



# DANVILLE

Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
*November 9, 2025*

# 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 upon 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

Please take note of the emergency exits around you and locate the nearest one to you.

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 after worship in the narthex (lobby) or contact Joyce Klassen ([joyce.klassen@comcast.net](mailto:joyce.klassen@comcast.net)) our Community Life Commissioner. 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

*We Return*

Elana Arian & Noah Aronson

WELCOME

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

***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 &  
LITANY OF HOMECOMING

Heidi Bridgeman, Alene Riley,  
Pastor Carol, Pastor Lauren, & Pastor Todd

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

Heidi: We give thanks to God for this intentional time apart for growth and rest for both Pastor Todd and our congregation. We are grateful that he is back in our community safely, and we look forward to the new things that God will do in our midst as we seek to serve and love others.

**Congregation:** **We rejoice that God has brought you back into our presence refreshed, and we welcome you with open arms.**

Pastor Todd: It is good to be back with God's people at DCC! During this time I have journeyed physically and spiritually. I am so grateful to you for this sabbatical time.

**Congregation:** **We thank God for the time apart, and the time of returning!**

Pastor Todd: I thanked God daily for our shared ministry, and am committed to our mission in this community and beyond, into the future God has planned for us.

Alene: The primary and unique symbol for pastors is their stole. It points to their being set apart by the church for the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Todd's stole sat here before us in worship for three months. The light of his presence burned brightly each week in this candle. We now replace the stole on his shoulders to mark the end of his sabbatical time and indicate his return to active ministry among us.

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Carol

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

\*OPENING HYMN

*Called As Partners in Christ's Service*

See next page.

# Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min - is - tries of grace,  
 2 Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
 3 Thus new pat-ters for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,  
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



We re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
 Let us fol - low, nev - er fal-ter-ing, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.  
 Help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
 That sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con - quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor-er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,  
 Words of com-fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
 Make us part-ners in our liv - ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.  
 Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.  
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.



Tune: BEECHER 87.87.D.  
 John Zundel, 1855  
 For another key, see 43, 368

One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

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

## ANCIENT AND MODERN TEXTS IN CONVERSATION

Rev. Carol Barriger &amp; Kim Michaud

Jesus travelled on from that place and he walked along the shore of Lake Galilee. He climbed up a hill and he sat down there.<sup>1</sup>

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
what are humans that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?<sup>2</sup>

It's easy to look at the contours of a forest and feel a bone deep love for nature.

It's less easy to remember that the contours of your own body represent the exact same nature.

The pathways of your mind.

Your dreams,  
dark and strange as sprouts curling beneath a flat rock.

Your regret,  
bitter as the citrus rot of old cut grass.

It's the same as the nature you make time to love.

That you practice loving.

The forest. The meadow. The sweeping arm of a galaxy.

You are as natural as any postcard landscape  
and deserve the same love.<sup>3</sup>

The body is a multilingual being. It speaks through its color and its temperature, the flush of recognition, the glow of love, the ash of pain, the heat of arousal, the coldness of non-conviction....It speaks through the leaping of the heart, the falling of the spirits, the pit at the center, and rising hope.<sup>4</sup>

For all these mysteries, I thank you—  
for the wonder of myself,  
for the wonder of your works—  
my soul knows it well.<sup>5</sup>

And I said to my body, softly, "I want to be your friend."  
It took a long breath and replied, "I've been waiting my whole life for this."<sup>6</sup>

Find or make time for yourself to be with yourself. Spend time thinking about who you are and who you want to be. Examine your strengths and focus on possibilities. Find the friend inside who has accomplished a lot, and learn to love yourself on your own terms."<sup>7</sup>

Remember this: Your body is the home—the temple—of God's Holy Spirit. God gave their Holy Spirit to you and God lives in you.<sup>8</sup>

Your body is the place where the Divine dwells; you always have direct and imminent access to the Divine. That is sometimes comforting, sometimes healing, and sometimes a reminder that you do not have to keep trying to earn love—you can access it, always.”<sup>9</sup>

God is with you.

God will be very happy about you!

God will quietly love you.

