



# DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



*See You* by Rev. T. Denise Anderson

**Second Sunday in Lent  
Communion Sunday**

*March 1, 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 guest?** Welcome to Danville Congregational Church!

We are glad you have joined us today. We would love to share with you what is happening here. Please leave your information – name, email/phone in the Blue Pew Pad that is passed around early in the service. 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 Welcome Commissioner. We look forward to connecting with 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 *Love One Another* Luacine Clark Fox

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Miguel Atkins-Whitley

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 Miguel

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

One: Tell me something good!

**All: God loves you more than you could imagine.**

One: Tell me something good!

**All: God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.**

One: Tell me something good!

**All: God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.**

One: This is good news indeed!

**All: Let us worship our compassionate God.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE Miguel

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

\*OPENING HYMN *I Come With My Devotion* See next page.

# I Come With My Devotion

ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6 D ("O Jesus I Have Promised")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: Arthur H. Mann (1881)



I come with my de - vo - tion to love and serve  
I hear my Sa - vior's call - ing to serve the lost  
God made us in God's im - age each per - son whom



my God Whose lov - ing cos - mos formed me  
and least The hun - gry and im - pris - oned,  
we meet Ex - tra - va - gant - ly lov - ing



be - fore I e - ver sought The glo - ry of the  
the bro - ken ones like me For in each act of  
all of hu - man - i - ty So I'll re - turn the



hea - vens or praise on earth be - low So ev - ery  
kind - ness it's Christ for whom we care All wor - thy  
love which has formed me from the start — Lov - ing



gift I have now I lay be - fore the throne  
of our love — since it's God's face we bear  
my cre - a - tor, my - self, and ev - ery heart

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?  
Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?  
Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street?  
Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book?  
God, we long to be people who love our neighbors  
with the same overwhelming love that you have for them.  
But we must admit, we have a long way to go.  
Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity,  
or fear get in the way of love.  
Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.  
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor Todd

One: Faith family, even when we act with judgment,  
even when we are guided by fear,  
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,  
God does not turn God's back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:  
**All: We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again.  
Thanks be to God for this unending love.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Pastor Todd

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

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

*Open, open my eyes. Open, open my eyes.  
I'm passing people rushing by and never notice, never try  
to ease their pain or sympathize, open my eyes.*

*Open, open my heart. Open, open my heart.  
When my heart is growing cold, warm me 'til compassion flows,  
loving people where they are, open my heart.*

*Too long I have been closed and guarded in the safety of my world.  
Now help me to expand my vision, open up my eyes  
and open up my heart and let Your love shine, open my life!*

*Then open, open my hands. Open, open my hands.  
Release my grasp 'til I live to touch, to heal, freely give.  
Teach me how to love again, open my hands.*

*Teach me how to love again, open my eyes, open my heart, open my life.*

## 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.**

## TIME OF GIVING

Sandra

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, using the QR Code on the  
back cover.*

Offertory

*The Least of These*

Gilbert M. Martin

\*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

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### SURSUM CORDA

One: God be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Lift up your hearts!

**All: We lift up our hearts 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

One: God of manna and mustard seeds,  
we came to this Table hungry and we leave feeling full—

**All: full of hope, full of promise, full of what could be.**

One: For we not only found glimpses of you at this Table,

**All: but we caught a glimpse of the way things could be:  
in a meal where all are welcomed and all are fed.**

One: Is there anything holier than that?

**All: So thank you for nourishing our curiosity  
alongside our spirit and our conviction.  
May we always seek you the way you seek after us.  
With grateful hearts we pray, amen.**

## WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Todd

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Whatever You Do*

"Whatever you do to the least ones of these,  
I tell you in truth that you do unto me!"  
Lord Jesus, you taught us! May we learn anew  
That when we serve others, we also serve you.

When poor, waiting children pray hunger will end,  
When those long-forgotten cry out for a friend,  
When thirsty ones whisper, "O Lord, where are you?" —  
We hear, in their longing, that you're calling, too.

In prisons and jails, Lord, we find a surprise;  
We see you in people whom others despise.  
At hospital bedsides we offer a prayer  
And find, when we visit the sick, you are there.

"Lord, when did we see you?" Your teaching is clear  
That when we serve others, we're serving you here.  
And when your church heeds you and helps those in pain,  
Then out of the chaos, hope rises again.

- Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Lauren

POSTLUDE

*God So Loved the World*  
Sandra Lepley, piano

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

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## WORSHIP NOTES



**See You** by Rev. T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by Matthew 25:35-40 | 14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

Throughout Matthew's Gospel, Jesus uses diminutive language to refer to people of importance and describes small, humble things (like sheep, lilies, and sparrows) as precious. He uses a mustard seed in a parable about faith, and tells his disciples to be like children.

For Matthew's Jesus, little is a big deal! For that reason, we should pay attention to Jesus' use of the word "least" in this text. In a book where Jesus talks about little things being loved, the word "least" here takes on new meaning: most loved. Indeed, God loves everyone, but there are certainly those for whom God has a special affinity. As the Confession of Belhar states, "God is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged."

As I meditated on this scripture, the image of a doorway kept emerging, perhaps because the text wrestles with the notion of who is in and who is out. This piece shows an excerpt of the text and the word "least" is, ironically, the largest. Next to it is a door that is partially open, and there is some ambiguity intended in that. Is the door being opened or closed? For whom is the door opening or closing? From the viewer's perspective, on what "side" of the door do they find themselves? Are they being invited in or kept out? Are they doing the inviting or the excluding? In the same way Jesus asks the nations to consider where they will be in his eschatological vision, I invite the viewer to consider where they are relative to where God is. Where does the Savior see you? Where does your neighbor see you?

—Rev. T. Denise Anderson



**Rev. T. Denise Anderson** Denise (she/her) is a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Director for Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministries at the Presbyterian Mission Agency. A graduate of Howard University School of Divinity, she is the former Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). As a gifted visual artist and photographer, she creates art that explores themes of spirituality, history, religion, and race.

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 8:30am–9:15am        | Choir Rehearsal                                |
| 9:30am–10:45am       | Worship (In-person and Zoom)                   |
| 10:45am–11:15am      | Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout room |
| After worship–1:00pm | Youth Group                                    |
| At noon              | Monthly Lunch Bunch at Peasant and the Pear    |
| 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.

**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

|                  |               |                            |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | 1:00pm–2:00pm | Worship Commission Meeting |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 9:00am        | Men's Coffee and Donuts    |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 10:00am       | Wednesday Morning Prayer   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 1:00pm        | Pastor Bible Study         |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 10:00am–noon  | OWL Adults                 |

## TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 3**. Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 5**.

Greeters: Linda Elsdon, Ron Elsdon and Bob Kovach

Ushers: Ron Elsdon and Judy Schreib

Candlelighter: Judy Schreib

Liturgists: Miguel Atkins-Whitley and Sandra Lepley

Flowers: Trish Moosbrugger

Fellowship Hosts: Janis Jang and Randy Jang

Sound Tech: Jim Felton

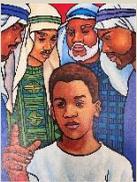
Tech Minister: Carol Bassett

Lock Up Duty: Dee Brook

**Godly Play:** Trish Moosbrugger

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, March 2nd but Anne-Marie will be working from home and checking emails if you need any office assistance.



### **Come Join Godly Play this Sunday!**

Join us in Godly Play for the season of Lent. We will journey through Jesus' life and the children will help us tell the story. This Sunday we remember Jesus as a boy. All children are welcome!

*This Monday at 1:00pm*

### **Worship Commission Meeting**

The Worship Commission will be meeting Monday, March 2nd from 1:00pm-2:00pm. Please contact JanisJang if you are interested in attending



## Today at noon Monthly Lunch Bunch

Would you like to get to know some of your DCC colleagues better? Come join us for lunch today. We'll be gathering at noon at the Peasant and the Pear and would love for you to join us! Note: Please come prepared to pay for your meal with check, cash, Paypal or Venmo. Thanks!



John Kendall Bailey, Artistic Director  
**20th Anniversary Season**

**An American Choral Journey**  
From the *Bay Psalm Book* of 1640  
to living composers

Presented by Chora Nova  
Saturday, March 7, 2026, 7:30 p.m.  
First Church Berkeley UCC  
Dana St. and Durant Ave.

