



# DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Second Sunday of Stewardship  
Pastor Eric's Service of Release

*April 28, 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

PRELUDE

*Peaceful Prelude*  
*Offertoire*

Alan Bullard  
Cesar Franck

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

Wilson Jackson

One: Sing God's praise.

**All: Give thanks to the Lord above.**

One: Seek the Lord and trust God's strength.

**All: Proclaim God's wonderful works.**

One: Live in the Spirit of love and grace.

**All: Give thanks for Christ's marvelous love.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Wilson

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

\*OPENING HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;  
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;  
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;  
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;  
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.  
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.  
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-mega be;  
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,  
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.  
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.



*This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For another harmonization, see 368, 495

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Spirit, I have heard you calling, like a memory long grown dim,  
crying from creation's moment seeking voice from deep within.  
I have heard you in my longing. I have heard you in my pain.  
Now I feel you moving in me, feel you burning like a flame.*

*Now I see you all around me, now I hear you call my name.  
Now I speak the words you give me, now I feed creation's flame.  
You are speaking through my longing. You are speaking through my pain.  
Now I feel you moving in me, and I'll never be the same.*

*Since you moved upon my waters, since you spoke and set me free,  
I have yearned for this communion, for your fire inside of me!  
Now your love defines my longing. Now your love shines through my pain.  
Now we dance in endless union, singing out creation's name!*

## 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.**

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Jim Felton

## TIME OF GIVING

Wilson

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.*

Gabrielle Goozée-Nichols, soprano

When I think of home, I think of place  
Where there's love overflowing.  
I wish I was home, I wish I was back there  
With the thing I've been knowing.  
Wind that makes the tall grass bend into leaning,  
Suddenly, the raindrops that fall have a meaning,  
Sprinkling the scene, makes it all clean.

Maybe there's a chance for me to go back  
Now that I have some direction.  
It sure would be nice to be back home  
Where there's love and affection.  
And just maybe I can convince time to slow up,  
Giving me enough time in my life to grow up.  
Time, be my friend, let me start again.

Suddenly, my world's gone and changed its face  
But I still know where I'm going.  
I have had my mind spun around in space and yet,  
I've watched it growing.  
And if you're listening, God, please don't make it hard  
To know if we should believe the things that we see.  
Tell us, should we try to stay, should we run away,  
Or would it be better just to let things be?

Living here in this brand new world might be a fantasy,  
But it's taught me to love - so it's real, real, real to me.  
And I've learned that we must look inside our hearts  
To find a world full of love  
Like yours, like mine,  
Like Home.

\*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 RITES OF FAREWELL AND THANKSGIVING**

*We now release Pastor Eric and offer him our love and blessings  
as he leaves to pursue a new journey.*

Kyra Kennedy, DCC Moderator:

In 2015 Danville Congregational Church called Eric Sherlock to serve as our minister. Today we offer our farewells to Eric. We are here to release Eric from his responsibilities as our pastor. We gather to offer him blessings as he pursues new paths of discipleship.

Pastor Eric: I thank Danville Congregational Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support shown me during my ministry among you. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership was accepted.

As I leave I will carry with me all that you have taught me.

**Congregation: We receive your thankfulness and offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to continue your journey where God's Spirit might lead you. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

Pastor Eric: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Jeanne Strauss, Moderator, Bay Association:

Do you, the members and friends of Danville Congregational Church, release Eric Sherlock from his duties as your minister?

**Congregation: We do, with the help of God.**

Jeanne: Do you offer your encouragement for his continuing journey?

**Congregation: We do, with the help of God.**

Jeanne: Do you, Eric, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Pastor Eric: I do, with the help of God.



Jeanne: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and for the new relationship with another who will be called to serve Danville Congregational Church?

Pastor Eric: I do, with the help of God.

Jeanne: On behalf of the Northern California Nevada Conference and the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. The member churches of our Association and Conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

\*CLOSING HYMN *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* See pages 10–11.

\*BLESSING OF GODSPEED Carol Gilliland, Pastor Todd,  
and Congregation

**All: We offer you our encouragement and prayers  
as you embark upon this new journey.  
We give thanks for your witness among us.  
May the God of grace accompany you and bless you 'til we meet  
again. Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Eric and Congregation

One: If God is for us, what more do we need?

