



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

November 19, 2023



Order of Worship

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Growing Season

** You are invited to stand
(Please remember to silence your cell phone during the service.)

When the prelude begins, let us quiet our hearts and conversation.

Church Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Tony and Dan Davis

Thanksgiving Medley

Now Thank We All Our God/Let All Things Now Living

Tunes: Grosser Gott and Ash Grove
Arr. By: Brant Adams

Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: Show us the promise of Your presence in each sunrise, in the warmth of the noontime sun, in the glowing of each sunset,

All: and our thanksgiving will be lasting, O God.

One: Show us the smile on a baby's face, the fun of two children playing, an old person cracking a joke,

All: and our thanksgiving will be joyful, O God.

One: Show us one neighbor helping another, one family member sacrificing for another, a grateful nation going to work,

All: and our thanksgiving will be thoughtful, O God.

One: Show us the church caring for the vulnerable, worshipping wholeheartedly, learning enthusiastically,

All: and our thanksgiving will be faithful, O God.

~Adapted from a prayer found in Prayers to Share, edited by David Sparks

Opening Hymn #591

Come Ye Thankful People, Come

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with You.
And also with you!

Prayer of Discipleship (Responsively)

One: For a good meal after a long day, a star-filled sky, a hug from a loved one, an unexpected smile,

All: Thanksgiving flows naturally to You, O God.

One: Thanks for the things we need: food, clothes, warmth, and shelter.

All: Thanks for the people we love: parents and grandparents, friends near and far.

One: Thanks for a time to play: football and tennis, pickleball, golf, card, fishing and board games.

All: Thanks for a time to dream: of faraway places, of luscious desserts, of family reunited, of freedom from worry.

One: Thanks for the harvest gathered in and for useful work at the office, factory, and at home.

All: Thanks for our Christian faith: for prayers offered and answered, and for the Good News Jesus brings.

One: May we offer thanksgiving in all things:

All: When life is testing, in times of celebration, in times of sorrow, in the middle of a pandemic and when normality returns.

One: We offer thanksgiving to You, gracious God:

All: You were faithful yesterday, You are faithful today, You are faithful all the days of our lives. Amen.

~Adapted from a prayer found in Prayers to Share, edited by David Sparks

Our Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Gift of Music

Dan Davis, Vocalist

Abundant Life

Tune: La Grange

By: Marty Haugen

We cannot own the sunlit sky,
The moon, the wild-flow'rs growing,
For we are part of all that is
Within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
The gifts of God's creation,
That all may have abundant life
In ev'ry earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night
And weary, wait for morning,
When children have no bread but tears,
And war-horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
To join in common labor,
That all may have abundant life
In oneness with their neighbor.

God calls humanity to join
As partners in creating
A future free from want or fear,

Life's goodness celebrating,
That new world beckons from afar,
Invites our shared endeavor,
That all may have abundant life
And peace endure forever.

Today's Scripture

Philippians 4:4-9

⁴⁻⁵ Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

⁶⁻⁷ Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

⁸⁻⁹ Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

~The Message

Response to the Sharing of God's Story

The Story of God for the People of God!
Thanks Be to God!

Pastoral Words

Invitation to the Offering

What we give and the spirit with which we give it, enables this church to make a difference in the lives of all whom we touch.

Offertory

Dan Davis, Vocalist

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

By: John Ylvisaker

Prayer of Gratitude and Dedication

Eternal God, whose mercy encompasses the universe and whose love embraces all humankind, as a part of Your creation in this time and place we pause to praise You for the world in which we live and for all of the blessings that we enjoy. To reflect our gratitude, we dedicate these gifts this morning, and we rededicate ourselves to loving people and using things rather than loving things and using people. For every human being is Your child and thus our sister and brother. Amen.

**** Doxology for Humanity**

Praise life that makes us change and grow
Praise love that makes compassion flow
Praise peace that ends all strife and fear
Praise hands that work for justice here

Praise ears that hear the children's cries
Praise truth that drives out cruel lies
Praise hearts that value human worth
Praise lives that build a better earth

Praise eyes that see all human need
Praise minds that cast out selfish greed
Praise lips that challenge those in power
Praise those who struggle every hour

**Praise faith that keeps us ever strong
Praise hope that triumphs over wrong
Praise dreams that make our spirits rise
Praise voices raised in joyful cries**

By Kurt Struckmeyer on May 23, 2014

Music: Old Hundredth / "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" © 2013

Life of Our Church

**Faith Development
No Faith Development
For November**

**Today's flowers are gifted to the church by Cheryl Ellis.
We would like to thank her for this beautiful gift.**

**Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board to donate
flowers to enhance our Sunday Service.**

**We are looking for Volunteers for Cathy's Place and for Ushers.
Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board if interested.**

**For next week's God's word:
I Spy with My Little Eye
Matthew 25:31-46**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

Sunday November 19th
Lunch and Learn



Immediately following the service, Beth Moss will have a discussion on: “Surviving the Holidays”. The holidays can be a challenging time for folks who have experienced a loss. Examples include but are not limited to: the death of a close one, divorce or broken relationship, the loss of a job, or lingering effects from Hurricane Ian.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH @ 4PM

© THOMAS A. EDISON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1619 LLEWELLYN DR.

LIGHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

PLEASE BRING A BAG OF NON-PERISHABLE GROCERIES TO BE
DISTRIBUTED IN LEE COUNTY

CYPRESS LAKE UNITED METHODIST

IONA HOPE EPISCOPAL

Tha Temple Beth El

TEMPLE JUDEA

THOMAS A. EDISON CONGREGATIONAL

Guardian ad Litem works with 900 foster children in Lee County. They collect children's books to distribute at Christmas. If you would like to participate in the book drive this year, books can be brought to the church anytime and the drive will end on November 26.

Monday November 27th

**Decorate church for Advent –
Starting at 10:00 AM**

– lunch provided – sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. We need to know by November 22nd who is planning to help.

Friday December 1 – Edison Park Expressive Arts School – Presentation of: *Sights and sounds of the season*, on the Church lawn at 10:15. Bring a Chair, and your Neighbors.

Friday December 8th “Let it Snow”

**Piano concert here at the church
starting at 5:00 PM.**

Students of Alena Michel will be performing.

Sunday, December 10th from 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Join us for an inter-generational event to create a Community Christmas tree at the church. We will be making decorations for the tree at the church and make one for your own tree too. Decorate (and eat) a Christmas cookie before heading home for the evening. Please bring gifts of CANNED foods for the local

**food bank that will be used to build Christmas trees of
nourishment for those in need during the holidays.**

Sending Hymn of Faith

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sly Miller and Bill Jackson

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, fam'ly all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Benediction/Blessing for Our Journey of Faith (Responsively)

**Our worship has ended, but now our life of service begins!
Go from this space, for you and I are the body of Christ,
and all of creation awaits us. So, live passionately, love
faithfully, and celebrate every moment of your life from
now until the finale. Our God of relentless, amazing,
creative, and hopeful grace goes with us! Amen. Amen.**

~ Adapted from The Rev. Michael S. Piazza

Postlude

Postlude on St. George's Windsor

Arr. By: Jason D. Payne

Time with our Children and the Bible This Week!

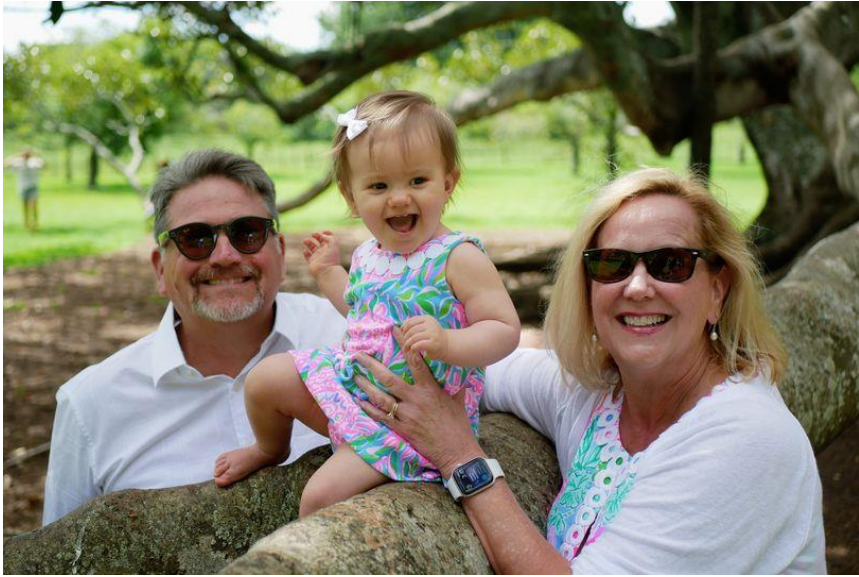
Play part of the song “Don’t Worry, Be Happy” by Bobby McFerrin. Ask the children to share their answers to the questions, “What makes you happy?” (You might also share what makes you happy.)

Talk about the different things the children have listed. You might want to ask them to raise their hands if the ideas listed make them happy. For example, “How many of you are happy like Lisa is when playing with your pet?” Include yourself in the voting. Then ask, “What makes you worry?” (Again, you might want to share what makes you worry.) Ask them if worrying about something is going to make it better or make it go away? Again, see if the children worry about the things listed. This is a good way to realize we all have similar concerns.

