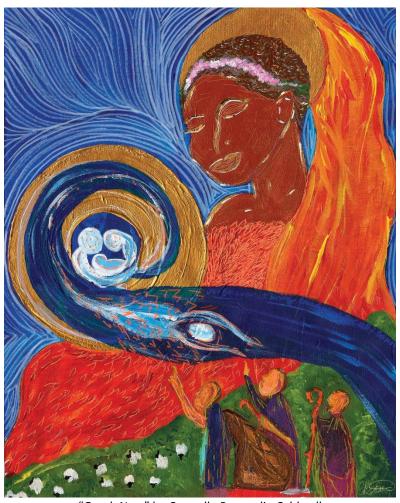


# Congregational Church United Church of Christ



"Good, New" by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Christmas Eve *December 24, 2025* 

## **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 visitor?** Welcome to Danville Congregational Church! We are glad you are here with us today. Please register your attendance in the Blue Pew Book located in the pew and share whatever information you would like us to have about you. 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 Community Life Commissioner. We look forward to meeting 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** 

Concerto grosso in G minor, Op. 6, No. 8 "Christmas Concerto" - VI. Pastorale

Arcangelo Corelli

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nancy Halseth

WELCOME

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

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

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Oliver Beaver and Sabina Jackson Kimball

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Paloma Jackson Kimball and Paloma Porter

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

One: On this holy night, we come,

All: dazzled and awe-struck, ready to sing alongside the angels.

One: On this holy night, we come,

All: eager and hopeful, ready to journey alongside the shepherds.

One: On this holy night, we come,

All: quietly and tenderly, ready to worship alongside Mary.

One: On this holy night, we come,

All: singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming: good news is louder than fear.

One: Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Luci Beaver

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Turn to those near you and pass the peace of Christ

\*OPENING HYMN Shout! See next page.

# Shout!

#### GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7 with refrain

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Traditional English melody, 16th cent.





Shout! Shout your glo-ri-as in all the earth and heaven a - bove



Shout! Shout the an-gels' news that hope is born in Je-sus

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

**HOMILY** 

Good News Is Louder Than Fear

Pastor Todd

Pifa ("Pastoral Symphony")

### Soprano:

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:

#### Chorus:

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men."

— Luke 2:8-14

#### CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Rev. Lauren Jewett

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.

#### CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Chris Sonnemann

This year's Christmas offering benefits The Family Justice Center and the UCC Christmas Fund. See page 12 for more information.

Offertory

Messiah: He Shall Feed His Flock Heidi Bridgeman, soprano Gabrielle Goozée-Nichols, soprano

G.F. Handel

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. — Isaiah 40: 11

\*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

# TIME WITH CHILDREN AND HOLY COMMUNION

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Todd and Pastor Lauren

#### SURSUM CORDA

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift our hearts in prayer.
One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

#### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Loving God, in a world wracked with fear,

All: you gather us together.

You set the table. You meet us here.

You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits.

You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time.

One: So with renewed courage,

All: with renewed hope, with renewed conviction,

send us out into the world.

Help us to feed others as you have fed us.

With gratitude we pray, Amen.

#### THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

Ushers will receive the light from the Christ Candle and share it with the congregation.

Please always keep the lit candles upright and dip your unlit candle to receive the light.

After the closing hymn, Joy to the World, please extinguish your candle and place them in the baskets at the exit as you leave the sanctuary.

CANDLELIGHTING HYMN

Silent Night

See next page.

\*All are invited to rise in body, mind, or spirit for the singing of the fourth verse.







While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836



All: We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So *still*, we believe. Amen.

**POSTLUDE** 

Go Tell It On the Mountain

arr. Shawn Kirchner

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain: Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, Behold thru-out the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth, Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Jesus' birth. (Refrain)

And lo! When they had heard it they all bowed down and prayed, Then traveled on together to where the Babe was laid.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain: Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble babe was born, And God sent down the angels that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain: Jesus Christ is born!

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

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## **WORSHIP NOTES**



"Good, New" by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell Inspired by Luke 2:1-20 | 16"x20" Acrylic on canvas

We often link fear and anxiety to bad news. But what about the moments when the news is good—almost too good to believe? The dream job offer arrives. The long-hoped-for pregnancy test is finally positive. The illness goes into sudden remission.

Euphobia, the fear of good news, often stems from past losses, fear of change, or the pressure of new expectations. Joy and relief may come first, but they're often followed by a quiet dread. What now? What could this mean?

In Luke's Nativity story, even angelic news stirs overwhelm. The shepherds tremble. Mary ponders. As she wraps her newborn in cloth, what thoughts rise in her heart?

The word "new" is nestled in "good news"—a reminder that even the best gifts lie beyond our control. In the birth of Jesus, we witness the mystery of it all: the terrifying, the unexpected, the good, and the new that hope often brings. —Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell



**Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell** (she/her) is a Haitian-American multidisciplinary artist whose visual lexicon fuses gestural abstraction and theology to explore themes of diaspora, faith, and cultural memory. Borrowing her use of color from the vibrancy of Haitian artistic traditions, Carmelle's art pulses with movement and mysticism. Beyond her studio practice, Carmelle serves as Associate Director of the Missing Voices Project at Flagler College's Center for Religion and Culture and

serves on the board of Artworks Trenton (artworkstrenton.org).