**All: Nothing can separate us from Christ's gracious love.**

One: If Christ is with us, what can stop us?

**All: Nothing can keep us from sharing Christ's gifts of love and strength.**

One: Go with love as our guide.

**All: God is our constant companion.**

POSTLUDE *Largamente* Léon Boëllmann  
*Prelude in C* J. S. Bach

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# Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Unison, brightly  
Refrain

James K. Manley, 1978; alt.

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the

Bm E7 Asus7 A7

wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from

Bm G A7 D G D *Last time, end*

plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

D G A G

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the  
2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the  
3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a  
4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

D A7 D Bm

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the  
 sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a  
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the  
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

E7 Asus7 A7 D G A

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you  
 law and a land; When they were con - found - ed by their  
 whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you  
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D A7 D Bm

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -  
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -  
 called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -  
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

G A7 D G D A7 *to Refrain*

bers and rise on your wings."  
 ets to o - pen their eyes.  
 ple on the rush of the wind.  
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:30am–11:00am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout rooms
1:30pm–3:30pm	Celebration Bells Rehearsal

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!

There is no **Godly Play** today.

## THIS WEEK AT DCC

<b>Thursday</b>	7:00pm–9:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
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# TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 2.**

Greeters: Chris Sonnemann

Ushers: Antonio Bremirez, Bruce Hixon, and Kathie Hixon

Liturgist: Wilson Jackson

Fellowship Hosts: Sally Baca, Julie Grenley, and Tom Sonnemann

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 3.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Pastoral Transition Update 4.25.24

### *Service of Release*

Today will be a "Service of Release" for our Senior Pastor, Eric Sherlock. A Service of Release is a formal ceremony, attended by the members of the congregation and our Bay Association representatives to formally release our pastor from his duties of pastoral care to our community. It's not simply a "goodbye," but a formal covenant of no contact.

Once the Service of Release is over, and Pastor Eric leaves DCC, church members and the pastor are not to engage in any form of communication including, but not limited to, texting and social media. This is outlined within "The Ordained Ministers Code" under the Ethics of Ministry from the United Church of Christ Manual on the Ministry, as it relates to a departed pastor. This section reads:

"I will not perform pastoral services within a parish or for a member of a parish without the consent of the pastor of that parish. I will deal honorably with the record of my predecessor and successor. I will not, upon my termination and departure from a ministry position, interfere with, nor intrude upon the ministry of my successor."

We want to emphasize this ethical responsibility because these departures are difficult. There may be the temptation to turn to Pastor Eric for advice and counsel. Also, you may be tempted to call him for funerals, weddings, and other pastoral services. This is a natural inclination because we have a relationship with him. However, in the long term, this will neither serve us, nor Pastor Eric once he has departed. Requests of this nature put him in an awkward position of saying "no". As a congregation, we will need time to move through the interim and search process with a focus on the present and future. We also need to give our next pastor an opportunity to establish his/her leadership and develop a relationship with you.

We all want to wish Pastor Eric Godspeed and blessings on his new vocation in counseling--be sure to reach out to him prior to his departure to send him forth with our love. Please let Barb DeBarger or Kyra Kennedy know if you have any questions. We will provide more information soon about our upcoming Congregational Input Meetings, coming up in May.

- **May 14 via Zoom, 6:30pm–7:30pm** [Zoom Meeting Link](#) Meeting ID: 841 2137 5583
- **May 19 In Person Second Hour, 11:00am–12:00pm (in Kairos Hall)**
- **May 22 via Zoom, 6:30-7:30pm** [Zoom Meeting Link](#) Meeting ID: 825 4175 9467





## **Stewardship 2024--Seeking Your Time and Talents!**

Stewardship season is the time for us all to take a look at what we can offer the church in terms of our time and talent. In this year's Stewardship packet, there is a check sheet with a listing of the various commissions and committees that help our church function and come alive in unity. Please consider checking off one (or more) of these opportunities as you discern your commitments this year. In particular, the Nominating Committee

is looking for folks interested in leading our Worship Commission, our Children's Commission, and our Youth Commission. If you have interest in one of these commissions, please let Barb DeBarger or Kyra Kennedy know!

