

 **DANVILLE**  
Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



Photo by Simon Berger

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
*January 29, 2023*

## 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

At DCC, wearing a mask during worship or inside the building is optional; please do whatever is comfortable for you. Please be aware of others' personal space and space yourselves out in the sanctuary accordingly. Please invite consent before shaking hands and hugging. 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. Please register your attendance in the Blue Pew Book located in the pew and share whatever information you would like us to have about you. If you are interested in learning more about DCC, please see one of the pastors or designated greeters after worship in the narthex (lobby). 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

*Blessing In Disguise*

arr. Christine Brown

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Eric Sherlock

*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

Steve Bridgeman

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

One: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gathers the poor of the earth.

**All: Glorious is our God, who wipes away the tears of sorrow.**

One: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives inheritance to the meek.

**All: Glorious is our God, who satisfies the hunger of the just.**

One: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives mercy to the merciful.

**All: Glorious is our God, who gives vision to the pure in heart.**

One: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who adopts the peacemakers.

**All: Glorious is our God, who lifts high the persecuted.**

One: Wonderful is the God of Christ, who finds the lost.

**All: Glorious is our God, who awakens the dead.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Steve

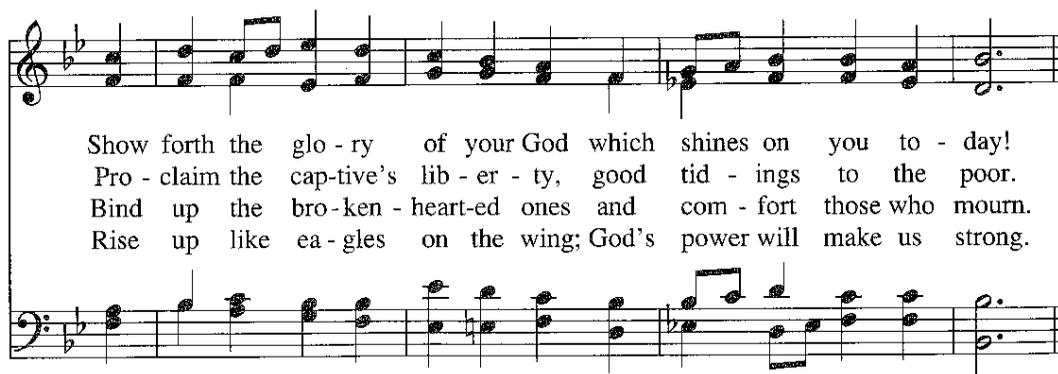
One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!  
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
 Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

*Following the Time with Children, children are invited to meet their teachers in the back of the sanctuary for Godly Play.*

*Middle schoolers (and any other interested teenagers) are invited to head over to the Agape Lounge for Donuts and Devotions.*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

SERMON

*Mountaintop Perspectives*

Pastor Eric

ANTHEM

*The Beatitudes*

James Biery

*Lift up your hearts, you poor in spirit, the kingdom of heaven is yours;*

*And blest are you, bent in two with mourning, God's comfort sustains you through all.*

*Be still with gentle, quiet meekness, the plenty of earth will be yours;*

*And blest are you, filled with aching hunger, the satisfied earth will be yours.*

*With joyfulness show love and mercy, the mercy of God will be yours;*

*And blest are you, pure of heart and selfless, the vision of God will be yours.*

*Work tirelessly for peace and justice, as children of God you'll be known;*

*And blest are you, who are persecuted, the kingdom of heaven is yours.*

*Rejoice, be glad, be joyful, people, the kingdom of heaven is yours;*

*So blest are you--hear the words of Jesus: "The kingdom of heaven is yours!"*

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.**

MISSION MOMENT

Hope Solutions

Carol Gilliland

TIME OF GIVING

Steve

Invitation to Giving

To give online, [visit our web site](#) and click "Donate" in the upper right of the screen.

To donate using your mobile device, text the word give to 855-940-3756.

We remain grateful for your generosity.