God will sing, because They are so happy about you!<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Gospel according to Matthew (15:29); <sup>2</sup>The Psalmist (8:3–4); <sup>3</sup>Jarod K. Anderson; <sup>4</sup>Clarissa Pinkola Estés; <sup>5</sup>The Psalmist (139:14); <sup>6</sup>Nayyirah Waheed; <sup>7</sup>Tom Walsh; <sup>8</sup>The Apostle Paul in his first letter to the church in Corinth (6:19a); <sup>9</sup>Hillary L. McBride; <sup>10</sup>the prophet Zephaniah (3:17)

SERMON

*Our Bodies are Temples*

Pastor Todd

ANTHEM

*The Road Home*

Stephen Paulus

*Tell me, where is the road I can call my own,  
That I left, that I lost, so long ago?  
All these years I have wandered, Oh when will I know  
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?*

*After wind, after rain, when the dark is done.  
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,  
Through the air there's a calling from far away,  
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.*

*Rise up, follow me; Come away, is the call,  
With the love in your heart as the only song;  
There is no such beauty as where you belong:  
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.*

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Lauren

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.**

## 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

## Welcome Home

## Andrea Christensen Brett

An open door, a warm embrace call us to worship and share God's grace.  
All can gather safely here, partake of emblems, feel Jesus near.

[Chorus]

As weary trav'lers on life's road, when the world is dark and cold,  
Where'er we wander, where'er we roam,  
We're always welcome, welcome home.

The temple doors invite each guest to feel God's presence and in Him rest.  
Humble souls at altars kneel, make cov'nants sweet, bring hearts to heal.

[Chorus]

The gates of heaven blaze with light. The Savior beckons in robes of white —  
Arms outstretched, His table spread. Come to His feast; with love be fed.

[Chorus]

\*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

## WORK OF THE PEOPLE

## Pastor Lauren

## A LITANY OF RESTORATION, FAREWELL, &amp; BLESSING

## Alene and Heidi

Alene: During this time, the work of ministry has been committed into the hands of Pastors Carol and Lauren, with the support of your partners. You have shouldered much and we are grateful.

Pastor Lauren, we rejoice that you continue in our midst as one of our pastors and teachers, and we thank God for you. You have stepped up graciously and courageously in your role as our minister for youth and community engagement. You have provided great leadership. We pray today for true restoration of balance in your work and life going forward.

Pastor Carol is leaving our congregation, having fulfilled the sabbatical support ministry needed in these months. We now bid her farewell and Godspeed.

Heidi: Pastor Carol, on August 3, 2025, we engaged you to be our pastor for this sabbatical time in the life of our congregation. We asked you to proclaim God's Word, welcome newcomers, announce God's forgiveness to us, and preside at our celebration at the communion table. With the gospel, you comforted us in times of sickness and loss. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in this church as we serve our community. God has blessed you with the Holy Spirit in fulfilling this sabbatical ministry, and through you, God has blessed us.

Let us pray. Eternal God, we thank you for Pastor Carol, and for our life together in this congregation and community. As she has been a blessing to us, so now send her out to be a blessing to others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Sacred the Body*

See next page.

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

Please remain in your pews until the light has been taken out of the Sanctuary. Thank you!

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## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

8:30am–9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:30am–11:00am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout room
After worship	Second Hour with Pastor Todd
After worship–1:00pm	Youth Group
1:00pm–3:00pm	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.

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

## THIS WEEK AT DCC

Tuesday	11:30am	Men's Luncheon
Tuesday	1:00pm–3:00pm	Diaconate Meeting
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	2:30pm–3:30pm	CARE Support Group Meeting
Wednesday	7:00pm–8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	5:30pm–8:00pm	TGIF at the Feltons

# SACRED THE BODY

Ruth Duck

DR TRACI WEST  
Mark A. Miller



1. Sa - cred the bo - dy      God has cre - at - ed,  
2. Bod - ies are var - ied,      made in all siz - es,  
3. Love re - spects per - sons,      bod - ies and bound - ries.  
4. Ho - ly of ho - lies,      God ev - er lov - ing,



tem - ple of Spir - it that dwells deep in - side.  
pale, full of col - or, both frag - ile and strong.  
Love does not bat - ter, ne - glect, or a - buse.  
make us your tem - ples; in - dwell all we do.



Cher - ish each per - son;      nur -ture cre - a - tion.  
Ho - ly the dif - f'rence,      gift of the Mak - er,  
Love touch - es gent - ly,      nev - er co - erc - ing.  
May we be care - ful,      ten - der and car - ing,



Treat flesh as ho - ly, that love      may a -  
so let us hon - or each sto - ry and  
Love leaves the oth - er with pow - er to  
so may our bod - ies give hon - or to



bide.  
song.  
choose.  
you.

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# TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

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

Greeters: Sally Baca and Chris Sonnemann

Ushers: Bruce Hixon, Kathie Hixon, Reuben Shank, and Tom Sonnemann

Candlelighter: Tom Sonnemann

Liturgists: Pastor Carol, Kim Michaud, and Wilson Jackson

Fellowship Host: Heidi Bridgeman and Nan Karns

Flowers: Nan Karns

Sound Tech: Steve Bridgeman

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Carol Bassett and Matthew Bassett

## **Children's Ministers**

Godly Play: Barb DeBarger

## **Youth Ministers:**

Youth Group: Pastor Lauren

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Journeys in Faith Surveys**

If you haven't filled out a Journeys in Faith survey, please grab one from the table in the Narthex and return it to the wooden box. We will collect them after coffee hour this week.



