



# DANVILLE

Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



*Epilogue* by Rev. T. Denise Anderson

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*March 22, 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

*CB Prelude*  
Celebration Bells

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

One: Welcome to the weary and the worn.

**All: Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.**

One: Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

**All: Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.**

One: Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

**All: Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.**

One: Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

**All: This is God's house.**

One: You can make yourself at home here.

**All: Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

\*OPENING HYMN

*Let Us Remember*

See next page.

# Let Us Remember

ADELAIDE 5.4.5.4 D (“Have Thine Own Way”)

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: George C. Stebbins (1907)



What is im - por - tant?      What mat - ters more?  
We've been shown mer - cy      all of our lives  
Fol - low - ing Je - sus,      liv - ing in truth  
What does the Lord re - qui - re of us?



Hu - man con - nec - tion      or keep - ing score?  
By the cre - a - tor      of hu - man - kind  
We re - main faith - ful      to our roots  
To re - main hum - ble,      lov - ing, and just



In our pur - suit      of jus - tice and truth  
So when we're in      a po - si - tion to judge  
When those roots lead      us out - side the lines  
Keep - ing the heart      of the gos - pel in mind



Let us re - mem - ber:      we fall short, too  
Let us re - mem - ber:      they're just like us  
Let us re - mem - ber:      faith is a - live  
Let us re - mem - ber:      do what is right

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules.  
We love clear answers.  
We love right and wrong.  
We love swift justice.  
We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way.  
You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.  
You prioritize mercy over legality.  
You prioritize people over tradition.  
You prioritize love over everything.  
Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.  
Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.  
Forgive us. Soften our hearts.  
Root us in mercy, justice, and love.  
With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor Lauren

One: Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way.

Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**All: Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of compassion.  
Our God is a God of grace.**

**We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.**

**Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Pastor Lauren

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[John 8:2-11](#)

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 23:23](#)

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others."

SERMON

*The Good News is...  
rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness*

Pastor Todd

ANTHEM

*When I Survey the Wonderful Cross  
Joyful DeciBELLS*

arr. Kevin McChesney

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.**

## TIME OF GIVING

### 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

*Meditation for Holy Week*

Brian Childers

Janis Jang, piano

\*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 Todd

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*God Our Maker, God Most Holy*

God our maker, God most holy, God whose love surrounds us all,  
ev'rywhere we see earth's beauty and Your goodness we recall.  
For a life of peace and meaning in the lives of humankind,  
God whose mercies are unending, grant us strength and faith to find.

God our Savior, God our Father, God whose wisdom is above  
all the knowledge we can gather in the school of life and love.  
We would learn to trust You fully for the guidance that we need  
to fulfill Your will, our duty, to be Christian, Yours indeed.

God of justice, God of mercy, God, the Lord of humankind,  
we are debtors of your bounty, would Your grace and blessing find.  
We would labor in Your mission, for the age in which we live  
has the need of Your salvation, to know Christ who came to give.

God eternal, God almighty, God whose triumph is assured  
in the course of human hist'ry by Your holy, written Word.  
We Your children, by creation and redemption of Your Son,  
are upheld by faith's conviction that life's battles can be won.

### \*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

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

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### Celebration Bells

Penny Atkin  
 Rene Brucker  
 Joy Davis  
 Randy Jang  
 Karol Mead  
 Lori Smith

### Joyful DeciBELLS

Lori Smith  
 Karol Mead  
 Janis Jang  
 Randy Jang

## WORSHIP NOTES



***Epilogue*** by Rev. T. Denise Anderson | Inspired by John 8:2-11

I often wonder about the backstory of the woman from John 8:2-11. What were her circumstances? How did they “catch” her in the act of adultery? In flagrante delicto? Was it less graphic than that? Was she allowed to explain herself? Did she protest? If she was about to be stoned, what happened to the person with whom she was accused? Was this a loving relationship? Was it even consensual? Whatever her story, the Pharisees bring her to Jesus expecting him to uphold the law’s punitive prescription. Jesus knows it’s a trap. If he concurs with the law, he initiates and must bear witness to an act of extreme brutality that would traumatize anyone who had to watch. If he counters the law, he’s a heretic and should probably be stoned himself. But he outsmarts them and turns their self-righteousness and rage back onto them.

