



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



"Mary's Yes" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Third Sunday of Advent

Pageant Sunday

December 14, 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) 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



Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

PRELUDE *The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came* trad. Basque carol

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Wilson Jackson

WELCOME Rev. Lauren Jewett

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.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY Finn and Lily Sonnemann

*CALL TO WORSHIP Lily

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

One: Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

All: Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

One: Mary said, "How can this be?"

All: We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

One: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

All: So may we trust the Inviter.

One: May we heed God's invitation.

All: May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

One: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE Finn

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING HYMN *Will You Come and Follow Me* See next page.

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)
Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

Silent Night

(one verse, sung a capella using the “ooh” vowel for words)

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold thru-out the heavens
There shone a holy light.

[Refrain]

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

[Refrain]

O, Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

HOMILY

Even in Our Fear, We are Called Forward

Pastor Todd

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Lauren

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

All: Hear our prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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

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.

Offertory

Breath of Heaven

Amy Grant, arr. Rebecca Belliston

*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

*CLOSING HYMN

O Come, Take Heart

See next page.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH & BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd and Congregation

**All: When our knees shake, when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto God's good news.**

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Sandra Lepley, piano

arr. Mark Hayes

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

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O Come, Take Heart

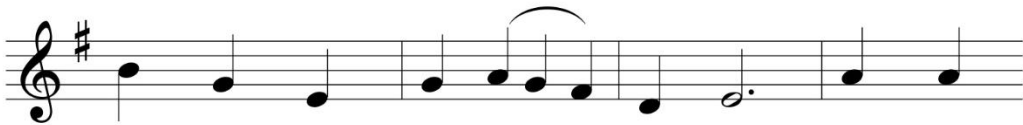
VENI IMMANUEL 8.8.8.8 with refrain

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Plainsong adapted by Thomas Helmore, 1854



O come, O come though tim - id and un - sure And
O come, O come though you feel un - pre - pared When
O come and join God's kin _____ dom work And



trust that God de - clares your worth Re - mem -
cour - age fails you, do it scared Don't let
be God's hands and feet on earth You're called



ber when you're feel - ing small That ev - ery child of
the fear of ma - king mis-takes Im - pede you from the
ex - act - ly as _____ you are To love the world with



God _____ is called
path you're called to take Take heart, take heart! The One
ev - ery bro - ken part



who calls to you Will give you strength and see you through

WORSHIP NOTES



“Mary’s Yes” by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 1:26-39 | Photography with digital drawing

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, the angel goes to Nazareth to find Mary. I was six months pregnant with my second daughter when I reread this scripture and began this image, so at first, this detail seemed like a happy coincidence. But as I pondered it, I wondered if Elizabeth’s pregnancy might have everything to do with Mary’s willingness to say yes to this wild, wonderful—but risky and terrifying—undertaking. Elizabeth’s pregnancy provides reassurance that Mary can trust the angel’s impossible news.

By the sixth month, Mary will be able to see for herself that Elizabeth is truly pregnant, can place her hands on Elizabeth’s belly and giggle as the baby leaps and Elizabeth will be emotionally, mentally, and physically preparing for birth. Her miracle is real, even as it is yet to be born. Therefore, Mary can rest her hope in an emerging—not empty—promise. Mary’s willingness to say “yes” is also fortified by the assurance that she is not stepping forward alone. Even as fears surely surround her, Mary will go to Elizabeth for protection and comfort. She won’t fulfill her calling without support. Her hope will be strengthened in solidarity.

In this image, we see the angel greeting Mary in the form of dappled light. Mary’s back is turned to the angel, but we see her in the process of pivoting toward the warmth of the cascading light. I imagine this is the moment after the angel responds to her initial question, “How can this be?” After hearing the angel’s response, Mary closes her eyes, imagining her cousin Elizabeth and perhaps her many ancestors holding her up as she prepares to step forward. The wrap around her head carries the angel’s good news, anointing her with the promise that fear won’t stop her. Embroidered along her neckline is Mary’s willing response: “Here I am.” Her lantern earring is a sign to each of us, to anyone who is fearful. It’s as if Mary herself becomes a lantern, emanating courage in the face of a fearful calling, lighting a way forward.

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity



Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity (she/her) is a Pastorist (pastor + artist) and creative entrepreneur seeking to fill the church with more color, paint, mystery, and creativity. Her faith is rooted in creative practices that help her break free from perfectionism and control and participate in creating a more whole, just world

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	Commission Meetings
After worship	Cookie Exchange and Luncheon

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.

