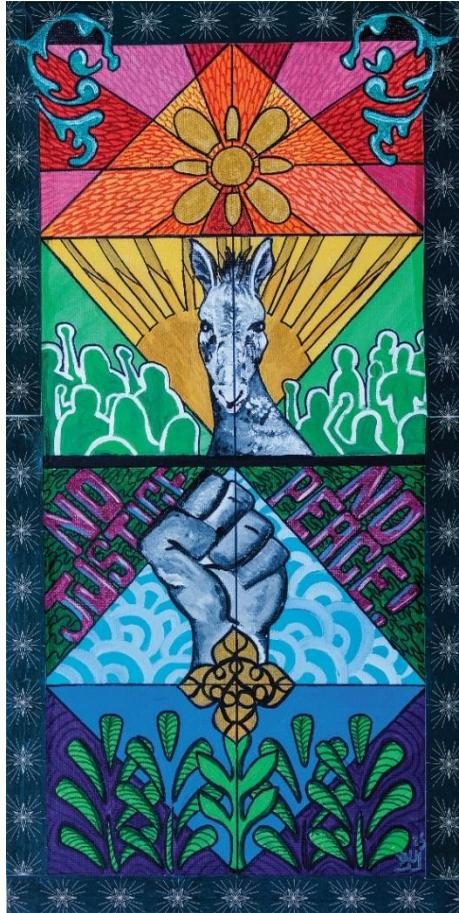




DANVILLE

Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Palm Sunday Was a Protest by Rev. Nicolette Faison

Palm Sunday
Trans Day of Visibility
March 29, 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) 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

PALM PROCESSIONAL GATHERING OUTSIDE

*BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lily Sonnemann

One: Will you follow? Will you lay down your coat?
Will you lay down something important? Will you shout “Hosanna”?
Will you join the parade? Will you sing, even if your throat is hoarse?
Will you cut down a palm branch? Will you wave it in the air?
Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?
Will you let this good news inspire you to act?

**All: We will. We will sing. We will pay close attention.
We will worship. We will follow.**

One: Hosanna in the highest!

All: Hosanna in the highest.

*PALM PROCESSIONAL

We Are Marching in the Light of God

See next page

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Linda Elsdon

WELCOME

Pastor Todd

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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Lily

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Lauren Jewett

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

(We Are Marching in the Light of God)

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Ps. 89:15

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen-khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 march-ing in the light of God. We are march-ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
 kha - nyen' kwen-khos', light of God. We are march-ing, march-ing, we are
 light of the light of God.

Oo, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
 ham - ba, ham - ba, march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

This South African song and fourteen others were first recorded and published in 1980 by the Church of Sweden Mission and the singing group "Fjedur" after a visit they made to South Africa. The subsequent 1984 collection Freedom Is Coming brought the songs to a worldwide audience.

Tune: SIYAHAMBA Irr.
 South African song

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Jesus of Nazareth, we know that you spent your days teaching and healing.
You marched through the streets and walked on water.
You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables.
Your good news was not confined to conversation.
It was not confined to the Temple. Your good news was an act of love,
alive in the world. Holy God, we long for a faith like that.
Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith
to something we think about, as opposed to something we act upon.
Inspire us to love as you loved. Inspire us to act.
With hope for tomorrow we pray, amen**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor Todd

One: Church family, whether or not you wave your palm branch,
whether or not you live out your faith,
whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions,
God will never stop loving you. Jesus will never stop marching for you.
The Spirit will never stop listening to you.

All: We are claimed, loved, and held in grace. What good, *good* news. Amen!