In what should have been the end of her life’s story, this woman now finds herself standing. Whole. Alive. Freed to a new future. And through it all, Jesus is just drawing on the ground—like you do! I wanted to show this woman standing in her wholeness, right after the crowds have dispersed and right before Jesus rises to meet her as an equal. She’s backlit in a way that suggests the sun has set, indicating the end of a saga. What will she do at the end of a nightmare with a new life ahead of her? What decisions do we face at the dawn of a second chance?



**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
11:15am–12:15pm	Ethnic Storytelling Workshop

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>Tuesday</b>	9:00am	Men's Coffee and Donuts
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>	1:00pm–2:00pm	Pastor Bible Study
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00pm–8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00am–noon	OWL Adults
<b>Thursday</b>	6:00pm	Council Meeting

## TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 1**.

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Minister: Doug Leich

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

**Godly Play:** Barb DeBarger

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 2**.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Come Join Godly Play Today!

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 when Jesus began to do his work. All children are welcome!

### ETHNIC STORYTELLING

Everyone has a story...

A DCC Anti-Racism Spring Workshop

Today

## All-Church Spring Workshop Series –Ethnic Storytelling

Join us after worship as we continue our *Ethnic Storytelling* workshop series with **the Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson**.

*Workshops will be held on the following Sundays during Second Hour (lunch will be provided):* **March 22, March 29, April 12, and April 26**

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

## Saturday, April 4th Annual Egg Hunt and Brunch

The Community Life Commission is delighted to invite DCC families, singles, and staff to join us for our 36th annual DCC Egg Hunt and Brunch on Sky Terrace tradition.

**When:** Saturday, April 4th at 9:00am sharp (arrive close to 8:30 am to prepare to hunt)

**Where:** Backyard/vineyard of Bette and Jim Felton– 6 Sky Terrace in Danville

**What to Bring:** An optional contribution for brunch (fruit, pastries, casserole, or juice), a container for your eggs, and sturdy shoes for hunting.

If driveways are full, park face down the hill, on the opposite side of the street from the house only.

**Questions regarding the event or food contributions?** Call/text Bette at 510-220-0489.

In the event of rain, the event will be held inside at DCC.



## Come join Celebration Bells

Live a little! Join Celebration Bells for our next Handbell Sunday on June 7th. We start rehearsals on April 12th.

Contact Janis Jang if interested or have questions. All are welcomed!

## Easter Flower Donations

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

To make a donation, fill out the form in the back of the bulletin. Take the completed form along with your check (made payable to Danville Congregational Church) or money and do one of the following:

- Give it directly to **Carol Bassett**.
- Place it in the offering plate.
- Drop it by or mail it to the church office.

You can also make your donation and designation using our web site. Please enter amount in "Easter 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 [Carol](#). Please note on your check it is for "Easter Flowers". If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carol. Thank you. To date, Easter flowers have been donated by:

Donor Name	In Memory Of	In Honor Of
Sandra Lepley	Ruth & Sam Schlichting	
Mary Courtenay	Renée Nicole Good and Alex Pretti	
The Seiler Family	Alan & Connie Wadsworth, Rod & Marilyn Seiler	
Judy Schreib	Herb Schreib	

## Visions of Hope Event a Success!

Thanks to all of you at DCC, the Visions of Hope Homeless Outreach Event, held on Saturday, March 14th, was a wonderful success! Nearly 100 people were served by this activity-- each person received a hot meal, two blessing bags (one with food, and one with toiletries), and many, many choices of gently used clothing. There were so many smiles and laughter during the day (including Doug Leich finding a plastic Apricot in the street that he gave to Pastor Todd for the "Fruit of the Spirit" basket). Minister Elana Bolds is to be thanked for her selfless spirit of giving to the very least fortunate, and we at DCC were generous with our donations and giving, including 11 of us who supported the event itself. As Heidi Bridgeman so aptly stated, "I received so much more than I gave." Visions of Hope's next event is their annual "Fists Up, Guns Down" gathering, being held on **Saturday, May 2nd from 1-4pm** at Booker T. Anderson Park in Richmond. Stay tuned for how you can support this activity. Check out the Pictures of the Week to see DCC in action.