### **Today's Stewardship Moment**

This Sunday we will continue to hear from DCC members about why they contribute to the work of DCC with their time, talent, and treasure. This week, **Jim Felton** will be sharing the Stewardship Moment.



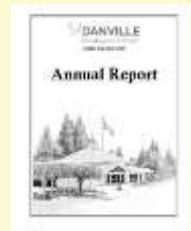
As we journey through this Stewardship season, we invite you to think about how we are *Better Together* and how you can join us in growing our future together.

**Commitment Cards are due to Heidi Bridgeman, DCC's Financial Secretary, by May 12th! Please place your card in the offering plate on Sunday, mail it to the church office, or email your commitment to Heidi at [dcc.finsec@danvillechurch.org](mailto:dcc.finsec@danvillechurch.org).**

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Joyce Klassen](#) or [Nicole Noga](#).

## **2023–2024 Annual Reports due May 10th**

It's that time of year again! We are collecting written annual reports from all officers, commissioners, and committees of the congregation to compile for DCC's 2023-2024 Annual Report for the Annual Meeting. If you are a commissioner, committee chair, and/or team lead, please email your group's annual report to Anne-Marie ([anne-marie@danvillechurch.org](mailto:anne-marie@danvillechurch.org)) no later than May 10th.





## Summer Newsletter Articles Due May 10th

We are gearing up for the production of the Summer 2024 Good News. **The deadline for article submissions for the Summer 2024 Good News is Friday, May 10th.** Please submit any articles or information for the Good News to [Anne-Marie](#). Thank you!



### *Next Sunday* **Graduates Sunday Blessing and Brunch**

On Sunday, May 5th, we will honor our three young people who are transitioning from high school this year: **Matteo Massimo, Craig Seiler, and Michael Do Amor**. These young people have grown up here at DCC and as a community, we want to commemorate their achievements, affirm our love for them, and encourage them toward the bright futures that await them.

We will bless them during worship that morning and will honor them and their families

with a brunch in Kairos Hall. We invite the whole church to be a part of this DCC tradition.

Our Community Life Commission has graciously arranged a delicious lunch for us. However, to ensure we have enough food for everyone, **please RSVP [here](#) or call/email the church office by Sunday, April 28th.**





**SAVE THE DATE!**

**ANNUAL MEETING  
AND  
POTLUCK**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH  
AFTER WORSHIP**

**MORE DETAILS  
TO FOLLOW**



## Join the 2024 Open Delegation

Curious about other Sister Parish relationships? Interested in visiting Central America in a meaningful way? Want to learn more about the root causes of migration from Central America and/or the impact of climate change in the region?

You are invited to join the Sister Parish [Open Delegation](#) to Guatemala and El Salvador November 5th–15th, 2024.

Be part of this special Sister Parish experience, traveling through Guatemala and El Salvador and spending time with community members from the south. Share fellowship, laughter, and learning on

this 10-day journey, during which the group becomes one large family.

Trish Moosbrugger has already signed up. Feel free to email her ([Patriciamoosbrugger@gmail.com](mailto:Patriciamoosbrugger@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## Words of Thanks

DCC and its members are hard at work making a difference in our community and beyond.

Going forward, we will publicize notes of thanks we receive from various organizations and individuals. The full notes will be posted on the bulletin board in Koinonia, but here are a few snippets...

- There was the acknowledgement of the gift to the indigenous group...
- There's a handwritten card from SF Night Ministry...
- And this email from Katie Beaver -*Hi!! Thank you so much for the care package. I so appreciate it! Please pass this along to all who contributed* 🙏



## Pastors' Availability

**Pastor Todd** keeps regular office hours remotely on Monday and in the office Tuesday through Thursday.

If you would like to meet with one or both Pastors, please reach out to them directly via phone or email. **Pastor Eric:** [eric@danvillechurch.org](mailto:eric@danvillechurch.org), **Pastor Todd:** [todd@danvillechurch.org](mailto:todd@danvillechurch.org)

## Pictures of the Week



Above: Participants at the DCC Women's Retreat on April 13th

Top Right: Antonio and Anne Bremirez at their baby shower on April 14th  
Bottom Right: The outpouring of gifts from the shower.



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](mailto:anne-marie@danvillechurch.org)



***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](http://www.dayspringpreschool.org)**



**Danville Congregational Church**

***United Church of Christ***

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