DANVILLE
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Jesus Loves the Children, Sarah Hornsby, 2015; drawing by Dibujos Pati Trigo, Spain; Jesus and children, Hailey Botto; drawing by Ian Dale, World Vision; Jesus with children, artist unknown; Jesus teaching with children, circa mid 1900s, artist unknown; *As My Father Loved Me*, Korea; *Jesus Welcomes the Children,* Jesus Mafa, Cameroon 1973

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 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 *Children of the Heavenly Father* Trad. Swedish melody arr. Edward Broughton

Children of the Heavenly Father arr. Anna Laura Page

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley & Zac Furber-Dobson

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 Sandra Lepley

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

One: We gather in the presence of God:

All: where grieving people and children with skinned knees have their tears wiped away.

One: We gather as the little children of God:

All: to worship the One who provides what we need, not what we want.

One: We gather in this space in this moment:

All: to listen for God's gentle voice to become who God has called us to be.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE Sandra

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.

*OPENING HYMN *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Stranger, friend, and neighbor too,
He loves them as He loves you.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus cares for all the children,
All the children of the world.
Every color, every race,
all are covered by God's grace.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Big or little, short or tall,
Does not matter—not at all,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Help us love the little children,
all the children of the world.
Every color, shape, and size—
they are precious in his eyes.
Help us love the little children of the world.

TIME WITH CHILDREN Pastor T

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Mark 9:30–37* Max Posadas

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

SERMON *Everyone is Someone's Child* Pastor Todd

ANTHEM *Strong, Gentle Children*

[1]Strong, gentle children, God made you beautiful,
gave you the wisdom and power you need;
speak in the stillness all you are longing for;
live out your calling to love and to lead.

[2]Strong, hurting children, angry and terrified,
open the secrets your life has concealed;
though you are wounded, know you are not to blame;
cry out your story till truth is revealed.

[3]Strong, knowing children, utter your cry aloud,
honor the wisdom God gave you at birth;
speak to your elders till they have heard your voice;
sing out your vision of healing on earth.

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 Sandra

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

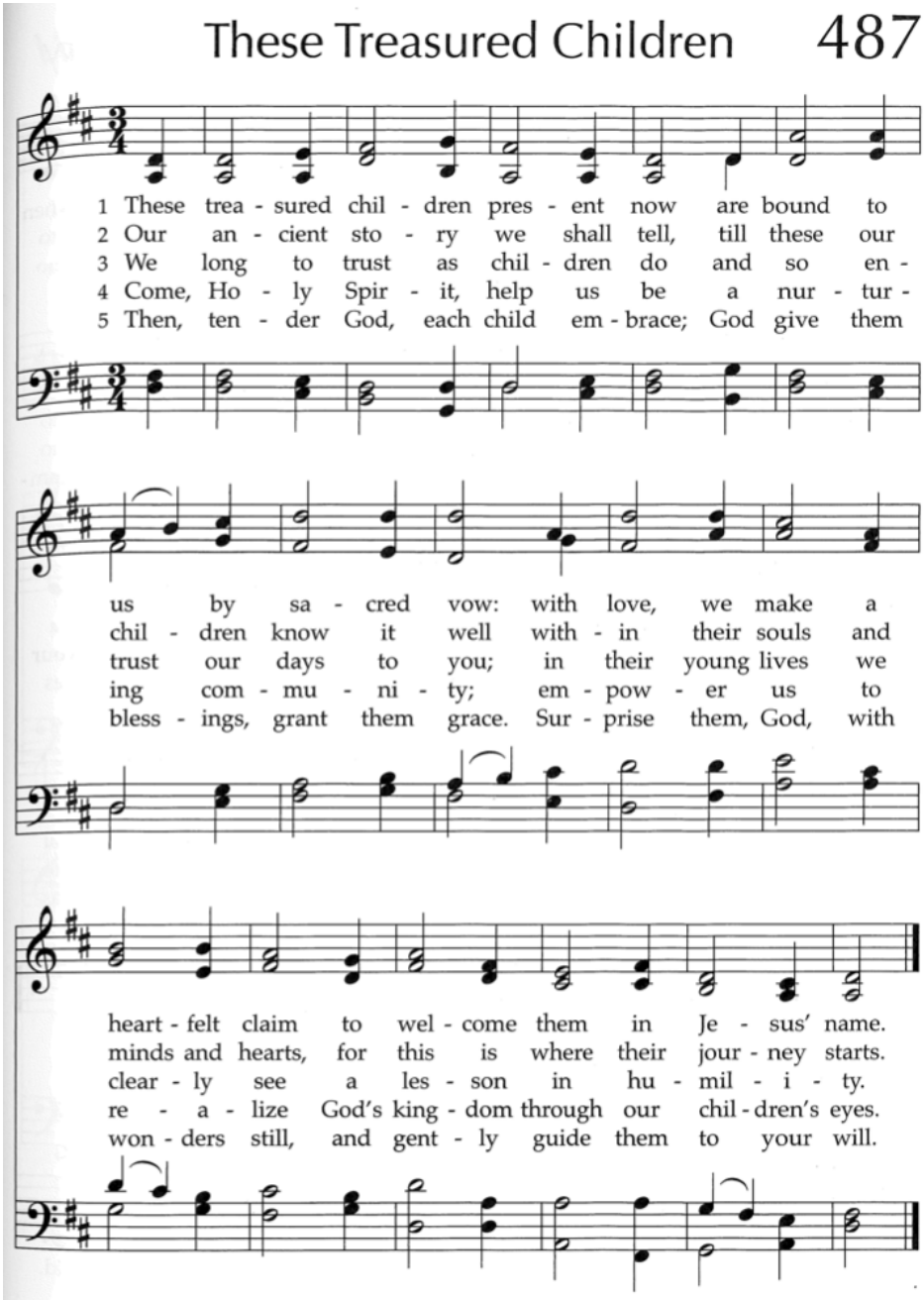
*Offertory Prayer

*CLOSING HYMN *These Treasured Children* See next page.

