



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Photo by Jaka Škrlep

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

OUR PURPOSE

Love God • Love Each Other • Be God's Love in the World

Danville Congregational Church acknowledges that the land this house of worship sits on is the traditional, unceded land of the Ohlone and Bay Miwok people. We offer this land acknowledgment as a sign of respect, with the knowledge that this land was sacred before we ever arrived.

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

Liturgy written by Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth

PRELUDE *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* arr. Franklin Ritter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Eric Sherlock

Please sign the sheet in the blue pad, pass it to another, and place it in the offering plate.
To offer a special prayer, please fill out a Prayer Card, which will be collected during Prayer Time.

*CALL TO WORSHIP Matthew Bassett

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

One: The God of all shepherds has called us here.

All: We come today, celebrating God's love for us.

One: The Good Shepherd has given his life for us.

All: We come today, thanking Jesus for his witness and his teaching.

One: The Shepherding Spirit moves through us, bringing us new hope.

All: We come today ready to celebrate and to praise God. AMEN.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE Matthew

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

Following the Passing of the Peace, children are invited to meet their teachers in the back of the sanctuary for Godly Play.

*OPENING HYMN *Here in this Place* See next page.

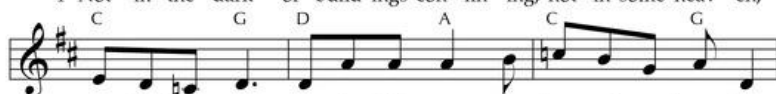
Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
.....and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

SERMON *The Promises of God* Pastor Eric

ANTHEM *Psalms 23* Dave Cook

TIME OF PRAYER Pastor Eric

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 Matthew

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 place it in the
offering plate or [give using our web site](#) or donate using your mobile device,
text the word give to 855-940-3756.*

Offertory *Gentle Shepherd* Bill Gaither

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

#332

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.L
The Sacred Harp, 184
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 199

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

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INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SURSUM CORDA

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us your Spirit, who makes us new and strong, who brings us meaning and joy. May we go forth with your loving Spirit as our guide. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

See next page.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Eric

POSTLUDE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

arr. Jason W. Krug

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My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:11; Heb. 6:19; Rev. 11:15

Edward Mote, c. 1834; alt.

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
2 When shad - ows veil my Sav-ior's face, I rest up - on un -
3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in

righ - teous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain
whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
an-chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
then is all my hope and stay.
less to stand be - fore the throne.

all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

William Bradbury met great success by composing hymn tunes and religious songs in a lively, popular style. He also helped establish music programs in New York public schools, served a church, and co-founded a piano company.

Tune: SOLID ROCK L.M. with refrain
William B. Bradbury, 1863

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 9:30am–10:30am | Worship (In-person and Zoom) |
| 10:30am–11:00am | Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout rooms |
| 10:45am–11:45am | Outreach Commission Meeting |
| 11:00am–12:00pm | Anti Racism Coffee Chat |
| 1:30pm–3:30pm | Celebration Bells Rehearsal |
| 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 Passing of the Peace. All children are invited to participate in Godly Play

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 5**.

Greeters: Joyce Klassen and Kris Lewis

Ushers: Carol Bassett, Judy Halden, John Klassen, and Michiyo Laing

Liturgist: Matthew Bassett

Candlelighter: Matthew Bassett

Flowers: Carol Bassett

Fellowship Hosts: Entire Emmaus Team 5

Lock Up Duty: Dee Brook

Sound Tech: Jim Felton

Tech Minister: Doug Leich

Children's Ministers:

Godly Play: Nan Karns and Nancy Halseth

Youth Minister

Youth Group: Syd Dent

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 6**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Todd is on vacation until April 15th. For immediate pastoral concerns, contact Pastor Eric.

Care Packages for College Students

DCC has a lovely tradition of sending care packages to our college students. We're signing cards and collecting donations for care packages now. \$10 Starbucks gift cards, cash, or items for the care packages are all welcome. Look for Judy Halden after church. For those who are unable to donate in person, you may donate online. The package assembly will happen on **Thursday, April 11th** at noon in the Spirit Room. Contact [Judy Halden](#) for more information.



Wednesday, April 10th and Thursday, April 18th

Meals for Winter Nights

As part of a program called **Winter Nights** several churches and other faith communities in Contra Costa County open their facilities for lodging and meals during the winter and spring months for families that would otherwise be homeless. San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Alamo is one of those churches. **Wednesday, April 10th and Thursday, April 18th** have been set aside for DCC members and friends, working with members of SRVUMC to provide and serve dinner to these families.



Meals are needed for about 15 adults and 8 children. If you would like to be part of this critical outreach program, by providing all or a portion of the needed meals (main dish, salad, dessert) for one of the two days, we can arrange to pick up your meal item(s) at your home, or you can deliver them directly to the church in Alamo. We will also need a few folks to join the clients and serve these meals. If you would like to sign up, or have any questions, please contact Richard Stein at (925) 200-0051 or richarddiane@sbcglobal.net. You can also sign up on Sundays during Fellowship Time.