## Safety Training

An important topic for any organization is safety training and preparedness. We plan to conduct in-person training to key individuals (employees, church members frequently at worship/onsite), as well as brief training for the entire congregation on a few Sundays in the future (immediately following worship). In advance of conducting any training, we are asking for any individuals who have training/experience in the following areas (police/fire/paramedic training, security, medical training) if they would be willing to submit their names as possible contacts, participants in on-site training:

Please call or email the church office so Anne-Marie can add you to our list and thank you in advance for helping us with this important topic.



*Saturday, March 14th at 1:00pm*  
**Visions of Hope—Homeless Outreach Event!**

Our partner congregation, Visions of Hope, is holding an outreach event for unhoused people in Oakland on March 14th, beginning at 1:00pm on MLK Drive near the 27th St. Exit. They are creating 100 “blessing bags” for distribution, including snacks and toiletries. They are also collecting clean and useable clothing and shoes for adults, which they will distribute at the same time. If you are able to assist with this project, either by donating supplies/clothing and/or by helping distribute the bags, please sign up on the clipboard after church, or send an email to Barb DeBarger, [bdebarger@gmail.com](mailto:bdebarger@gmail.com). Here are the specific items needed—please bring items to the church office or to Koinonia during coffee hour by March 7th:

- Donations of adult-sized clothing and shoes (used okay, but clean and good condition)
- Donations of suitable food-- crackers, canned meat/sausages, snacks, small juice boxes and small bottled water—items able to fit into gallon Ziploc bags
- Gallon-sized Ziploc bags
- \$\$ to pay for a U-Haul van to transport items to the park and for lunch (collection envelope at church or give online to DCC's Visions of Hope Sponsorship Fund <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCT3/campaign/C-15G87>.)
- Distribution volunteers—we will organize a carpool from DCC for those interested in helping at the event and also announce parking arrangements soon.

**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](#).



**Pastor's Bible Study**  
*Wednesdays at 1:00pm*

You are invited to join Pastor Todd from his office each Wednesday at 1:00pm—in person or via [Zoom](#). During January, we will focus on the topic of migration. Meeting ID 885 6171 8426 and password 783855.

## ETHNIC STORYTELLING

Everyone has a story...

A DCC Anti-Racism Spring Workshop

*Beginning in March*

### All-Church Spring Workshop Series –Ethnic Storytelling

For many years, now, DCC has demonstrated a sincere commitment to justice, racial equity, and faithful public witness. We all are now witnessing the level of racism in society that is happening on a daily basis that is causing many of us to question our stories of what is real and true and long for

practices that are spiritually grounding, relationally meaningful, and sustainable.

To revitalize and extend our commitment to Anti-Racism, DCC is offering a new workshop series—*Ethnic Storytelling*—that offers a refreshing entry point into this work. Rather than beginning with what people should “do” or should “know,” this process—facilitated by DCC friend **the Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson**—begins with who we already are: our families, migration stories, losses, values, faith traditions, and survival stories.

*Workshops will be held on the following Sundays during Second Hour (lunch will be provided):*

**March 15, March 22, March 29, April 12, April 26**

For white Christians, this deep work is especially valuable. Whiteness often goes unnamed and unexamined, leaving justice work feeling external, intellectual, or burdensome. Naming one’s own ethnic story restores particularity, responsibility, and agency—without centering guilt or defensiveness. By connecting this way with ourselves and others, we can more readily see and identify areas of need and attention in our own world experience.

This process is designed to help us:

- Re-ground justice commitments in faith, relationship, and story
- Reduce burnout by shifting from performative antiracism to formative practices
- Build the spiritual and relational capacity needed for long-term justice engagement

Sign-ups will be held during coffee time in February/March and online.

Participation in each session is suggested but all are welcome no matter how many sessions they can attend. Visitors, friends, and neighbors are always welcome!

For more information, reach out to [Barb DeBarger](#) or [Pastor Todd](#).

### 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.

## Pictures of the Week



It was a busy week at DCC! We welcomed the newest addition to the DCC community, baby Owen; opened the Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday service; began our OWL Adult Series with an enthusiastic group; gathered together to enjoy the start of the weekend with TGIF; bid Godspeed to the Sands-Facini family; engaged with our littlest attendees during Time With Children; and were blessed with the musical stylings of Elana Bolds.

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



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**Danville Congregational Church**

*United Church of Christ*

989 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Danville, CA 94526-4020

Phone: (925) 837-6944

**[www.danvillechurch.org](http://www.danvillechurch.org)**

