25th Sunday after Pentecost | November 15, 2026



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.

*CALL TO WORSHIP Alene Riley

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

One: We have come together to celebrate the fruits of the Spirit—
each one an expression of life growing among us.

All: And beneath them all, love has been taking root.

One: Love that nourishes kindness, strengthens patience,
and gives courage to faithfulness.

All: Love that makes room for peace, gentleness, goodness, and joy.

One: Not a love we must earn, or a love we must prove ourselves worthy of receiving…

All: …but a love already growing within us and among us.

One: So come, beloved community.
Let us celebrate the love that sustains us
and calls us toward one another.

All: Let us worship God, whose love makes flourishing possible for all!

*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 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* #43

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.

Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS Pastor Todd

As is our custom when receiving new members at Danville Congregational Church, each new member is introduced to the congregation alongside their "friends in faith."

Sydney Bertelsen and Saraphina Corbett (with Dee Brook),
Paula and Owen Chan (with Amy Furber-Dobson)*;*
Lucinda Huffaker (with Nan Karns)*;*
Brooke, Kathryn, and Haven Katalinich (with Jen Faught);
Dan, Alison, Sophia, and Sienna Morris (with Joyce Klassen);
Amy, Justin, and Ella Piergrossi (with Richard and Diane Stein);
Hank and Claudia Schwarz (with Bette and Jim Felton)

PROMISES FROM THE NEW MEMBERS Pastor Todd and Candidates

PROMISES FROM THE CONGREGATION Pastor Todd and Congregation

Pastor Todd: Now, to the members of **the DCC Community**:
Do you promise to help these new members find their place in the body of Christ, to pray with and for them, to welcome them fully in holy friendship, to be angels for them in times of distress and servants to them in times of need? If so, please answer, We promise, with the help of God.

Congregation: *We promise, with the help of God*.

Pastor Todd: Every person who enters our fellowship makes their own particular mark on it, and strengthens it. Do you promise, even as you share our time-honored traditions, to listen closely for the voice of the Still-Speaking God and to welcome the gifts of those joining this community? If so, please answer, We promise, with the help of God.

Congregation: *We promise, with the help of God*.

WELCOME AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS Pastor Todd and Congregation

Pastor Todd: Then let us, the members and friends of Danville Congregational Church, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ by recommitting to our church covenant and offering a blessing:

All: We hold it to be the mission of the church to proclaim the gospel to all humankind; to exalt the worship of the one God; labor to advance knowledge, promote justice, further the reign of peace; and realize our common humanity, depending, like the faithful before us, on the continuing guidance of our Creator to lead us all into truth.
We work and pray for the transformation of the world into the kingdom of God.
We promise to sustain and cherish our spiritual home, to take part in its worship, seek its increase, and share its work in faith, hope, and love.
We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church.
We promise you our friendship and our prayers as we share your hopes for spiritual renewal. And we enfold you with our love and care.
Let us mutually encourage each other to love God, love each other, and be God's love to the world.

BLESSING Pastor Todd

SCRIPTURE LESSONS John 21: 20-23a Alene

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!" So the rumor spread among the brothers and sisters that this disciple would not die.

Romans 13:9–10
(Easy English Bible)

All these rules, and all the other rules in God's Law, are all included in one rule. That one rule is: 'Love other people as much as you love yourself.' If you love other people, you will never do anything bad to them. So anyone who loves other people has obeyed God's Law completely.

MODERN LESSON Kyra Kennedy

God is clearly more comfortable with diversity than we are, and God's final goal and objective are much simpler. God and the entire cosmos are about two things: differentiation (people and things becoming themselves) and communion (living in supportive coexistence). Physicists and biologists seem to know this better than theologians and clergy.

Religious people who use the scriptures to condemn or exclude others seem to have different goals and objectives from those of God or Jesus. Their arguments generally have to do with very secular concerns: power and control, fear of the other and the unknown, and idealization of a family unit that Jesus himself neither lived nor idealized. Check the Gospels if you don't believe me.

–Richard Rohr, *Loving Beyond the Boxes*

SERMON *God-esteem and The Root Virtue* Rev. Molly Baskette

ANTHEM *The Gospel in One Word Is Love*

Love, love, love, love
The Gospel in one word is Love
Love your neighbor as yourself,
Love, love, love.

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 Kyra

Invitation to Give

Offertory *Love One Another* Luacine Clark Fox

*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 *We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed (vv. 1-4, 6)* #540

We plant a grain of mustard seed, and in our faith we find
the proof of God is love, indeed, which blossoms from its kind;
the proof of God is love, indeed, which blossoms from its kind.

Our actions, more than words, define how love's example feeds
a greater love, for love divine bursts forth from smallest seeds;
a greater love, for love divine bursts forth from smallest seeds.

