



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



There is Still Room by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Ash Wednesday
February 15, 2026

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

Just As I Am

William B. Bradbury
arr. Jennifer Cook

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION and WELCOME

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

* CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: This is the good news:

**All: God is throwing a party. God is hosting a dinner.
God is preparing a banquet, and all are invited.**

One: Let us worship this invitational God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Lauren Jewett

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Gracious God, you invite all of us to your table:
the faithful and the doubting, the restless and the hopeless,
the addicted and the lonely, the lost and the confused.
You invite all of us, regardless of who we are or where we've been,
but we sometimes fail to do the same.
When given the opportunity,
we can be guilty of casting judgment on our neighbors.
We sometimes draw lines, assume the worst, create cliques,
and accept exclusion.
Forgive our harmful ways for this is not ever our intention.
This Lent, show us how to love others the way you love us.
With hope we pray, amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor Lauren

One: Friends, no matter how many times we mess up,
no matter how many times we lose our way,
no matter how many times we decline God's invitation,
God will never stop inviting us to the table.
There is and always will be a seat saved for you.
So join me in these good news words:

**All: We are forgiven, again and again. We are invited, again and again.
We are loved, from beginning to end. Thanks be to God, our gracious Inviter.
Amen.**

FIRST READING

[Genesis 3:19](#)

God said,
"By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

TAIZÉ SONG

God Invites Us All to the Table

J.K. Bailey

God invites us all to the table;
There will always be a seat saved for you.

SECOND READING

[Selections from Psalm 51](#)

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

*When Jesus set his table, no one was turned away.
That table was a promise of blessing and of grace*

Chorus:

So set the table fully. Invite the whole world in.

If we would share love's welcome then here's where we begin.

*No race, no creed, no nation, no love of heart and vow,
No gender is rejected. The table's waiting now (Chorus)*

*Whoever we find troubling and seek to keep outside,
That is the very neighbor who must not be denied (Chorus)*

*When Jesus set his table, no one was turned away.
That table is our promise. It's ours to tend today (Chorus)*

THIRD READING

[Luke 14:15–24](#)

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, “Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” Then Jesus said to him, “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is ready now.’

But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’

Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’

So the slave returned and reported this to his master.

Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’ ”

TAIZÉ SONG

Let All Who Are Thirsty Come

See next page.

TIME OF REFLECTION

Pastor Todd

Let All Who Are Thirsty, Come

Let all who are thirst-y, come. Let all who wish, re-ceive the

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

wa-ter of life free-ly. A-men, come, Lord

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Je-sus. A-men, come, Lord Je-sus.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

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PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

Pastor Lauren

All: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious invitation are we given everlasting life; only by your mercy are we made new; only by your steadfast love can we live in the joy of your salvation now and forever; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

One: Come, now to the place where you will receive the mark of forgiveness and discipleship. Enter the journey which will lead to your Transformation, fullness, and hope. Come, for all is ready.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor Todd & Pastor Lauren

Those present in the sanctuary who wish to receive the imposition of ashes are invited to come forward. Ashes will be marked on your forehead in the sign of the cross. If you would prefer ashes to be imposed on your hand, please hold out your hand when you come forward. If you are joining us online, you are invited to place your right hand over your heart, speaking silently or aloud the blessing printed below. All are welcome.

You are [I am] from the Beloved, and to the Beloved you [I] will return.

HYMN

For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table

See next page.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor Todd

One: We believe in a table-setting God

All: who always has a seat saved for you.

One: We believe in an inviting God

All: who leaves the porch light on and a hand extended.

One: We believe in a radically welcoming God

**All: who eats with the overlooked and the outcast,
the hungry and the downtrodden.**

One: We believe in the good news of the gospel, which reminds us

All: that all are welcomed, all are celebrated, all are loved, and all are claimed.

One: Pull up a seat at God's table.

All: There is good news to be shared here. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

(DEPART IN SILENCE)

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HELPING WITH TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Sound Tech: Jim Felton

Tech Minister: John Klassen

For Everyone Born

Shirley Erena Murray

Brian R. Mann*

Moderato

E A²

For every-one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 For genders diverse, a place at the ta - ble,
 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 For gay and for straight, a place at the ta - ble.

