



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 18, 2022

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

It is our preference that you wear a mask inside the building to protect the most vulnerable in our community. 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 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.

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

If You Will Trust In God To Guide You

Barbara Boertje

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Sandra Lepley

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

One: Savvy God

All: Wily God

One: Audacious God

All: Determined God

One: God who yells back at the rising storm

All: God who guards Her Beloveds like a Mama Bear—

One: You do not ask politeness of your people

All: but to rattle the cages of oppression.

One: Come, let us worship God,

All: our Fierce Protector and our Steadfast Love.

by Rev. Molly Bolton

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Sandra

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another and pass the peace of Christ.

*OPENING HYMN

To God Compose a Song of Joy

See next page.

To God Compose a Song of Joy

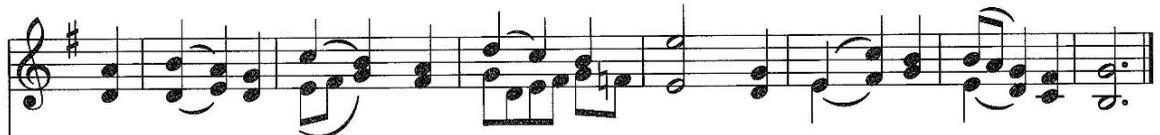
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Ruth Duck, 1986

Ps. 98



1 To God com- pose a song of joy; to God make mel - o - dy,
2 Be - fore the na - tions God re - veals a just and righ - teous will,
3 In ev - ery cor - ner of the earth, God comes to save and free;
4 With trum - pet, with the sound of horns, with strings, yes, with the lyre,



Whose arm of strength does won - drous things, whose hand brings vic - to - ry!
Re - mem - ber - ing in faith - ful love the house of Is - ra - el.
Break forth with shouts of ho - ly joy; all lands, make mel - o - dy.
With voic - es praise the sov - ereign God, a lust - y, joy - ous choir.



5 Let seas in all their full-ness roar;
sing, peo-ple of all lands;
Let moun-tains join and sing for joy;
let riv-ers clap their hands.

6 The God of jus-tice comes to save;
let earth make mel-o-dy;
For God will judge with righ-teous-ness
and rule with eq-ui-ty.

Ruth Duck is associate professor of worship and dean of the chapel at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. A minister in the United Church of Christ, she has edited several books of worship resources and hymns.

Tune: RICHMOND C.M.
Thomas Haweis, 1792

There will be no Godly Play today. Children are invited to make use of the activity table and library in the back of the sanctuary. Middle schoolers (and any other interested teenagers) are invited to head over to the Agape Lounge for Donuts and Devotions.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Luke 16:1–13](#)

Sandra

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for the slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

SERMON

Shrewdness?

Pastor Todd

Refrain: Who will speak if we don't, who will speak if we don't?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh who will speak if we don't?

Who will speak for the poor and the broken?
Who will speak for the peoples oppressed?

Who will speak for the ones who are voiceless?
Speak the truth in the places of power?

Who will speak for the shunned and the outcast?
Who will speak for all people with AIDS?

Who will work for the thousands of homeless?
Who will work in the ghettos and streets?

Who will care for the weak and the aged?
Who will care for the ones with no hope?

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
Invitation to Giving
Offertory

Sandra

We Love to Sound Your Praises

Hans Leo Hassler

We love to sound your praises, to lift our hands above,
To sing how grace amazes, to celebrate your love.
Yet, God, your world is grieving; is your heart breaking, too?
May we cry out, believing laments can honor you.

O God, you came to save us In Christ, your suffering Son.
In his death you forgave us; in his life, joy is won!
And when this world is suffering, when songs of grief abound,
May we work for your kingdom 'til alleluias sound!

– Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*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

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

See next page.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

POSTLUDE

God of All Righteousness

David Paxton

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom 378



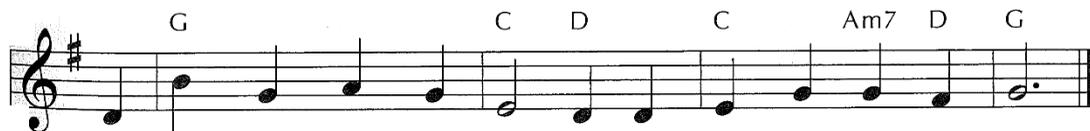
1 We wait the peace-ful king-dom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
 2 Where is the peace-ful king-dom? When will this new day start?
 3 When wars of des-o-la-tion, and hate come to an end,
 4 That lit-tle child shall lead us to walk the cho-sen way,



in gen-tle-ness and friend-ship with-out a fear or sigh,
 We long for peace and com-fort to reign with-in each heart.
 when na-tion meets with na-tion and calls the oth-er "friend,"
 to share the peace-ful king-dom, to greet God's new-born day.