When stooped to lend a helping hand, we find a touch that heals,
for love invested will expand to bear the fruit love yields;
for love invested will expand to bear the fruit love yields.

Make love our purpose, love our aim, for love endures all things,
and choosing love our lives will claim the peace forgiveness brings;
and choosing love our lives will claim the peace forgiveness brings.

Our lives will be fulfilled and blessed if through the seeds we've sown,
and by the love that we profess the love of Christ is known;
and by the love that we profess the love of Christ is known.

*BENEDICTION Rev. Molly

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

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Missed a service or just want to watch it again?
Email the office for the YouTube link.

Today's Guest Preacher



Rev. Molly Baskette (she/her) served as the senior, then co-senior minister of First Church Berkeley UCC (CA) for 10 years, following calls to the vibrant turnaround church First Church Somerville UCC and Second Congregational Church of Beverly (MA). She is the author of six books about spiritual growth, parenting, grief and church renewal (Real Good Church). Her latest book, How to Begin When Your World is Ending is part cancer memoir/part practical "disaster theology" for everyone living through the hardest parts of being human. A graduate of Yale Divinity School ('96), Dartmouth College ('92) and California Institute for Integral Studies ('24), Molly is a popular speaker, teacher and writer of daily devotionals for the UCC Still Speaking Writers Group. A native of New England, she traded blizzards for earthquakes and now deeply digs life in the Bay Area with her husband, anxious dog and intermittently-in-residence young adult children, where she continues to write, coach and work as a psychedelic-assisted spiritual care provider in a legal ketamine clinic when she's not hugging redwoods.

Space for REFLECTION

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

As you look at our sanctuary tree and this week's image, what do you notice? What's changing? What's growing?

Is love one fruit among many, or might love be the life within every fruit of the Spirit? Why?

If self-control is the trellis that supports growth, and love is the roots that nourish it, what might these images teach us about cultivating the fruits of the Spirit?

Where have you experienced love nourishing you within this faith community? Where might more love be needed?

What might change in our communities—and in the wider world—
if love were the root of how we treated one another?

What was the most meaningful thing you experienced in worship today?

What's HAPPENING

Second Hour

Today | 11:15am

Please come to a second hour program this coming Sunday to learn about fresh new findings concerning the consequences of structural racism, and the design of the educational strategy that we are seeking to launch by a collaboration among faith-based organizations in the East Bay with financial assistance from the FAITHS Division of the San Francisco Foundation. The program will be held in Kairos Hall.

Advent Wreath Helpers

Tuesday, November 17 | 10:00am

If you are free and interested in helping us spruce up our Advent wreaths, meet Karol Mead and Janis Jang in the Sanctuary. We sure can use the help!

Men's Coffee and Donuts

Tuesdays | 9:00am

Join the men's group for coffee and discussion Tuesdays at 9:00am in Koinonia Hall.

Advent Flowers

Advent is approaching and to celebrate the season, the Worship Commission extends the opportunity for you to honor or commemorate the memory of someone by donating Advent flowers to fill our sanctuary this Advent To make a donation, fill out the bulletin insert this week or fill and print our the online form (See Wingspan) Take the completed form along with your check or money and give it to Carol Bassett, place in the offering plate, or drop off/email it to the church office or use our website to make your donation and designation. In addition, the Endowment Committee invites you to remember a loved by making a donation using the same form.

Greening of the Church

Sunday, November 22 | after worship

It's time to prepare our church home for this beautiful time of anticipation, Advent! We invite the entire congregation to stay after the service to help with the Greening of the Church. The below folks will be available if there are any questions.
Sanctuary: Janis Jang
Narthex: Tahir Mahmood
Koinonia Hall: Randy Jang
Snacks and refreshments will be served in Koinonia Hall to keep our decorating energy high! Whether you can stay for twenty minutes or an hour, your help will make our worship space beautiful for the season.

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

Luncheon and Cookie Exchange:

December 13 | after worship



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

Preaching SCHEDULE

Next Sunday..... Pastor Todd

Note to Worshippers

Please take note of the emergency exits around you and locate the nearest one to you. Be aware of others' personal space and space yourselves out in the sanctuary accordingly. Remember to 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. We ask that your silence your cell phone when you enter the sanctuary. If you would like to use one of our listening-assistance devices, 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

11/15 SUNDAY	8:30AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30AM Worship In-person and Online 10:45AM Fellowship (Koinonia) 11:15AM Beloved Community 2nd Hour (Kairos)
11/17 TUESDAY	9:00AM Men's Coffee and Donuts (Koinonia) 4:00PM Finance Committee Meeting
11/18 WEDNESDAY	10:00AM Morning Prayer (Sanctuary or Zoom) 10:00AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00PM Anti-Racism Team Zoom Meeting 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal
11/19 THURSDAY	2:00PM Spirited Sisters



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