*Saturday, November 15th at 3:00pm  
Eleanor Dent's Memorial Service*

In remembrance of the life of **Eleanor Dent**, her family will hold a memorial service for her on Saturday, November 15th at 3:00pm at Danville Congregational Church. Please join us in celebrating her life in person at DCC or via Zoom. A reception will follow the service in Koinonia Hall.

## Children - Join us for Godly Play today



Children are invited to join Ms. Barb this Sunday to hear the story of David, the imperfect and beloved king. David was the youngest, smallest shepherd and not an obvious choice to be king. This story reminds us that God's ways are different from the world's ways -- and that faith and a good heart matter more than size or status.

### *Today after worship* **Second Hour with Pastor Todd**

Today after worship, Pastor Todd will be sharing about his time during his Sabbatical with DCC . Check back here for more details to come next week but save the date for this special Second Hour in the Sanctuary.



### *This Sunday after worship in Kairos* **Dayspring Book Fair**

The Dayspring Book Fair will be open for shopping after worship this Sunday, November 9th in Kairos Hall. Stop by to purchase a book for your children, grandchildren, or the Dayspring classrooms. You can also shop [online](#) until November 18th. Thanks for your support!



### *Tuesday, November 11th at 11:30am* **Men's Luncheon at The View at Bridges Golf Club**

There will be a Men's Luncheon on Tuesday, November 11th at 11:30am at The View in the Bridges Golf Club in San Ramon. Come join the group for good conversation and food. Please contact Tahir Mahmood if you have any questions.



## Wednesday Morning Prayer

Pastor Todd facilitates morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10:00am via Zoom. We will engage in centering prayer and then pray for those requests we have received. To join use this [link](#).



*This Friday from 5:30pm–8:00pm*

## **TGIF at the Felton residence**

All are welcome for this super simple, end-of-week, supper get-together! It's a casual time for people to catch up and connect/reconnect with our DCC Community - singles, old/young, families – wherever you are on your Friday journey into the weekend...

- Hosted by Bette and Jim Felton – Danville. Full address is in the church directory. Contact [Bette](#) with any questions.
- Open house from 5:30pm to 8:00pm – Drop by for however long it works for you. Kids are very welcome!
- No RSVP necessary – just bring a pizza or dish you'd like to share, enough that covers your family, plus BYO (wine, beer, soda). We'll have salad and dessert.

*Next Sunday*

### **Guest Preacher and Journeys in Faith Second Hour**

Join us next Sunday as our guest preacher, the **Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy** leads a Journeys in Faith Second Hour—*Leadership in Apocalyptic Times*.

The World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report stated that we are on the brink of a "polycrisis"—several major crisis like environment and war happening at the same time. We feel it in our bodies, in the fissures in our politics, and in the structures of our organizations. How does the church offer good news to a world that faces a set of risks that feel both whole new and eerily familiar



*Friday, November 14th from 5:00pm–8:00pm*  
**Rainbow Community Center Grand Re-Inauguration**



As we continue to affirm and support the life-giving and life-saving work of Rainbow Community Center here in Contra Costa County, we invite you to join Pastor Todd for their "Grand Re-Inauguration" event on November 14th as they re-open their expanded space and celebrate a new chapter of growth, visibility, and community pride. Get your free tickets [here](#).

## Dayspring Scholarship Fund Needs Support



The Dayspring Preschool Scholarship Fund helps pay for the tuition for students in our community who may not have the financial means to afford preschool education. Studies overwhelmingly show that children who receive early education do better in school overall, have increased graduation and college-going rates and are better contributors to society. We have a fund dedicated to pay for the tuition of two students each year who qualify for assistance, and that fund needs donations!

If you are looking for a good cause to donate to on "Giving Tuesday" this year, please visit our website, click the "GIVE" button on the top right, and select the Dayspring Scholarship Fund to share your good fortune with others, and help sponsor a child to have a great chance at life!

## Staffing Change at Dayspring Preschool

As some of you know, our beloved Kim Michaud has decided to retire from her work at Dayspring after many years of dedicated and wonderful service as our Administrative Assistant. Kim's last day will be November 6th. Please be sure to extend your thanks and appreciation to Kim! She will still be supporting the transition to the new Admin Assistant for a couple of weeks, and also wants to join the Friends of Dayspring, so you will still see her around the school (and of course at church!).