*BENEDICTION Pastor Todd

POSTLUDE *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* Trad. Irish melody
arr. Jason W. Krug

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



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
Noon	Anti-Racism Team Coffee Zoom
5:00pm	Youth Group at DCC

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	7:00pm–9:00pm	Finance Committee
Wednesday	10:00am–2:00pm	Prayer Shawl ministry
Thursday	7:30pm–9:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

Today: Emmaus Team 4 (and friends)

Greeter: Joyce Klassen and Karen Kawaguchi
Ushers: Chris Rauen, Nancy Dowell
Liturgists: Sandra Lepley, Max Posadas
Friendship host: Nan Karns, Caryl Krotz
Sound Technician: Randy Jang

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 5**.

This morning's altar flowers are provided by Nancy Dowell.

Special Offering for Wildfire Relief through El Dorado County Federated Church

Rev. Dr. Laura Barnes, who served Danville Congregational Church as Associate Minister for nine years (2003-2012), had only just begun in her new call as Senior Pastor of El Dorado County Federated Church, Placerville, when the Caldor Fire began ravaging El Dorado County. This wildfire has impacted the Federated Church community (thankfully, not the church property itself) tremendously, so Pastor Laura and the Federated Church would be very grateful to feel the love from Danville Congregational Church through our assistance in the local wildfire relief that Federated Church has already begun.

DCC will be joining First Congregational Church of Sonoma in providing this wildfire relief assistance. You can donate by check made out to DCC, with "Placerville Church wildfire relief" in the memo line, or make your offering online through the DCC donations web page 4(select Outreach Donations / Other and enter "Placerville Church wildfire relief" in the box next to the amount).

Ingathering Sunday

This Sunday will be our first Ingathering Sunday (third Sunday of the month) since DCC reopened for in-person worship. It has been 20 months since we last received your canned and packaged non-perishable food offerings for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano in the ingathering baskets on our chancel during worship!

We want to fully resume that tradition soon, but for now, we'll do it a little differently. Please place your non-perishable food offerings directly into the Food Bank barrel in the narthex as you enter or exit the sanctuary. If you want to know which food items are most appreciated by the Food Bank, see the accompanying food-drive shopping list. Thank you for providing nourishing food for our neighbors who are hungry!

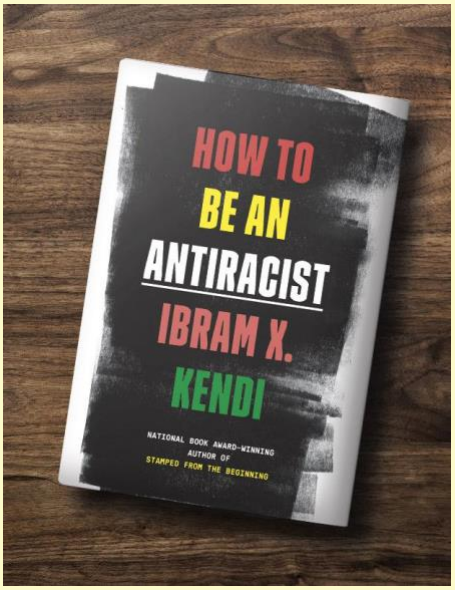
Call for Volunteers!

With the re-opening of in-person worship on Sundays, our Emmaus teams are in need of volunteers! If you are on an Emmaus team and plan to come to worship on Sunday morning, please make an effort to volunteer your time. The tasks are fairly simple and make a difference. Regular Sunday tasks include serving as an usher, greeter, liturgist, and helping out in the kitchen for coffee hour. Your time supports our church's ability to continue providing an extravagant welcome to new and old friends alike! If you are not on an Emmaus team and would like to be, please reach out to **Diane Stein**.

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!!

Anti-Racism Team News



BOOK STUDY GROUP RESTARTING!
The Anti-Racism Team will be diving into ***How to Be an Anti-Racist*** by Ibram X. Kendi and we'd love to have you join us. The Book Study Group will be meeting via Zoom every two weeks on Tuesday evenings from 7–9PM starting on Tuesday, October 5 and running through November. Please register so we know how many folks will participate, and so we can send you the Zoom details. Click here for the Book Study Reg link. If you'll be buying the book, we encourage you to buy from a Black-owned bookstore, such as

- Marcus Books in Oakland; you can buy in-person or online.
- Ashay By the Bay in Vallejo
- The Collective Oakland

Food for Thought: Here's a short article that explains a current lack of diversity in America's open spaces and what some folks are doing to change it.

INTERESTED in joining the Anti Racism Planning Team? Come to our next meeting on Sunday, September 19th, from 12-1:30pm via Zoom. All are welcome!
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89216163521?pwd=QUp0MWdmMkZyM080cHB1YjBVeDV2QT09

Rooted in Saint Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures and our love, care, and concern for our non-human animal friends and companions, the Children's Ministry of **Danville Congregational Church** invites the community to a "Blessing of the Animals" on **Sunday, October 3**. Pets of all kinds—puppies, bunnies, birdies, and kitties who wouldn't be freaked out—are welcome to accompany their human friends to receive a blessing from one of our pastors following worship, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. And our young friends are welcome to draw a picture of their pet for our Blessing Board and take home a special memento.

DRAW IT

In Mark 9, we see Jesus take a little child in his arms and tell his followers that whoever wants to follow him needs to love and care for children. Children were some of the most important people to Jesus! **Draw a picture of you and other kids you know with Jesus—friends, kids in your class, maybe even a kid you have a hard time loving.**

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

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