



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

September 25, 2022



Order of Worship

16th 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

We Shall Overcome

African-American Spiritual
Arr By: Stephen DeCesare

Call To Worship (Responsively)

One: God of the people,

All: God of the prophets,

One: God of the pious,

All: God of the impertinent,

One: God of the foolish,

All: God of the wise,

One: God of the desperate,

All: God of the arrogant,

One: God of the humble,

All: God of the shy,

One: God of the bold,

All: God of the lonely, lost and mourning,

One: God of the joyous, stable and persistent,

All: We are here now. Be here with us. Be here in us. Be here among us. Be here where we are — in worship today.

Amen.

Slightly adapted from a prayer found at homiletics online.

Opening Hymn of Faith

Help Us Accept Each Other

Words By: Fred Kaan

Music: Composed by Samuel S. Wesley (PHH 206), AURELIA

**Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe:
we are ourselves accepted
and meant to love and live.**

**Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all - not just for some,
to love them as we find them
or as they may become.**

**Let your acceptance change us
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness
and laughter's healing art.**

**Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us, make us one!**

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Passing of the Peace

**May Christ be with You on Your Journey!
And also, with you!**

Edison Laboratory of Faith

Life is one big road with lots of signs. So, when you're riding through the ruts, don't complicate your mind. Flee from hate, mischief and jealousy. Don't bury your thoughts, put your vision to reality. Wake Up and Live! — Bob Marley

Sunday School is now open at Cathy's Place for children from the ages of pre-school to 9 years old. There are stories and activities for them to enjoy and learn about our God.

Prayer of Discipleship (Responsively)

One: Good morning again God. It is our intention in this time of intentional prayer to recognize you in our daily lives and to hear you communicating with each of us through the many signs around us.

All: Stop

One: God, thank You for the unhealthy habits You have helped us to stop, the sins You have delivered us from, and the unfruitful thoughts and feelings You have removed from our minds and our hearts.

All: Yield

God, we have yielded ourselves and our plans once more into Your hands. What You want, we want. Where You lead, we will follow. May Your will be done in and through each of us.

All: Slow

Slow us down, God, to a safe speed. Slow us down to a healthy speed. Slow us down to hear Your voice, see Your hand and enjoy Your presence.

All: Speed Limit posted by Law

One: God, thank You for the reminder that You are always previous, always before, always ahead. You clear the way ahead. You make straight paths for our feet. Help us remember that we will encounter nothing today that You have not foreseen.

All: No Parking at Any Time

One: God, deliver us from complacency. Keep us moving and growing in our faith. We want to always be moving, running after You, drawing closer and closer to You.

All: One Way/Wrong Way

One: Jesus of Nazareth, for each of us gathered today in person and online You are our Way, our Truth, and our Life. Let us walk in all Your ways, keep Your commandments, cleave to You, and serve You with all my heart and soul.

All: Detour

One: Show us the way to go, God. Whether we turn to the right or to the left, let us hear Your voice, saying the words of the prophet Isaiah, "This is the way; walk in it."

All: And God once we get into the habit of praying some of the street signs we encounter along the way on our spiritual journey, may we find the practice addictive. May we start to pray in response to street names and billboards, opening ever more avenues for you to speak to us God, and us to speak to You.

One: Praying in the name of all that is good and holy,

All: Amen.

— adapted from some information found @
<https://www.guideposts.org/prayer/how-to-pray/pray-street-signs>

Prayers of the People and Concerns of the Heart

The 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.

Prayer of Response

**Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Lord, send Your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Ken Medema

Scripture for the Day

LUKE 16:19-31

¹⁹ “There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. ²⁰ At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. ²¹ Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.

²²"The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ He shouted, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I'm suffering in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things, whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain. ²⁶ Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us.'

²⁷ "The rich man said, 'Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father's house. ²⁸ I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so that they don't come to this place of agony.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets. They must listen to them.' ³⁰ The rich man said, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and lives.' ³¹ Abraham said, 'If they don't listen to Moses and the Prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'"

Common English Bible

Hymn of Faith

If Only I Had Known

LEONI 6.6.8.4 ("The God of Abraham Praise")

"If only I had known the cost of human greed,
Perhaps I would have reached out more to those in need.
But now I see the truth across the great divide!
If only I had known and changed," the rich man cried.

If only we could learn what keeps us wanting more:
We build our bigger barns so we'll feel more secure.
But you alone, O God, give true security;
Possessed by our possessions, we cannot be free.