Taking the helm at the front desk is our new employee, Joana Aufang. Joana comes to us from Southern California, where (miracle of miracles) she was a preschool director and teacher for several years. She just moved to the Bay Area and wants to step back from being a director while she raises her 2-year-old daughter (who will also attend Dayspring!) but still keep her connection to early childhood education. Maria and I interviewed her last week, and we feel she will be a great fit for the school. She's familiar with all of the aspects of managing a preschool, including being familiar with Brightwheel, Google, Canva, and working with kids and families. She begins on Monday, November 10th. If you have a chance to stop by, please introduce yourself to Joana!

## DCC Endowment Looks to Put Funds to Work

If you have an idea for a program or activity that you'd like to see at DCC, the DCC Endowment Fund could be a source of funding to make it happen. All you need to do is fill out the [Endowment Fund Request for Program Support](#) and send your idea or proposal to the DCC office or to DCC Endowment Committee Chair Pat McGrath. **Please submit your proposal no later than November 24, 2025 for consideration.**



## Pastoral Availability

Pastor Todd keeps regular office hours remotely on Monday and in the office Tuesday through Thursday. If you would like to meet with Pastor Todd, please reach out to him directly via phone or [email](#).

Pastor Lauren is available by appointment. You can reach her via [email](#) or phone.



MOZART TO MENDELSSOHN  
CHORA NOVA  
JOHN KENDALL BAILEY, music director

CHORA  
NOVA



**REICHA**  
TE DEUM  
(U.S. Premiere, written 200 years ago)

**BEETHOVEN**  
CALM SEA & PROSPEROUS VOYAGE  
ELEGAC SONG

**MENDELSSOHN**  
CALM SEA & PROSPEROUS VOYAGE  
VERLEIH UNS FRIEDEN



Choral/Orchestral works featuring vocal soloists  
Gabrielle Goode-Nichols, Shanna Fallibee,  
Joseph Meyers & Sepp Hammer



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 3:00 PM  
HERBST THEATER

401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco  
FREE ADMISSION (donations accepted)  
[www.sfcivicmusic.org](http://www.sfcivicmusic.org)

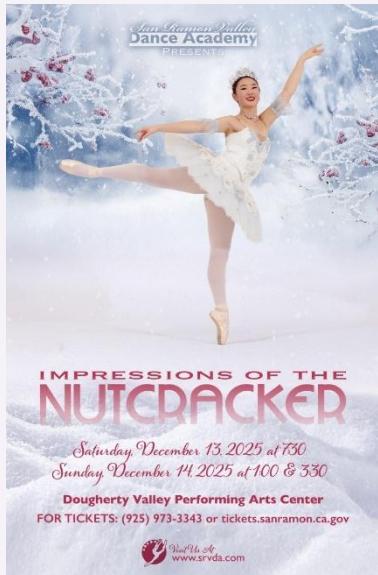
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 7:30 PM  
FIRST CHURCH UCC, BERKELEY

Dana St and Durant Ave, Berkeley  
Tickets available at [www.choranova.org](http://www.choranova.org)

## TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

THURSDAY, NOV 20TH  
TODOS SANTOS PLAZA | 6-7PM

THEIR NAMES . OUR VOICES . ONE COMMUNITY



*Saturday, December 13th at 7:30pm and  
Sunday December 14th at 1:00pm and 3:30pm  
SRVDA's "Impressions of the Nutcracker"*

"Impressions of the Nutcracker", featuring DCC's own **Sabrina Jackson-Kimball**, brings the holiday spirit to life with an exciting fast-paced production that incorporates multiple styles of dance while following the traditional storyline of the Nutcracker!

In just over an hour, this beloved story ballet performance will delight and entertain the whole family!

Tickets can be purchased in person, by phone, or online through the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center Box Office (Tuesday-Friday, 12:00pm-5:00pm)

10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon, CA 94582 ; (925) 973-3343;  
[tickets.sanramon.ca.gov/](http://tickets.sanramon.ca.gov/)

## Pictures of the Week



Last Sunday, we celebrated All Saint's Day; Jenn O'Neal and Max Posadas served as liturgists; our younger members served Communion; and we had a great turnout at our monthly Lunch Bunch.

*If you'd like to submit a picture to be considered for the pic of the week,  
email [anne-marie@danvillechurch.org](mailto:anne-marie@danvillechurch.org).*

***Ministers—The Entire Congregation***

***Church Staff***

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

**The Rev. Lauren Jewett, Minister of Youth & Community Engagement**

**The Rev. Carol Barriger, Sabbatical Support Minister**

**John Kendall Bailey, Music Director**

**Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam, Office & Communications Manager**

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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