when li-on shall be graz-ing, when snake shall nev-er strike;
 Yet not in our lives on-ly, nor sim-ply in our home:
 still peace in all its full-ness will on-ly have be-gun:
 The child born in a sta-ble is sent to break our chains,



a lit-tle child shall lead us both strong and weak a-like.
 we pray that all cre-a-tion will one day find sha-lom.
sha-lom for all cre-a-tion be-gins with jus-tice done.
 to bring through word and ta-ble the day when jus-tice reigns.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 11:6-9 in the first stanza, then reflects on that passage in widening frames of reference from self to all creation and identifies its "little child" with one born at Bethlehem. The tune is named for the composer's sister, his first piano teacher.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8:30am–9:15am | Choir Rehearsal |
| 9:30am–10:30am | Worship (In-person and Zoom) |
| 9:35am–10:30am | Donuts and Devotions |
| 10:30am–11:00am | Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout rooms |
| After worship | DCC Exploratorium Trip |
| 12:00pm | Anti-Racism Team Meeting via Zoom |

Our unattended nursery is open for anyone who would like to make use of it during worship.

Godly Play will not be offered today. Children are invited to engage with the activities table and children's library in the back of the sanctuary.

Designed primarily for middle-school youth, **Donuts & Devotions** is offered following the Time with Children in the Agape Lounge in the Hope Center. All middle-school youth (and any interested teenagers) are invited to gather with Carrie Hrousis or Pastor T and one of our DCC friends to explore the deep questions of our faith. We will dismiss by 10:30 a.m.

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

THIS WEEK AT DCC

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Monday | 7:00pm–10:00pm | PFLAG Meeting via Zoom |
| Tuesday | 7:00pm–9:00pm | Finance Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday | 10:00am–2:00pm | Prayer Shawl Ministry |
| Thursday | 7:00pm–9:00pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday– Saturday | 5:00pm–4:00pm | OWL Retreat |

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 4**

Greeter: Stephanie Taddeo

Ushers: Bruce Hixon & Chris Rauen

Flags: Larry Berlin

Liturgist: Sandra Lepley

Candlelighter: Matthew Bassett

Friendship Hosts: Barbara Carrillo, Mary Kay McClure and Kathie Hixon

Youth Ministers: Carrie Hrousis & John Klassen

Lock Up Duty: Tom Sonnemann

Sound Tech: Steve Bridgeman

Tech Minister: Shii Stickler

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note: Announcements for the e-News and bulletin are due **Wednesday** by noon.



Pastor Eric is out of the office on vacation through September 18, traveling to Southern California to attend a family wedding. For any pastoral needs during this time, please contact Pastor Todd. Pastor Eric will be back in worship on September 25.

Welcome to Text2Give!

Contributions for Blessing Bags or to the General Fund can be made by texting "Give" (without the quotations) to (855) 940-3756. Initial set-by-step instructions will allow you to set up your DCC account immediately and should take less than 2 minutes. We thank you in advance for your loving support of DCC and our programs. Heidi Bridgeman will be available for questions after today's service.



Special Offering Today!



This morning, in addition to our regular tithes and gifts, we will be collecting a special offering to support the Youth Group's *Blessing Bag* project. This offering will supplement the items being donated and used to make a bulk purchase of the remaining items that are needed. Our goal is 100 bags.

A complete bag costs around \$22-25. You can make a gift:

- of cash (place it in an envelope and write "Blessing Bag" along with your name and address on it *if you want the amount reported to your giving history*)
- by check (memo: BLESSING BAGS)
- via our [web site](#) (note: BLESSING BAGS)
- using our new **Text-to-Give option** (see above)
- by purchasing individual items

[[Please look at this list to see what's left](#) and **email the church office** with what you are buying by **END OF DAY TODAY** so we can update the list and purchase the remaining items tomorrow.] The Blessing Bags will be assembled next Sunday (9/25) during Youth Group. *So please bring your remaining items to the church office during the week or with you to worship that morning.*

The Fall 2022 Good News is Here

The Fall 2022 Good News newsletter is published. Visit our [website](#) or click the picture to see what's been happening at DCC and upcoming events! Special thanks to all who contributed.



A Word from Pastor Eric
Dear Friends,
I hope you are all well and enjoying the fall season. The newsletter is a great way to stay connected and informed about what's happening in our church and community. Thank you to all who contributed to this issue. We will be discussing ways our church can support these in the coming months. Join us at our next Anti-Racism Team meeting [via Zoom](#) at noon today to learn more about these goals and ways we can support anti-racism actions in our community. Meeting ID: 892 1616 3521 Passcode: Justice

Today at noon via Zoom **Anti-Racism Team Meeting**

Did you know that Danville Congregational Church is part of the Northern California/Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ? All of the churches in our NCNC conference meet regularly to discuss church goals and plans for the year. The Anti-Racism team has learned about some of the Anti-Racism Goals and Resolutions that the NCNC approved in 2020, and we will be discussing ways our church can support these in the coming months. Join us at our next Anti-Racism Team meeting [via Zoom](#) at noon today to learn more about these goals and ways we can support anti-racism actions in our community. Meeting ID: 892 1616 3521
Passcode: Justice



Today **Ingathering Sunday**

Today is Ingathering Sunday. Please place your non-perishable food offerings directly into the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano barrel in the narthex as you enter or exit the sanctuary. Thank you for providing nourishing food for our neighbors who are hungry!