## Sign Up for Easter Baskets for Hope Solutions

*Baskets due April 3rd*

This will be the 38th year in which we provide Easter Baskets for people in our community. Staff, along with clients, at agencies we have served in the past have told us how they very much appreciate our generosity and efforts to help someone have a pleasant Easter dinner. Once again, we are coordinating with **Hope Solutions**, whose mission is to heal the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to highly vulnerable families and individuals.

If you wish to prepare a family basket, please provide a sturdy basket, plastic tub, laundry basket, or decorated box containing the following for a family of 2 to 4 people. (Nice baskets can be found at your local thrift stores!)

- Cooked ham or turkey (not too big, please!)
- Canned green vegetable
- Canned yams/sweet potatoes
- Dinner rolls and butter or margarine (please package items for the refrigerator in a bag with a tag to match your basket)
- Fresh fruit
- Cookies/cake for dessert
- Sparkling cider, apple juice, and/or mineral water (NO wine or alcoholic beverages)

### Optional

- Easter candy (chocolate is ok!)
- Easter eggs (hard boiled in a crush-proof container)
- Book
- Cheese & crackers
- A card or note

To participate, sign up in person after Sunday worship or directly contact Kathie Hixon ([kathiehixon@comcast.net](mailto:kathiehixon@comcast.net), 925-683-1728), and plan to drop off your baskets at the church on **April 3rd between 10:00am–11:00am**. Baskets will be delivered immediately to Hope Solutions in Pleasant Hill, so there is no need for refrigeration. Thank you for your caring spirit and wonderful generosity! If you have any questions, please contact [Kathie](#).



## 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](#). Meeting ID 885 6171 8426 and password 783855.

## 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](#).

# FOCUS ON

## Stewardship is Coming



# OUR future

stewardship 2025

It's beginning to look a lot like Stewardship...each Spring our church takes a look at how we are doing in the many areas of Giving-- asking us to examine our hearts in terms of how we are serving our church through the giving of our Time, Talents and Treasure. Our theme this year is "Focus on our Future," and we are particularly looking for ways we can strengthen our church over the next 5, 10, 20 years. Our Long Range Planning Task Force is hard at work beginning this process, and in the coming months, will be actively engaging each of us in sharing our ideas and thoughts. On April 19th, we will be holding an all-church Stewardship luncheon in which we will share more on this work, as well as our financial goals for the 26-27 church year, and also the ways you can engage in activities through our many commissions and committees.

## Pictures of the Week



On Saturday, DCC showed up in a strong way to support the Visions of Hope Event.

On Sunday, Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson served as guest preacher *and* facilitated the first of our workshops in the *Ethnic Storytelling* series.

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).

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

## No Kings Protests

The national Indivisible Resisters organization is sponsoring another "No Kings Day" on March 28th across the nation, and here in the Bay Area. There are many different options for folks to attend. To find a local protest near you, click on the link here:

[https://www.nokings.org/?SQF\\_SOURCE=indivisible](https://www.nokings.org/?SQF_SOURCE=indivisible)

We hope to organize a group from DCC to attend one of the protests. If you are interested, or wish to carpool to an event, please contact Linda Elsdon or Barb DeBarger.



March 28, 2026  
**NO KINGS 3**  
PEACEFUL PROTEST

**NO KINGS!  
NO WAR!  
ICE AND CBP OUT!**

Be part of the largest  
nationwide protest in  
American history!

### RALLIES

10:30 am in Concord near Sunvalley Blvd and CCBlvd  
OR

11:30 am at Pleasant Hill City Hall

### SOLIDARITY SPAN

12:30 pm - 2 pm

Create a long "Honk and Wave" all the way from  
Walnut Creek to Concord along Main Street and CC  
Blvd (like a long parade route)

More information and adopt-a-block signup links:  
[indivisible.resisters.org/no-kings-3](https://indivisible.resisters.org/no-kings-3)

### 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.



## *Easter Flower Donations*

Donations are now being collected for our Easter Flowers. Fill out this form and give your check/money to **Carol Bassett**, 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 "Easter 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 Carol at [greenplanner@yahoo.com](mailto:greenplanner@yahoo.com).

Please make checks payable to Danville Congregational Church. and note on the check that it is for **"EASTER FLOWERS."** Thank you!

**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*

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