The nativity set on our chancel was hand-crafted and painted by an artisan in Guatemala, the home country of the faith community we are in a relationship with through the Sister Parish program. The nativity was brought back to Danville by a delegation who visited the San Antonio community in Guatemala.

## HELPING WITH TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Candlelighters: Oliver Beaver and Sabrina Jackson Kimball Liturgists: Nancy Halseth, Luci Beaver, Oliver Beaver, Paloma Jackson Kimball,

Sabrina Jackson Kimball, Paloma Porter, and Chris Sonnemann

Sound Tech: Steve Bridgeman
Tech Minister: Amy Furber Dobson

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church office will be closed during the week between Christmas and New Years Day.

We will resume regular office hours on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

If you have a need for pastoral care during this time, please reach out to the pastors directly.

### **Christmas Offering**

Our Joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called on to share widely, as we can do through our Christmas offering. This year, the Outreach Commission has designated two recipients: **Family Justice Center, and the United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund**. Each will receive one half of our Christmas offering.



For over 10 years, **The Family Justice Center** is a warm and welcoming one-stop center for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse and human trafficking.

They provide a place where families come first. To find out more about their programs click here!



The <u>UCC Christmas Fund</u> has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Through our Christmas offering, we can participate in God's promise of renewal to the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it

difficult to meet increasing living costs. Think of the ways in which your life has been touched by a former pastor, a retired Sunday School teacher, a church secretary, a minister of music, and honor their ministries with a gift that will help others in times of need.

All gifts made tonight will go toward this offering. You can give on our web site, using your mobile device, or drop your gift in the basket. Please use a Christmas Offering envelope or write "Christmas offering" in the memo line of your check made out to DCC. To make your offering online, go to the <a href="DCC Donations page">DCC Donations page</a> and select Christmas Offering, or text give to 855-940-3756 and select Christmas offering.

Faithfully, Chris Sonnemann, Outreach Commissioner



### **Advent Flowers**

Following our Christmas Eve service, those who donated these Advent flowers may take one home When our donors are finished selecting their poinsettias, members of the congregation are welcomed to take a festive flower plant home with them. Thanks to all who donated Advent Flowers this year:

Donor Name	In Memory Of	In Honor Of
Alene Riley		Her Family
Steve & Heidi Bridgeman	Richard & Betty Brown, Derek Brown and Orval & Helen Bridgeman	
Eileen Ackley	Doug Krutilek	
Sally Baca	Danny Baca & Valerie Baca	
Nan Karns	Dick Karns	
Nancy & Wayne Snyder	Our Parents	
Barbara DeBarger	Betty DeBarger and Keith & Toshiko Gestring	
Bette Felton	Lee & Jeanne Felton	
Michiyo Laing	Carl Laing	
Nancy Halseth	Dave Halseth, Tom & Mary Lou Michael	
Sharon Brockman		Diana Lamb
Nicole Noga & Dan Northway		Our Familes
Sereen & Tahir Mahmood	Our Parents	
The Seiler Family	Rod & Marilyn Seiler and Connie & Alan Wadsworth	
Nancy Dowell	Gary Dowell	



# A Migration-Focused Worship Series for Epiphany

Migration—the movement of humans from one place to another—is a deeply complex, often divisive, and significantly misunderstood state of being. At any given time, almost 4% of the world's population (304 million people!) is in a state of migration, for a variety of reasons and needs. [Source: Migration Policy Institute, 2024] For some, migration may be the difference between life and death. It is also true some of us have migrated from the places we grew up or migrated because of work. Others have migrated from one career or faith tradition to another. In the process, we have made new homes, gained new friends, and learned new languages or cultures. In fact, it is likely we all have encountered others engaged in this movement.

The Biblical stories of the journey of "sages from the East" to visit the baby Jesus in Bethlehem—known as "the Epiphany"—and Jesus' family's subsequent flight to Egypt to find safety and refuge—these are migration stories. So during the month of January in the season after the Epiphany, we will take a deeper look at the state of migration—historically, religiously, and spiritually—to see what we can observe and maybe learn about this beautifully human and spiritual state.

Join us for worship at 9:30am, fellowship and conversation afterward, and a special Zoom presentation by the Rev. Rhina Mercedes Ramos discussing her new book *In My Heart, A Volcano: A Memoir of Vignettes.* Visit our website for details.

Sundays at 9:30am

January 4 LOVE

**Knows No Borders** 

January 11 GOD

**Knows No Borders** 

[Baptism Sunday]

January 18
BELOVED
COMMUNITY

**Knows No Borders** 

[MLK Sunday featuring the Rev. Rhina Ramos, preaching, and special musical guest Marvin Matthews]

January 25
JESUS
Knows No Borders







danvillechurch.org/migration



989 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Danville



# A Community Concert

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of the

# featuring Gospel-Christian Vocalist Marvin Matthews

stated, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out and Gospel artist Marvin Matthews brings Rev. Dr. King-to inspire us to love over fear



This concert is offered to the San Ramon Valley community at no charge.



#### 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



### **Danville Congregational Church**

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