Due to the pageant, there is no **Godly Play** today.

THIS WEEK AT DCC

Tuesday	9:00am	Men's Coffee and Donuts
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10:00am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Wednesday	7:00pm–8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00pm–3:30pm	Spirited Sisters
Saturday	9:30am–12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

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

Candlelighters: Finn Sonnemann and Lily Sonnemann

Greeters: Chris Sonnemann and Sally Baca

Ushers: Anne Elliott, Bruce Hixon, Kathie Hixon, and Tom Sonnemann

Liturgists: Finn Sonnemann Lily Sonnemann and Wilson Jackson

Sound Tech: Steve Bridgeman

Tech Ministers: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Carol and Matthew Bassett

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today after worship
Christmas Lunch and Cookie Exchange

Join us in Kairos Hall after worship for our Christmas Lunch and Cookie Exchange. Soup and salad lunch will be provided by the Community Life Commission. Enjoy festive music and warm fellowship. Friends and family are welcome!



DCC MUSIC SUNDAY DECEMBER 21, 9:30am

Christmas Carols by JOHN RUTTER

DCC CHANCEL CHOIR
with guest singers, and members of the
MOZART TO MENDELSSOHN orchestra

Our annual December Music Sunday celebrates the 80th birthday of English composer John Rutter, whose Christmas carols have been some of the most beloved in recent decades. With expanded choir and 25-piece orchestra, this one's not to be missed!





Advent Flower & Endowment Fund Donations

Advent has begun and to celebrate the season, the Worship Commission extends the opportunity for you to honor or commemorate the memory of someone by donating Advent flowers to fill our sanctuary this Advent.

To make a donation, fill out the form in the bulletin or fill out [this form online](#) and print. Take the completed form along with your check or money and do one of the following:

- Give it directly to **Janis or Randy Jang**.
- Place it in the offering plate.
- Drop it by or mail it to the church office.

You can also make your designation and make your donation using our [web site](#).

Please enter amount in "Advent Flowers" and specify In Honor or Memory of _____ in comment field. An email will be sent to you to verify that we received your donation. If you don't receive an email within the week, contact [Randy Jang](#). Please note on your check that it is for "Advent Flowers." Thank you!

In addition, the Endowment Committee invites you to remember a loved one during Advent by making a donation. You may do so by filling out the same form and designating that it is for the Endowment Fund. Please fill out the form and place your check in the offering plate or deliver it to the office. To date, Advent flowers have been donated by the following:

Donor Name	In Memory Of	In Honor Of
Alene Riley		Her Family
Steve & Heidi Bridgeman	Richard & Betty Brown, Derek Brown and Orval & Helen Bridgeman	
Eileen Ackley	Doug Krutilek	
Sally Baca	Danny Baca and Valerie Baca	
Nan Karns	Dick Karns	
Nancy & Wayne Snyder	Our parents	
Barbara DeBarger	Betty DeBarger and Keith & Toshiko Gestring	
Bette Felton	Lee & Jeanne Felton	
Michiyo Laing	Carl Laing	

Pictures of the Week



Celebration Bells delighted DCC with its musical stylings and Bode & Trent Lawrence lit the Candle of Peace and served as liturgists during Worship.

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

Wednesday Morning Prayer

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

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.



Advent Flower Donations

Donations are now being collected for our Advent Flowers. Fill out this form and give your check/money to **Janis or Randy Jang**, place it in the offering plate, or deliver it to the office.

Name(s) gift given by

Name (Circle One) in honor of / in memory of

You may also donate online on the church website: please enter amount in "Advent Flowers" and specify In Honor or Memory of ____ in comment field.

An email will be sent to you to verify that we received your donation. If you don't receive an email within the week, contact **Janis or Randy** at somedad579@yahoo.com.

Please note on your check that it is for
"ADVENT FLOWERS." Thank you!



DANVILLE
Congregational Church
Endowment Fund



The Endowment Committee invites you to remember a loved one during advent by making a donation. You may do so by submitting a check to Danville Congregational Church and designating that it is for the **Endowment Fund**. Please fill out this form and place your check in the offering plate or deliver it to the office.

Name(s) gift given by

Name (Circle One) in honor of / in memory of



Ministers—The Entire Congregation

Church Staff

The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley, Senior Pastor

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

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

Stacey Perez, Administrative Assistant

www.dayspringpreschool.org



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