E A²

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the
 a voice to be heard, a part in the
 trans - gen - der and queer in one sin - gle

Bsus B F[#]m7 E/G[#] A² Bsus

bread, a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 share, with wis - dom and grace di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrink - led,
 tree en - gag - ing each gift and bless - ing each cove - nant.

E Bsus E Bsus B

for ev - ery-one born, a star o - ver - head.
 for genders diverse, a sys - tem that's fair. And
 for young and for old, the right to be - long.
 for gay and for straight, a new way to be

E E/G[#] A² Bsus B^{*} E E/G[#]

God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of just - ice and joy, com

A² Bsus B C[#]m B

pas - sion and peace: yes, God will de - light when we are cre -

A² Bsus B E A² E Bsus B

a - tors of just - ice, just - ice and joy.

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*musica setting written for the Vermillion, SD United Methodist Church on their first anniversary as a reconciling community.

WORSHIP NOTES



There is Still Room by Lauren Wright Pittman Inspired by Luke 14:15-24

This image is meant to be viewed from the center, moving outward. The host sets a table, with arms stretched wide in welcome. Surrounding this initial invitation, the first invitees form a ring of rejection around the host—arms crossed, closed off, and distracted by their material wealth and status. One surveys their vast vineyard, another counts their livestock, and the third navigates the economics of joining two households.

Trees, rooted in the central scene of the guestless table, break through the ring of rejection. The next layer includes four figures—with the host's same open-armed posture—extending welcome to people in neighborhoods, markets, and communal spaces. In the parable, the initial invitation is cast more broadly; everyone is welcome despite any status or condition that might typically isolate them from community.

The invited reject, but the rejected are embraced. In the art, the welcoming branches of the tree bear good fruit. The invitation continues to grow and flourish despite all the worldly barriers that would keep us apart and isolated. In the final ring, a crowd is gathered around an even larger table, one that still has open seats. It can be easy to focus on what feels negative in this text, but in order for the invitation to truly be an invitation, it cannot be coercive. There must always be the option to decline the invitation, and even that is good news. Still, the deeper good news is this: the host never stops inviting, and when all is said and done, there is still room at the table.



Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman (she/her) is an artist, graphic designer, and theologian. Visual exploration offers her a holy space to ask questions, find her voice, take risks, and make bold statements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



This Friday from 5:30pm–8:00pm

TGIF at the Felton home

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 Jim and Bette 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.
- If you can't make this one – the next TGIF will be March 20th.



This Sunday at noon

Special Lunch gathering to say “Arrivederci amore, ciao”

Following a special Godspeed blessing for Leo, Allison, and Izzy Facini during worship Sunday, February 22nd, come join us for lunch to bid them farewell as they will be moving to the Detroit area for work. We'll be gathering at noon (or whenever you get there) at Luna Loca's in the Livery in Danville and would love for you to join us! Note: Please come prepared to pay for your meal with check, cash, Paypal or Venmo. Thanks!

Please RSVP to Wilson Jackson at 925-819-0222 or email him at wrjachev@netzero.com to let him know you'll be attending. If you haven't let us know ahead of time, come anyway.

The Gospel According to Mrs. Farnell's Pre-K Class

In Pre-K the whole class gets an invite to Tommy's birthday.
He places the paper invites in our cubbies. There's a helter-skelter sticker
sealing each one, proof that tiny hands did the work. So we,
the members of Mrs. Farnell's Pre-K class, arrive at the park on Saturday.
We arrive whether or not we've ever built a sandcastle with Tommy.
We arrive whether or not we've ever shared half of our PB&J at lunch.
We arrive at the park on Saturday, with pigtails and balloons,
because we were *invited*.

And together we play tag, and we eat birthday cake, and we run barefoot in the grass.
Together, we sing *Happy birthday to youuuuuu*, so excited we can barely stand still.
Together, we momentarily forget that Chloe never gets picked for Red Rover and that Quinn cried in
class last week, because the park is not the playground and everyone was invited.
And when we load into our cars at the end of the day, with grass-stained knees, chocolate frosting
on our faces, and the awareness of inclusion, we say to our parents, *This was the best day of my life*.

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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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United Church of Christ

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