Sunday, September 28th from 11:30am–1:30pm **Pastor Todd's PRC**

Pastor Todd's PRC will be meeting on Wednesday September 28th at 11:30am–1:30pm. Todd's PRC consists of Barb DeBarger, Cheryl Pierson, Jennifer O'Neal, Mariah a Allison, Mary-Marie Deauclaire, and Richard Stein.

If you have anything you would like to share, please contact one of the above members whose contact information can be found in the directory.

Black Homeownership Fund Update

During Lent 2021, DCC participated in a collective Lenten offering with area UCC churches to help first time Black homeowners buy property and to begin the lengthy process of closing the wealth gap between Black and white Americans. In last week's UCC News Digest, our project was the featured story. You'll see one of our loan recipients standing in her own doorway, in addition to an update on all aspects of the fund, by clicking on [this article](#) from the United Church of Christ national newsletter



Thus far, the fund has made six zero-interest loans, with five homeowners closing on their purchases, for a total of \$105,000. Thank you for helping make this possible.

Contributions to the fund are always welcome. They can be made by sending a check to the Richmond Community Foundation, 3260 Blume Dr., Suite 110, Richmond, CA 94806. (Please make sure to indicate Black Wealth Builders Fund in the memo line).

They can also be made online by visiting [the Richmond Community Foundation donations page](#).

All contributions are fully tax-deductible. Please share with anyone you think would be interested in this critical cause. More information on the fund itself can be found by visiting the [Arlington Community Church website](#).

Monday at 7:00pm

PFLAG Danville/San Ramon Valley Meeting

[PFLAG Danville/San Ramon Valley](#) will be meeting via Zoom next September 19th at 7:00pm. Meeting Id: 84930102445 Password: 648774

PFLAG is the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies. For more information, reach out to [Bruce](#) or [Kathie Hixon](#).





Saturday, October 8th at 8:30am
DCC Walking Group

Everyone is welcome!

The Community Life Commission invites you to join us for the kickoff of our DCC walking group **on Saturday, October 8th at 8:30am**. It is flat, partially paved, and easy to navigate or all walking levels.

It will be a great opportunity to walk, talk & connect. Please meet at the main entrance to the lake, inside the gates at [3001 Bishop Drive](#), San Ramon, where the seating areas are, by the [Bocce Ball court](#). The entrance is on Bishop Drive (check both the links given to see the location!) . You can park in Bishop Ranch or over by Target. Contact [Joyce Klassen](#) with any questions—925.518.6439. We recognize that we have many weekend commitments, so we plan to start on time at 8.30am and be finished no later than 10.30am.

We're looking forward to walking, chatting and connecting and hope you'll join in!

DCC Event Facilitators Needed



The Tenant Relations Committee is looking for a few responsible youth (high school and older) or adults who might be interested in working as facilitators for events booked through the church for recitals, parties, etc. This person would handle the opening and closing of the church with an occasional need for an A/V tech and setting up and taking down chairs and tables. This is a great way to earn a little extra money while helping the church. If you are interested, please contact the DCC Office Manager [Liz](#) via email or phone.

October 15–16

Family Campout on Mt. Diablo

DCC is holding a **Family Campout** on Mt. Diablo Saturday and Sunday, October 15–16. Families will arrive to our Mt. Diablo campsite after lunch on Saturday (but arrival any time Saturday is fine), pitch camp, hike, and enjoy a campfire dinner together. The next morning, we'll make breakfast and share in worship before breaking camp and returning home late morning.



If you are interested in joining, please [sign up here](#). Cost will be \$25 per family to cover the cost of the reservation and some shared food/supplies costs.

We could also use folks who will help coordinate:

- logistics/campsite
- leading a hike
- dinner
- campfire entertainment
- breakfast
- camp breakdown

Please contact [Pastor Todd](#) if you're interested in helping out!

Need a Name Tag?

Is your name tag faded, peeling or discolored? Or maybe it has disappeared? Now that many of us are coming to church in-person, we'd love to be able to greet one another by name. If you'd like a new name tag, send a message to [Kim Michaud](#) and we will get a replacement made for you.



Thursdays at 12:30pm **Thursdays for the Soul**

- Thursday, September 22 –[Shared Learning from the Disarmament Movement](#)



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*

Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam, *Communications Specialist*

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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