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.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Mark 11:1-11](#)

Lily

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

SERMON

The Good News is... inspiring us to act

Pastor Todd

*When the world cries for power, will our souls cry for peace?
 Does the kingdom we're seeking comfort with refuge and release?
 Does the realm of our longing reign with riches or welcome with grace?
 What kingdom shall we choose? What kingdom shall we choose?*

Chorus:

*Hosanna, sing hosanna! Behold the King of Peace
 riding lowly among us, conquering the reign of fear!
 Hosanna, sing hosanna! Behold the King of Love!
 Now, the light of justice shatters the bow and spear! Hosanna!*

*Will our souls cry for healing while the world cries for war?
 Does the kingdom we're seeking rule with a peace that shall endure?
 Does the realm of our longing boast of power or soothe with love?
 What kingdom shall we choose? What kingdom shall we choose? (Chorus)*

*Will we choose to rage with strength and strife?
 Will we choose to heal with words of life?
 Will we bow to riches and might?
 Will we reach for the crown of light?*

*Let the stones cry out in songs of praise
 as we turn from earthly power to walk in humble ways! (Chorus)*

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Lauren and Pastor Todd

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

All: Hear our prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Trans Day of Visibility (see next page)

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.**

IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS BREATH

A Sacred Text for Trans Visibility

Written for the 2025 National Trans Visibility March
Empowerment Service- World Pride- Washington, DC

By Rev. Derek Terry, Acting Director of the Open and
Affirming Coalition of the UCC Church

In the beginning, there was breath—holy and expansive—
carried in every body, every voice, every form. And God
said: You are enough. You are whole. You are mine.
To be visible is not a concession. It is a calling. To be
trans is not a burden. It is a blessing. To live boldly in
your truth is a sacred act of resistance, a mirror of the
Divine who transcends all binaries and boundaries.

We gather today as people of faith, allies, and beloveds,
to say: Trans people are not an afterthought. You are
not a side note in the story of liberation. You are the
movement. You are the miracle.
Your bodies are not up for debate. Your identities are
not problems to be solved. Your leadership is not
optional—it is essential.

And in a world that legislates hate and erases truth, we
speak back with love, with fire, and with faith: We see
you. We need you. We honor you. We follow you.
For the Spirit is moving through your courage. Justice is
marching in your name. And the church, if it is to be the
church at all, must stand with you—visible, loud, and
unafraid.

Amen. Ashe. And so it is.



FACEBOOK:
UCC.COALITION
INSTAGRAM:
@UCC.COALITION

OPEN AND
AFFIRMING
COALITION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BLUESKY:
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Website:
OPENANDAFFIRMING.ORG

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

You are Seen

J.K. Bailey

*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

Hosanna Loud Hosanna

See next page.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

POSTLUDE

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

Indian Folk Melody
arr. Jennifer Cook

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

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WORSHIP NOTES



Palm Sunday Was a Protest by Rev. Nicolette Faison | Inspired by Mark 11:1-11

In *Palm Sunday Was a Protest* each segment is meant to capture the eye but the central subjects are in black and white, contrasting the brilliant color palette. The order of colors is intentionally a rainbow as a nod to the Queer community. The piece contains a sunrise behind the iconic Palm Sunday donkey, which is an ode to the Sunrise Movement. Accompanying the donkey are crowds of people with fists raised in the air, a common sight at any protest. The phrase, “No Justice, No Peace” sits around a “power to the people fist” symbolizing resistance.

This symbol was first utilized by labor and liberation movements in the early 1900s. I personally associate the fist with the Black Power movement of the 1960s. Along the bottom of the piece, the grassroots of the image, are palms, a nod to the biblical story. *Palm Sunday Was a Protest* is an ode to modern movements. This piece visually aligns how Palm Sunday is talked about with the active work happening today. Resist fascism. Resist occupation. Do justice.



Rev. Nicolette “Nic” Faison (she/her) is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving as the Illinois Outreach Director for Faith in Place. Nic is the creator of MONadvocacy, a racial justice resource grounded in play, as well as the “Talks at the Desk” series which celebrates the voices of leaders in the ELCA African descent community. She is passionate about queer Black liberation, cultivating diverse leadership in faith spaces, and the art of creation.

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.

