



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Through Samaria by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
A Sanctified Art

Third Sunday of Lent
Into the Wilderness

March 15, 2020

Livestream Worship

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Eric Sherlock

CALL TO WORSHIP

Miguel Atkins-Whitley

One: Jesus met the blind man at the city gate.

All: Jesus met the crowds at the edge of the sea.

One: Jesus met the leper in his pain.

All: And Jesus met the Samaritan woman in her isolation.

One: So with confidence we declare—

All: Jesus meets us here!

One: For we too are the blind and the broken, the hurting and the bleeding.

All: Jesus meets our scars, our fears, our prayers, and our dreams.

One: So you are welcome here.

All: All are welcome here.

One: Let us worship Holy God.

OPENING HYMN

[There's A Wideness in God's Mercy](#)

#23

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When it comes to our faith, we know we could learn from the Samaritan woman who ran through the streets singing your name. So forgive us for the times when we remain silent about what our faith means to us. Forgive us for the times when we choose comfort over bravery. And forgive us for the times we shut people out, missing opportunities to run into you. Teach us to be brave like the Samaritan woman, and saturate our thirst for that which leaves us thirsty. With hope and gratitude we confess. With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[John 4:5-42](#)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

POETRY PRAYER

*The Wilderness is a Place of Isolation;
It Is Also a Place of Connection*
By Sarah Are

Janis Jang

We sat around a six-person table, for don't most holy moments happen around a table? Six women, six heartbeats, six names and identities. We gathered there once every twelve days, to read and pray, to learn each other's names. It was nothing more than a burger bar, and we were nothing more than the truths we shared, so sitting around a basket of fries, I assumed I knew everyone there.

But then the woman directly to my right said quietly to the group of six that night, “I had an abortion when I was young.” And my heart stopped. And my heart sunk. For she had kept this wilderness in. She had carried this weight alone. She had grieved and prayed for peace, and I had never even known.

She went on to speak of hurt and grief, of a prayer to God to end suffering. She went on to tell us her most vulnerable truth, and in an instant that small leather booth became church. For in naming the wilderness, that space became not only the place of her greatest pain, but also the place where we became One. In an instant, she became her own light. And in an instant, we were changed. For in that instant, we saw her wilderness walk, so in that instant, we became six names, six united identities, one heartbeat.

I think the wilderness does that. Sometimes you walk it alone. And sometimes you tell that story and a booth becomes home.

SERMON

Surprising Connections

Pastor Eric

MUSICAL MEDITATION

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

All: Hear our prayer

Pastoral Prayer (See prayer insert or click [here](#).)

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Eric

POSTLUDE

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- If you would like to submit a prayer concern or joy for next Sunday’s web-based worship, please email it to Pastor Eric at eric@danvillechurch.org.
 - Many thanks to Janis Jang, Sandra Lepley, Miguel Atkins-Whitley, and Randy Jang for their assistance in leading worship this morning!
 - During this time of web-based worship, we invite you to give online at: <http://bit.ly/donatetodcc>.
 - To keep up-to-date on news and announcements during this time of social distancing, please check your email regularly from DCC! All communication related to church news and events will be communicated via email!

Upcoming Virtual Gatherings

To lessen the impact of isolation during this season of social distancing, you are invited to join these opportunities for community and spiritual practice.

Wednesday, March 18, Noon—Mid-week Zoom Devotional

Wednesday, March 18, 7:00pm—Zoom Family Devotional

Sunday, March 22, 9:30am—Worship Livestream

Watch for connection details in your email.

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



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989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, CA 94526-4020

Phone: (925) 837-6944

danvillechurch.org

