



DANVILLE
Congregational Church

Fruits of the Spirit

Cultivating the
Beloved Community

PRELUDE

The Fruit of the Spirit

arr. J.K. Bailey

WELCOME & BREATH PRAYER

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

Please sign the sheet in the blue pad, pass it to another.

Place your signed sheet in the offering plate.

To offer a prayer, fill out a Prayer Card which will be collected during Prayer Time.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR QUINN LESLEY MERRILL

All children are welcome to come sit near the front for the baptism.

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Todd

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS/FAMILY

Pastor Todd

QUESTIONS OF THE GODPARENTS

Rev. Lauren Jewett

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Pastor Lauren

One: Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child being baptized as she lives and grows in this community?

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor Todd

One: Do you believe in God the Source, the fountain of life?

All: I believe in God.

One: Do you believe in Christ the Servant, embodied in Jesus of Nazareth and in the church?

All: I believe in Christ.

One: Do you believe in the Spirit, the Guide, the liberating wellspring of life?

All: I believe in the Spirit.

BLESSING THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

Pastor Todd and Pastor Lauren

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The congregation is invited to extend their hands toward Quinn and her family.

**All: God of wonder and grace,
we thank you for your love revealed here this day
as this community, these parents, and this child
come together making covenant promises.
We pray that this community will have the grace
to uphold the promises made here this day,
providing a safe shelter of your love in which this child
may grow and play. We pray that these parents
may continue to feel the sweet wonder of your presence
so transparent here today. We pray that this child will bask
in your love as she makes her own journey through this life.
Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD

HYMN

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

#351

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

Verse 1

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alene Riley

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

One: We come into this space weary of rushing, tired of waiting,
and often eager for quick fixes. Yet the Spirit invites us
to slow down, to breathe, and to stretch out.

**All: We confess our haste and our desire to rush our gardens to
produce. Holy One, teach us the quiet rhythm of your grace.**

One: The Holy Spirit is at work among us, quietly cultivating a rich
harvest of a steadfast heart, a quiet trust, and a lasting peace.

**All: Patience is not our own making; it is Your harvest in us.
Cultivate your steadfast hope within our hearts.**

One: When the weather is rough or the desired outcome
feels delayed, let us trust the One who holds all time.
Let us wait with courage and hope.

**All: Spirit of God, root us deep, tend to our restless souls,
and bear the fruit of patience in our lives today. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Alene

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING HYMN

O God in Whom All Life Begins

#401

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[James 5:7–8](#)

Alene

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

MODERN LESSON

Nicole Noga

Adapted from The Parable of the Chinese Bamboo Tree

In a community garden, two neighbors took very different approaches to their plots.

Oliver wanted instant results, so he planted radishes. Within three weeks, his patch was bursting with green. He harvested his crop, made a quick profit, and mocked his neighbor for having an empty plot. "You are wasting your time," he laughed.

Elena had planted bamboo. For four years, she watered and weeded her bare plot. While Oliver harvested his radishes dozens of times, Elena saw absolutely nothing break through the dirt.

The neighborhood whispered that she was foolish, but she kept nurturing the unseen seed.

In the fifth year, a tiny shoot broke through Elena's soil. Fueled by a massive root system grown silently over five years, the bamboo shot up 80 feet tall in just six weeks.

Oliver's shallow radishes eventually depleted his soil, leaving him with nothing permanent. Elena now tended a towering, sustainable forest that endured for decades.

SERMON

Nurturing Endurance for Justice

Pastor Todd

ANTHEM

How Long?

Mark Miller

*We wait for your coming, we wait for new life,
We wait in our despairing, we wait through the strife,*

*But how long? How long?
How much longer must we wait?*

*Lord, we are forsaken, we yearn to be free,
You said "Change is gonna come"
But right now, we can't breathe.*

How long? How much longer must we wait?

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd

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

Nicole

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Waiting

DaMon

*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

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 the website, or scan the QR code using your mobile device.



WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Todd

*CLOSING HYMN

Patience! O What a Grace Divine!

Patience! O what a grace divine!
Giv'n by the God of love and pow'r,
That leans upon a father's hand,
In ev'ry dark, afflicting hour.

By patience we serenely bear
The troubles of our mortal state;
And wait contented our discharge,
Nor think our glory comes too late.

Though we in full sensation feel
The weight, the wounds our God ordains,
We smile amid our heaviest woes,
And triumph in our sharpest pains.

Faith into vision shall resign,
Hope shall in full fruition die;
And patience in possession end
In the bright worlds of bliss on high.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

*People of God, carry the light out with you as you depart in hope and love.
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Space for REFLECTION

*Use this page to follow along with the sermon
and take it home to continue and reflect.*

What have you noticed that's different about the sanctuary tree?

When does patience seem most difficult to cultivate for you?

Which fruit would you choose to represent patience and why?

What might you tend to today, even as you wait for something else?

Where have you noticed something good growing, even though other things are still unfinished?

What is the most important thing you experienced in worship today?

