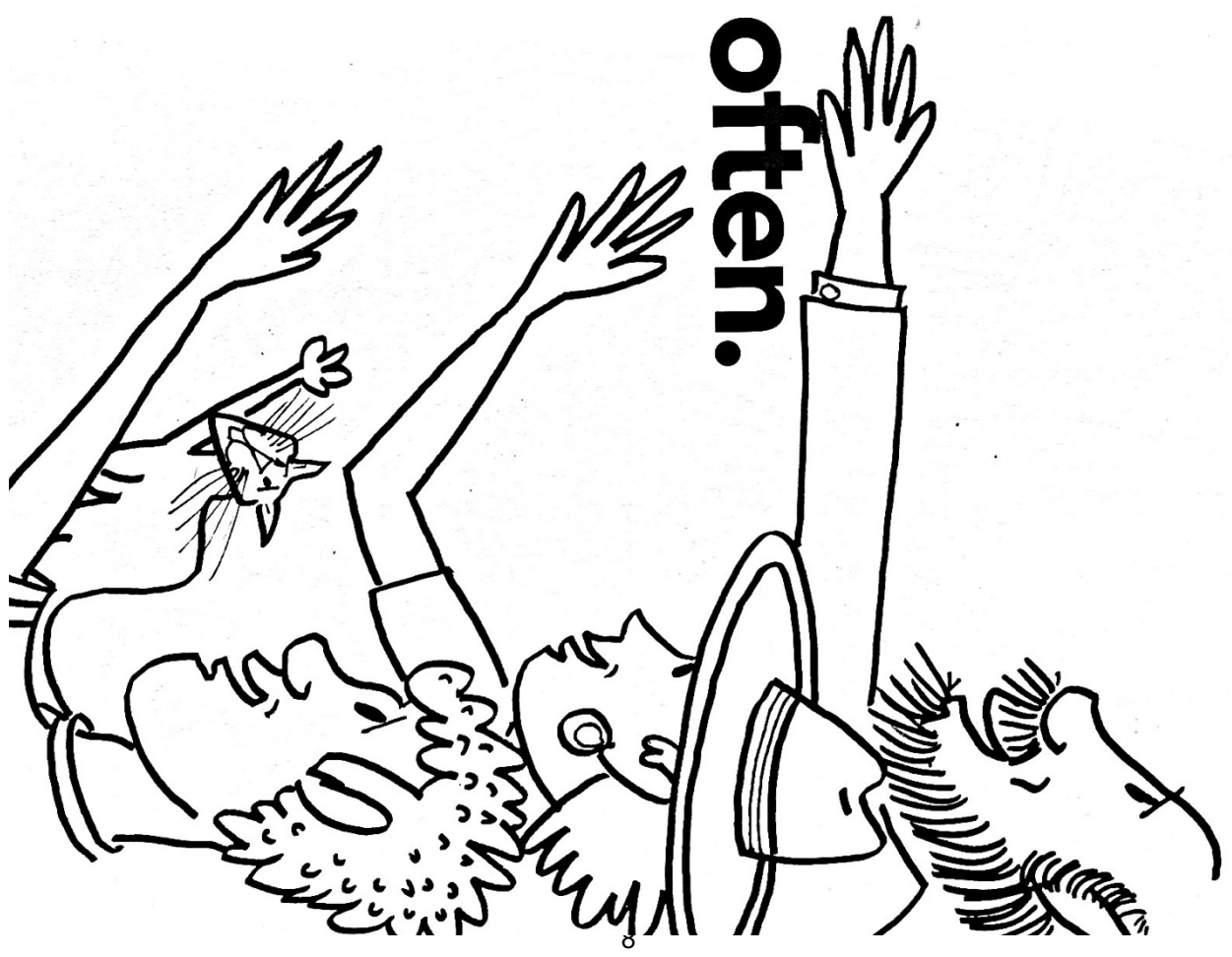
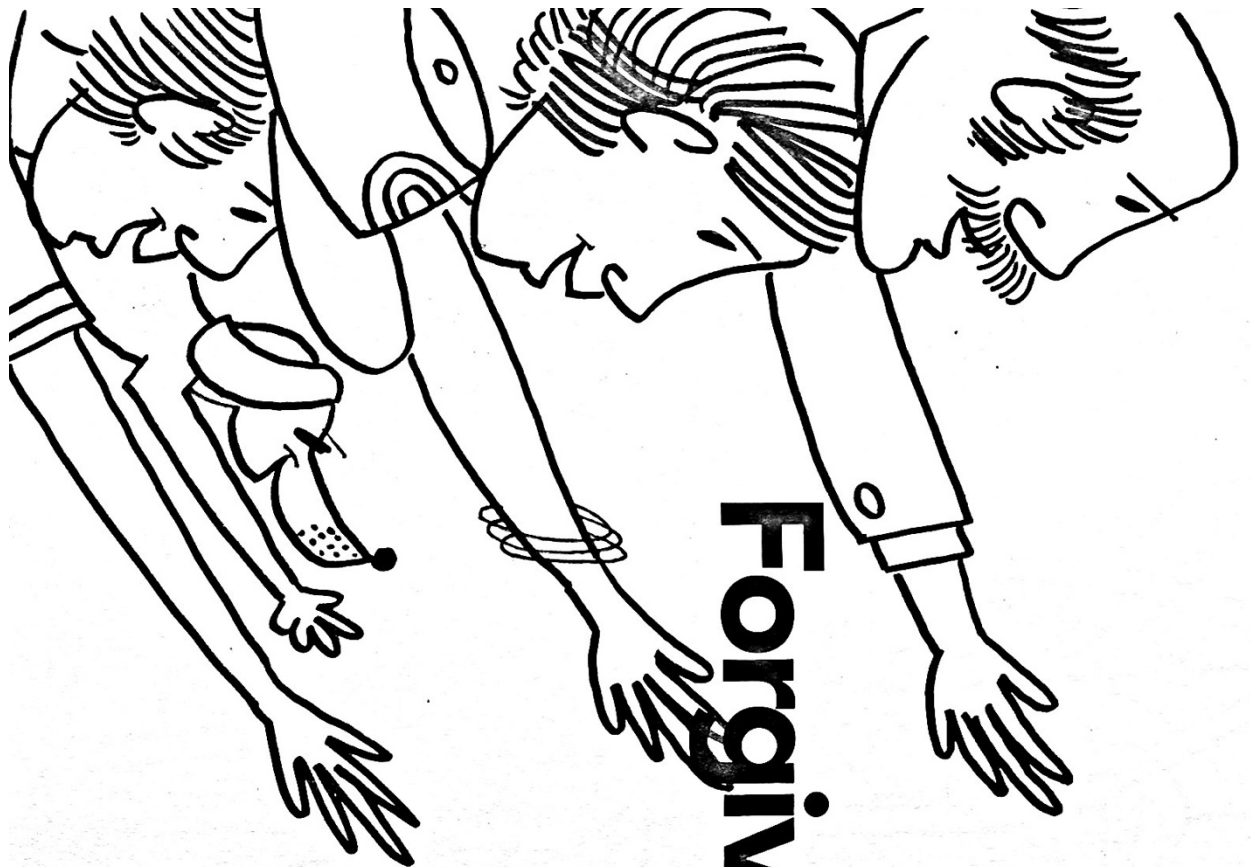
- **YG Movie Night** will be Friday, September 18.
- **Kids' Play Date** will be Saturday, September 19.
- **YG** a week from this Sunday will be in-person.
- **Family Movie Night** will be Friday, September 25.
- The next **Family Zoom Devotional** will be Wednesday, October 14.
- **YG Antiracism Book Chat** continues on Zoom Thursdays at 5:15pm.

Register for Annual Gathering!

Annual Gathering of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC will be held on October 24, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Resolutions and other meeting materials have been sent or will be sent soon and posted on our website. Registration is now open. There is no charge but you must register.



**Forgive
often.**



Upcoming Gatherings

Worship at DCC, Sundays at 9:30am

<https://zoom.us/j/492975948?pwd=blJqZTNpNGo3S1o0YkNFM3FWQ1dlQT09>

or by Zoom app: **492 975 948**, password **322**

or by phone: dial **669-900-6833**

and enter **492 975 948** as the Meeting ID and **322** as the password.

Youth Group, Sundays at 5:00pm

Contact Pastor Todd for details.

Youth Group Antiracism Book Chat, Thursdays at 5:15pm

Email Pastor Todd for the link.

Ministers—The Entire Congregation

Church Staff

The Rev. Eric Sherlock, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley, Associate Pastor

John Kendall Bailey, Music Director

Mary-Marie Deauclaire, Handbell Director

Elizabeth Setlak-von Thury, Office Manager

Nicole Doyle, Nursery Attendant

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.

Kelley Mangels, Dayspring Preschool Director

dayspringpreschool.org



Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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