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

213

*Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.**Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15*

1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents, wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was published in her collection Sunshine and Shadow.

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen
 katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

THIS WEEK AT DCC

Tuesday	9:00am	Men's Coffee and Donuts
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	1:00pm–2:00pm	Pastor Bible Study
Wednesday	1:00pm	Journeys in Faith Commission Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday	7:00pm–8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	10:00am–noon	OWL Adults
Thursday	6:30pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Saturday	8:30am	Egg Hunt and Brunch at the Feltons

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 2**. Next week's Emmaus Team is Team 3.

Greeters: Wilson Jackson and Chris Sonnemann

Ushers: Steve Bridgeman, Bruce Hixon, Kathie Hixon, and Tom Sonnemann

Candlelighter: Finn Sonnemann

Liturgists: Linda Elsdon and Lily Sonnemann

Fellowship Hosts: Sally Baca, Julie Grenley, and Tom Sonnemann

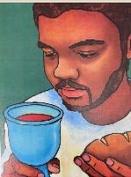
Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

Godly Play: Trish Moosbrugger

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 the last week of Jesus' life and his death - which is an ending, but also a beginning. All children are welcome!



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.

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 remaining Sundays during Second Hour (lunch will be provided): March 29, April 12, and April 26 For more information, reach out to Barb DeBarger or Pastor Todd.



Easter Baskets for Hope Solutions

Baskets due April 3rd

Thanks to all who signed up to donate an Easter Basket. Easter Basket drop off is this Friday at DCC from 10:00am–11:30am. Baskets will be promptly delivered to Hope Solutions. Any questions, contact Kathie Hixon: kathiehixon@comcast.net. 925-683-1728.

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.



Celebration Bells

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 Offering for White Pony Express

Through our Easter offering, we can express our love and compassion by reaching out to our neighbors who need a helping hand. The Outreach Commission has selected [White Pony Express](#) to receive our Easter offering this year because of their amazing success in serving people in need. Starting as an unfunded, grassroots effort by local residents, White Pony Express (WPE) has developed into one of California's largest food rescue programs. WPE's mission is to help end hunger and poverty in Contra Costa County by delivering the abundance all around us to those in need – with love. The White Pony Clothing and Care Program distributes donated new clothing, shoes, diapers, toys, and children's books to our neighbors in need.

And WPE has reached far outside our county. After the terrible wildfires of 2018, WPE delivered rescued food and supplies to California wildfire refugees living in camps near Chico, has worked with other communities around the country interested in replicating WPE's model in their own communities, been shipping non-perishable foods, medical supplies, hygiene kits and diapers to Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees, been to Mexico to help plan food rescue efforts there, and been to the Vatican for an audience with the late Pope Francis in support of the Pope's global call to reduce food waste and feed the hungry.

Please use an Easter Offering envelope or write "Easter offering" in the memo line of your check made out to DCC. To make your offering online, go to the [DCC Donations page](#) or scan the QR code in your bulletin and select *Easter offering*.

*Glory be to God, whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)*

Easter blessings,
Outreach Commission

FOCUS on



OUR **future** stewardship 2025

Stewardship is Coming

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.

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	
Barb DeBarger	Betty DeBarger and Keith & Toshiko Gestring	
Sally Baca	My parents, Maxine & Robert Sizer	
Bruce and Kathie Hixon	Our parents Homer & Gladys Hixon and Bob & Helen Stine	

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



There was a great turnout at TGIF at the Klassen's; Pastor Lauren led a big group during Time with Children; Celebration Bells had a glorious performance at last Sunday's worship; and Bill Williams and Doug Leich attended the PICO California Network "Families Are Sacred" Convention in Sacramento as part of the Faith in Action East Bay contingent.

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.

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](#).



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.

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



March 29, 9:30am PALM SUNDAY

April 2, 6:30pm MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 4, 8:30am EGG HUNT & BRUNCH

at Sky Terrace Vineyards

April 5, 9:30am EASTER CELEBRATION

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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Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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