What's HAPPENING

Transtastic Workshop

**Monday, October 12 | 6:30pm and
Tuesday, October 13 | noon via Zoom**

Presented by Rae Strozso, a beloved seminary sibling of Pastor Todd and Pastor Lauren, this workshop will focus on what's happening in the current political climate for trans and non-binary people and discuss ways everyone can participate in rising up for these our siblings. Meeting ID: 850 8988 4797 Passcode: SingTrans

Congregational Meeting and Vote

Sunday, October 25 | after worship

In June, the congregation approved the 2026-2027 budget which included the minister of children, youth and community engagement (70% of a full-time equivalent) A transition team that was then formed and met over the past few months and recommended calling Lauren Jewett to the new position. The church council then voted and approved the recommendation. DCC members will vote this recommendation at the congregational meeting/potluck luncheon . Contact Alene Riley with any questions or comments.

Endowment Fund Requests

Due October 17

If you have an idea for a program or activity that you'd like to see at DCC, the DCC Endowment Fund could be a source of funding to make it happen. This fund supplements our operating budget and can be used to support church activities that range from youth group and music programs to capital improvements. Email the office for an Endowment Fund Request form and email your proposal to the office or to Endowment Committee Chair Pat McGrath (Pat504mcgrath@gmail.com). The Endowment Fund committee will evaluate your request and make a decision based upon its value to our church community. So, send along an idea today!

Men's Luncheon

Tuesday, October 13 | 11:30am

Join the men's group for lunch this week at Melo's Pizza and Pasta in Danville.

Hope Playground Workday

Saturday, October 17 | 10:00am

Tom Sonnemann and the Children's Ministry are hosting a workday to help prepare the playground for its Grand Re-Opening. Moving rocks and moving and spreading dirt and ground cover are our tasks. With several folx, we imagine this should take no longer than a couple of hours. Email the church office if you're able to help out.

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays | 10:00am

Pastor Todd facilitates morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10:00am via Zoom and in the Sanctuary. Contact the office or see Wingspan for the link.

Save the DATES

Long-Range Planning Task Force

Sunday, October 18 | after worship

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 25 | after worship



Use the QR code above to access all the information about these activities.

Preaching SCHEDULE

Next Sunday..... Pastor Lauren
October 25..... Pastor Todd
November 1 Pastor Todd
November 8 Pastor Todd

Note to Worshippers

Please take note of the emergency exits around you and locate the nearest one to 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. Worship time is generally 70 minutes—75 on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month.

First-Time Guests

Welcome to Danville Congregational Church! *We are glad you have joined us today.* We’d love to share with you what is happening at DCC. If you’re willing, provide your contact information on the Guest Info cards available in the Narthex or on one of the sheets in the blue pew pads passed around early in the service. Our Welcome Commissioner, Joyce Klassen, and our pastors are glad to connect with you and share more about DCC. [Feel free to ask any of our members as well!] We look forward to connecting with you!

Land Acknowledgement

DCC 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.

Open and Affirming Congregation

DCC is an Open and Affirming church, welcoming **all** of God’s people—of diverse race, age, gender, sexual orientation, family status, economic condition, and physical, mental, and emotional ability.

Emerging Anti-Racist Church

Since 2020, DCC has been on a journey of healing and solidarity as we strive, as an expression of our faith, to undo systems of white supremacy within the Christian church and in the wider culture. We realize this work will never be finished but strive to become *Anti-Racist* as a community, in our worship, and our ministry together.

Families with Children

Godly Play (for children ages preschool through 5th grade) is offered immediately following Time With Children. All children are invited to participate in Godly Play. Our nursery is available for those who wish to access it.

Prayer Requests

The DCC Prayer Team prays daily for those in need of prayers. To submit a prayer request for yourself or someone else, contact a pastor or send an email to prayers@danvillechurch.org. Requests are kept confidential unless specified otherwise.

Pastoral Availability

Pastor Todd keeps regular office hours remotely on Monday and in the office Tuesday through Thursday. To meet with Pastor Todd, reach out to him directly via phone or text (510.710.1280) or at todd@danvillechurch.org. **Pastor Lauren** keeps regular office hours Tuesdays and Wednesdays and remotely on Thursdays. You can reach Pastor Lauren by phone or text (510.684.9183) or at lauren@danvillechurch.org.

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

Church Staff

Senior Pastor The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley
Minister of Youth &
Community Engagement The Rev. Lauren Jewett
Music Director John Kendall Bailey
Office & Communications
Manager Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam

Church Leadership

Co-Moderators Alene Riley & Heidi Bridgeman
Vice Moderator Dianne Dorn
Financial Secretary..... Doug Leich
Acting Treasurer Steve Bridgeman
Clerk Eileen Ackley
Building and Grounds Tom Sonnemann
Children and Youth..... Pastor Lauren
Community Life..... Kyra Kennedy
Dayspring Preschool Nancy Halseth
Journeys in Faith Carrie Hrousis
Outreach Doug Leich
Stewardship..... Barb DeBarger
Welcome and Media..... Joyce Klassen
Worship Tahir Mahmood

Dayspring Preschool Staff

Director Maria Arroyo
Administrative Assistant..... Stacey Perez

Upcoming Gatherings

10/11
SUNDAY

7:00AM Run for Education Table
8:30AM Choir Rehearsal
9:30AM Worship In-person and Online
10:45AM Fellowship (Koinonia Hall)
11:15AM Commission Sunday

10/13
TUESDAY

11:30AM Men's Luncheon
1:00PM Diaconate Meeting

10/14
WEDNESDAY

10:00AM Morning Prayer (Sanctuary or Zoom)
2:30PM CARE Support Group
7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

10/15
THURSDAY

2:30PM Spirited Sisters



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