Offertory

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

arr. Michael Wilson

\*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

*Up On A Mountaintop*

<sup>1</sup>Up on a mountaintop, Jesus sat down,  
Teaching the people who gathered around:  
Look for the blessings that God kindly brings;  
God's loving kingdom is changing all things.

<sup>3</sup>Let go of anger, for it is a sin.  
It will destroy you, both outside and in.  
Even your thinking can lead you astray;  
Whatever tempts you, just throw it away.

<sup>2</sup>You are the salt and you're also the light.  
Flavor God's world, with your faith shining  
bright.  
Know that I've come here, God's word to  
fulfill.  
Keep the commandments and follow them  
well.

<sup>4</sup>If any hurt you, then you may resist,  
But not with hatred or weapon or fist.  
God's way is stronger than any you face;  
Stand up and love them! And give them God's  
grace.

<sup>5</sup>Love those who hate you and pray for them, too.  
God's mercy reaches out far beyond you.  
Seek, as God's people, God's wholeness each day  
So you can witness to God's perfect way.

- Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Eric

POSTLUDE

*Blessings*

Richard Kingsmore

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

8:30am–9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
9:35am–10:30am	Godly Play
9:35am–10:30am	Donuts and Devotions
10:30am–11:00am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout rooms
11:00am–12:00pm	Children's Ministry Meeting for Families & Volunteers in Kairos
11:00am–12:00pm	Anti-Racism Resolutions at DCC Second Hour in Sanctuary
5:00pm–7:00pm	Youth Group

Our unattended nursery is open for anyone who would like to make use of it during worship. For safety reasons, we request that no child be left on the playground without appropriate supervision. Thank you!

**Godly Play** (for children ages preschool through 5th grade) is offered immediately following Time With Children. All children are invited to participate in Godly Play

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 10:30am.

## THIS WEEK AT DCC

**Thursday** 7:00pm–9:00pm Choir Rehearsal

## TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 2**. Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 4**.

Greeters: Sally Baca and Wilson Jackson

Ushers: Anne & Antonio Bremirez and Tom Sonnemann

Candlelighters: Serena & Max Posadas

Liturgist: Steve Bridgeman

Fellowship Hosts: Sally Baca, Tom Sonnemann, and Heidi Bridgeman

Snacks: Sally Baca, Heidi Bridgeman, and Wilson Jackson

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Minister: Michael DoAmor

### Children's Ministers

Godly Play: Barb DeBarger and Sereen Mahmood

### Youth Ministers

Donuts and Devotions: Carrie Hrousis and Dianne Dorn

Youth Group: Pastor Todd

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*Today at 11:00am*

## Children's Ministry Meeting for Families and Volunteers

Following worship today, we are hosting a meeting with all the families of children through grade 5 here at DCC and all of our friends who minister in this area.



As we plan for the current semester and the summer ahead, Jen Faught (our CM commissioner) and Pastor Todd would like to hear from you about DCC's ministry to children—what's worked well, how else we can support you, and your thoughts about some of our ideas for the next few months. We also want to get input from our children's ministers and invite folks new to DCC into this ministry.

We will meet in Kairos Hall; childcare will be provided by teens in our youth group using the Agape Lounge and Dayspring playground.

If you're unable to make it, let us know; we'd still love a chance to check-in with you.

*Today at 11:00am*

## Anti-Racism Resolutions at DCC Second Hour Program

Come join the Anti-Racism Team as we review the new Council-Approved Anti-Racism Resolutions for our church! During second hour today in the Sanctuary (11:00am–noon), please come hear about the action steps our church will be taking as we launch a **church-wide congregational effort** around Anti-Racism. There will be opportunities for questions and to participate in upcoming activities as well! And, for those of you who participate on Zoom, we will continue to stream the second hour on the service zoom link, so stick around and chat with us! We want you to participate with us too! See you there!



## Lent 2023 Good News Article Submission Deadline is February 3rd

We are gearing up for the production of the Lent 2023 Good News. **The deadline for article submissions for the Lent 2023 Good News is Friday, February 3rd.** Please submit any articles or information for the Good News to [Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam](mailto:Anne-Marie.Vanniasinkam). Thank you!