Next Sunday after worship

Baby Bremirez Shower

Everyone is invited to shower Anne and Antonio with love as they prepare to welcome their new baby boy. Join us next Sunday, immediately following worship in Kairos Hall. There will be food and games! Check out their gift registry [here](#). If you aren't able to attend but would like to send a card, you can mail it to the church office. Please email a photo of yourself as a baby or young child to Kim Michaud at kcmichaud@yahoo.com by April 10th (for one of our games). If you'd like to help with the shower please talk with Kim Michaud, Joyce Klassen or Carol Bassett. We hope you can come!!

April 13th and 14th Sister Parish Events



Saturday, April 13th – Small Group Sister Parish Meeting

Small group gathering for those interested in joining a live call with San Antonio or learning more about Sister Parish – contact [Bill Williams](#) or [Trish Moosbrugger](#) for more information.

Sunday April 14th – Sister Parish Sunday **Building Bridges – the Past, Present and Future of DCC's relationship with San Antonio Catholic Community, Guatemala.**

- Guest Speaker – Carrie Stengel, Executive Director of Sister Parish, and our long-time liaison with San Antonio Community.
- Zoom guest speaker – Cesar Tox, our new liaison with San Antonio, will lead Time with Children live via Zoom.
- Our DCC Tech Team will be live streaming the zoom service on YouTube so that San Antonio friends can watch.
- We will have special hymn selections shared with our friends in San Antonio.

Supporting Students in our Sister Parish Community from farms to Universities!

On our last Sister Parish delegation to Guatemala, we brought a Guatemalan linguist who has led an organization to support education of indigenous, as well as summer programs to support linguistic and cultural education of the 23 different indigenous linguistic groups in that country. We brought him to our community in San Antonio to present to them the possibility of enrolling some of their students in high school or university, a concept that is challenging to a community that depends on agriculture, and families that depend on their children to work in the fields and around the house to sustain their living.

What he offered them through Aid-in-Education was a level of scholarship help to cover 1/2 of their educational expenses. Aid-in-Education solicits support from the North to make this possible, and Ajpub himself [a university professor] administers the funds to the students and provides their grades to supporters to see their progress.

Seven students signed up for the program. Now four are attending universities, and one is in the last year of high school. These five students from our Sister Parish community all need our continued support. The level that Aid-in-Education offers is \$1,000 per year for university students and \$700 for high school. Those funds cover about 1/2 the costs, including transportation, tuition, books, and exams. Sometimes even appropriate clothing is a necessary expense.

If you would like to contribute, please contact Bill Williams (925) 413-8828 or jpbillwilliams70@gmail.com. Checks can be made out to Aid-in-Education, which is a 501-c3 organization.



Love God. Love each other. Be God's Love in the world.

04.13.2024 (10am-4pm)

WOMEN'S RETREAT

We can get so caught up in managing our lives and our calendars, trying to control every detail, that we forget to let the Spirit move, dance, and breathe. During this retreat, we will consider how we are being "drawn in" to relationship with the Divine and with each other in new and creative ways...if only we let go, relinquish control, and make room for the Spirit in our lives.

Our facilitator is Rev. Bethany Nelson UCC ordained pastor serving at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon. Bethany and Amy Furber-Dobson grew up together at the UCC in Sebastopol and she is thrilled to lead us in retreat! Big thanks to Joyce Klassen for hosting the event at her home.

\$40

Includes lunch

Please reach out to Amy with questions and

RSVP

amyafurber@yahoo.com

510-432-8362





Third Thursday Member Meeting
DEI (Diversity Equity Inclusion): Gender 101
Thursday, April 18, 2024, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
Danville Congregational Church



Join our branch on April 18 for a timely presentation from two key members of the local PFLAG organization. In addition to familiarizing us with some common terms relating to LGBTQ+ people and issues, they will provide us with guidance in understanding and supporting transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.

Speakers

Taylor denBroeder (he/they)
current President of the Danville/San Ramon PFLAG chapter

Elisa Tinker (she/her/hers)
board member of the Danville/San Ramon PFLAG chapter

Any questions, please contact Kathiehixon@comcast.net.



Pictures of the Week



Thank you DCC for providing families with bountiful, beautiful Easter dinners! 🐣🐣🐣
 Twenty-one baskets were delivered to Hope Solutions last Friday.

If you'd like to submit a picture to be considered for the pic of the week, send it to Anne-Marie at anne-marie@danvillechurch.org.

Join Us at Arlington Community Church for a

FOOD TRUCK FUNDRAISER

Benefiting the **BLACK WEALTH BUILDERS FUND**



20% of proceeds will be donated to the Black Wealth Builders Fund which provides Black homebuyers with zero-interest down payment loans.



Scan here to learn more about BWB!



**THURSDAY
 APRIL 11
 4:30 - 6:30PM**

Speakers at 6:00PM

Enjoy a delicious dinner & support local Black owned businesses

FOOD TRUCKS: Southern Jazz Kitchen & Don Taco



Free ice cream for anyone who makes an additional donation!

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH, United Church of Christ | 52 ARLINGTON AVENUE, KENSINGTON | 510-526-9146 | acc.ucc.staff@gmail.com

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, *Office Admin & 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*

Kim Michaud, *Administrative Assistant*

www.dayspringpreschool.org



Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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