Suggest that it is a lot more fun to think about the things that delight us rather than think about the things that give us concern. What is something we can do to help us when we worry? Prayer is the answer you are looking for. Tell them the Bible says, “Have no anxiety about anything but in prayer...let your request be made known to God...and the peace of God which passes all understanding...will keep your hearts and minds in Jesus.” This is a good thing to remember!

Play McFerrin’s song again as the children return to their seats.

~adapted from homiletics online.



Dear Church Family,

Our hearts were overwhelmed on the gifts that you gave us so we could take an amazing trip to Auckland, New Zealand. The gift of time away, and the generous monetary gift that helped us celebrate our granddaughters first birthday was above and beyond our expectations.

Tina, Camryn, and I really felt your love as we had the privilege of bonding with the newest addition to the Harper clan. We have shared these two pictures with you on this day, so that you can see a small glimpse of the infectious smile and developing personality that we already miss so much. So many times, a church family is a family when sorrow or tragedy occurs, but the same church family is also just as vital in joyful times of celebrations. We are so blessed that you all are a part of our family in joy and in struggles. Thank you again for the time away. Thank you for the monetary gift. Thanks to all who prayed for our trip and volunteered to help-out while we were gone with spending time with our house sitter and with things that needed to be done so that each Sunday, we can come together for our weekly family reunion in worship.

Chur. (The classic Kiwi term for gratitude or appreciation. It also can be translated as “sweet as” or “that’s awesome”.)

Camryn, Tina, and Pastor Jim

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Kate Baumann; Roy Shipley; Barry Pierce;
Dan Van Riper; Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch;
Lana Zeigler; Ned Downing; Liz Lloyd.

Friends & Family:

Pat Tanguoso (Friend of the Church and Quilter);
Duane (Friend of Tom & Sherrie McIntyre); Shelly (friend of Pastor Anton); Lillian Helling (Sister-in-law of Tom Johns & Joseph Helling); Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Kim Gaide (for the passing of her husband Dave); Martha Calvert, (Friend of Ian Laughlin); Jeffrey Lloyd (Son of Liz Lloyd); John Schmidt (Gail Courtwright's brother); Carmella Colitti (great niece of Rosemary Priore); Roberta Hoft (Cindy's mother); Shannon Randall (daughter of co-worker of Pastor Anton); Jim Marc-Aurele (Lou & Carol's son); Darlene Gonzales (Flo Newbrough's sister); Tom Jenkins (friend of Tee and Flo Newbrough); Mike Robbins (friend of Tee and Flo Newbrough); Andy Anderson (friend of Joe Helling); Jim Johnson (friend of Sandy Cole); Bob and Darlene Kulesza (Bob is Carol Marc-Aurele's brother).

THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYERS

Prayer for The Hand that Made the Hands

For the hands that tilled, for the hands that harvested, for the hands that processed, for the hands that transported, for the hands that stocked, for the hands that sold, for the hands that bought, for the hands that prepared, for the hands that will hold, for the hand that made the hands, our hearts are forever grateful. Amen.

(Ewan Aitken, printed in Blessed be our Table, Wild Goose 2003)

Prayer for the Laughter of Children

For the laughter of the children, for my own life breath, for the abundance of food on this table, for the ones who prepared this sumptuous feast, for the roof over our heads, the clothes on our backs, for our health, and our wealth of blessings, for this opportunity to celebrate with family and friends, for the freedom to pray these words without fear, in any language, in any faith, in this great country, whose landscape is as vast and beautiful as her inhabitants. Thank you, God, for giving us all these. Amen.

(Rabbi Naomi Levy)



***No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here at Edison Congregational Church.
Welcome home!***

Website:	www.edisonchurch.com
Facebook:	Facebook.com/EdisonChurch
Email Pastor:	Pastorjim@taecc.com
Email Office:	Admin@taecc.com
Office Phone:	239-334-4978
Office Hours:	Monday-Thursday 9 AM – 12PM
Mailing:	1619 Llewellyn Dr., Ft. Myers 33901

Pastor Jim can be reached at the office
or on his cell phone at 502-494-6649 (voice & text).

Our Church Staff

Senior Minister – Rev. Jim Harper, III

Associate Minister – Rev. Anton Pierce

Administrative Assistant – Cindy Wilson

Distinguished Director of Sacred Arts – Dr. Tony Contino

Pianist - Barry Pierce

Beth Moss – RN, MA Faith Community Nurse

*Your gifts are deeply appreciated and enable this ministry to continue. Our church retains the
right to redirect donations to the area of greatest need.*