## Pastors' Availability



**Pastor Eric** keeps regular office hours on Sundays and Tuesday through Thursday. He reserves Fridays for sermon preparation and Mondays and Saturdays as his days off. If you want to meet with Pastor Eric during office hours, please schedule your appointment in advance on his calendar by going to <https://calendly.com/reveric>.

**Pastor Todd** keeps regular office hours Tuesday through Thursday and is available Sunday afternoons and on Fridays by appointment. He is off on Mondays and Saturdays and otherwise reserves Fridays for sermon preparation and professional development. Reach out to him directly to schedule a meeting in person at DCC, off-site, or virtual/phone.



## Worship Assistants Needed

Now that the holidays are behind us, we need to recruit some church members to join our team of Worship Assistants. Essential duties are handled once a week in the church sanctuary and office, including straightening and refilling items in pews, organizing name tags, arranging for pick-up of food bank items, and other tasks. Anne Seiler has faithfully completed this job weekly, and we so appreciate her service. We need more people to learn the job and share it rotationally. It can be done at a time convenient for you during open office hours at church. Please chat with me after church or contact me at [aleneriley04@gmail.com](mailto:aleneriley04@gmail.com) if you want to support the church in this role.



-Alene Riley

## "Above and Beyond" Giving Update

What a generous community! For our December "above and beyond" giving we received \$22,071. This money will greatly impact our 2022-2023 expenses as we have added it to our general fund. Thank you for your generous giving.

-Amy, Shii, Heidi, Deb, Trish, Pastor Eric and Pastor Todd

## Youth Group Meals Needed



To ease the strain on the Youth Ministries budget and provide a break from pizza and tacos, **we're inviting the Youth Group families and the broader DCC church family to provide a meal for our youth.** In addition to providing a meal, folx are invited to stay for Youth Group that night to encourage intergenerational connection (and also help us with our chaperone shortage!). [Get the details and sign-up here.](#)



# Cheryl Lynn Beck

February 20, 1953 – November 19, 2022

Please join us for the loving farewell to celebrate Cheryl's life at a memorial service on

Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 11am

Danville Congregational Church  
989 San Ramon Valley Blvd,  
Danville, CA 94526

Reception to follow directly after service at the church.

Regrets only to [cameron.d.beck@gmail.com](mailto:cameron.d.beck@gmail.com)

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

- Thursday, February 16 – [Be a Global Mission Church](#)



## Interested in Spiritual Direction?

Rev. Sheryl Johnson (she/her) is an ordained minister in the UCC and a graduate of the Redlands University Certificate in Spiritual Direction. Spiritual Direction is the art of sacred listening for the Divine's presence in your life and asking where the Spirit may be nudging you next in a supportive and empowering 1:1 space. While rooted in the progressive Christian tradition, Sheryl is intrigued by many spiritual traditions and paths and delighted to work with clients who hold a variety of beliefs. She is committed to social and ecological justice, anti-racism, and LGBTQIA+ diversity. She is happy to meet with clients in person in Berkeley or over the phone/Zoom. Sessions are generally once per month and sliding scale rates are available. For more information, please contact [sheryljejohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sheryljejohnson@gmail.com).





Danville Congregational Church

# MARDI GRAS

## PARTY FOR A PURPOSE

Saturday, February 11, 2023

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Danville Congregational Church  
989 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville

Entertainment by

# COOLTONES BIG BAND

New Orleans Style Food & Drink

Kids activities & free babysitting!



SCAN ME

Tickets via EventBrite  
<https://DCCMardiGras.eventbrite.com>  
\$20 in advance -- \$30 at the door

Generously sponsored by:

Bette & Jim  
Felton



Kyra Kennedy &  
Pat McGrath

100% of all proceeds benefit families and  
individuals experiencing homelessness

# HOPE SOLUTIONS

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://danvillechurch.org/mardigras/>

***Ministers—The Entire Congregation***

***Church Staff***

**The Rev. Eric Sherlock, *Senior Pastor***

**The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley, *Associate Pastor***

**John Kendall Bailey, *Music Director***

**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.

**Maria Arroyo, *Dayspring Preschool Director***

**www.dayspringpreschool.org**



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