**O Christ, if we could know God's will for all the earth!
And yet, by your own Spirit, you have shown God's truth:
"Do justice, help the poor, share life and love and land,
And when you see the hungry, open wide your hand."**

Biblical References: Luke 16:19-31; Luke 12:13-21; Deuteronomy 15:11-12

Tune: Traditional Hebrew melody ("The God of Abraham Praise") (MIDI)

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette,

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Response to the Sharing of God's Story

The Story of God for the People of God;
Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Words —

Gift of Music

Debbie Marino, Vocalist

God, We Build Our Own Divisions

CONVERSE 8.7.8.7 D ("What a Friend We Have in Jesus")

*God, we build our own divisions;
we build walls to block the way.
We keep out, by our decisions,
those who need our love each day.
God, may we hear Jesus' teaching:
Gates are made to open wide.
When we hear of Lazarus, begging,
may we welcome him inside.*

Biblical Reference: Luke 16:19-31

Tune: Charles Crozat Converse, 1868 ("What a Friend We Have in Jesus") (MIDI)

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Hymn of Faith

Debbie Marino, Vocalist

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Words: Joseph M. Scriven, 1855
Tune: Charles Crozat Converse, 1868

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
 All because we do not carry
 Everything to God in prayer.**

Call To Give

Offertory

Debbie Marino, Vocalist

“By Our Love”

by Christy Nockels

*** Doxology**

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’ly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Doxology: Thomas Ken, 1674

Music: Old Hundredth attr. to Louis Bourgeois, pub. 1551

Life of Our Church

Quilting on Wednesday at 12:00 pm.

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

**Faith Development on Wednesdays at,
11:00 AM and 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary;
Thursday at 10:00 AM Online.**

**September 7 through September 28, we
will be learning the following:**

***"Preachers I Wished I Preached Like
And the Gospel they Preached"***

Benediction (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, and 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 in A Major

By: Gioachino Rossini

Time With Today's Scripture and Our Children

We Are All Rich

Luke 16:19-31

By Lois Parker Edstrom

When we think about someone being rich, we usually think of a person who has a lot of money. But there are many ways to be rich.

Think about someone you know who is able to play the piano or other musical instrument well. That person is rich in talent.

I know a boy who is a “high-tech” guy. He is able to answer questions and solve computer problems. He is rich in his knowledge of electronic things.

There are people who are especially friendly and loving. They are rich in friendships.

People who excel at sports are rich in their physical strength and endurance.

Each one of you is rich in one way or another. If you are healthy, blessed with good families, have a church to worship in, a school to attend, and the beautiful outdoors to enjoy, you are rich indeed.

Jesus teaches us that those who are rich have an obligation to help those who are in need. The story Jesus tells in the Bible is about a rich man **“and he was clothed in purple and fine linen, living in luxury every day”**. The rich man had much food yet he did not share what he had with a poor man who laid on the ground outside his gate.

Think about how you are rich. If you are rich with musical talent, be willing to share your talent with others who need to hear your music – the elderly who live in nursing homes and small children who can be inspired by you.

If you are rich with computer knowledge, be willing to teach those who want to learn how to use a computer.

If you know how to be a friend, reach out to others with your friendship.

If you are an athletic person, help those who are not as strong as you.

We are all rich and each one of us can find ways to share our richness with others.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible

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October Worship Theme - FAITH - Edison Congregational Church

"TRUE FAITH IS NOT A LEAP INTO THE DARK; IT'S A LEAP INTO THE LIGHT." – Eric Metaxas

October 2: **INCREASE MY FAITH/LUKE 17:5-10** - World Communion Sunday

October 9: **HEALING FAITH/LUKE 17:11-19** – Time for healing and prayer will be offered.

October 16: **NEVER GIVE UP ON FAITH/LUKE 18:1-8**

October 23: **AUTHENTIC FAITH/LUKE 18:9-14**

October 30: **TRANSFORMATIVE FAITH/LUKE 19:1-10 – Reformation Sunday**

Sunday Flower's

Song of Solomon 2:12 KJV The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds has come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

You may acknowledge flowers as a memorial, a celebration or just to share. You may have an arrangement or cut flowers. You can use your own vase or we have several in the kitchen. If you would like to have the special memory in the bulletin, please let the office know ahead of time. We have two flower tables, one shorter for taller flowers, one taller for shorter flowers--we try not to block the

view of the Pastor. After the service, please take your flowers home.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone that would like to participate. Otherwise, you can call the office (239-334-4978), email (admin@taecc.com), or text Pastor Jim at 502-494-6649

Badges

We will be making badges for anyone that is interested in having one. The badges per unit cost around \$8.00, so to offset the cost, we would appreciate any donations, but is not necessary. Thanking you in advance for your generosity towards the purchase of these badges.

These badges have a magnetic backing instead of a pin closure.

Please, either call the Church Office at 239-334-4978 between 9:00 - 2:00 Monday through Friday or email: admin@taecc.com the correct spelling/way of how you would like the badge to read. You can either do First Name and Last Initial or both First and Last Name. Once I have the information, I will start making up the badges.



Notes and Cards can be sent to the following people:

Winkler Court
Attn: Kathy Baumann
3250 Winkler Ave
Fort Myers, FL 33913

Pat Jessie
1143 S Plymouth Ct. #603
Chicago, IL 60605

Lee Memorial Hospital
Attn: Tom Sherman, Room 531A
2776 Cleveland Ave
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Ian Laughlin
7050 Nantucket Cir #A-6
N Ft Myers, FL 33917

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Kate Baumann; Roy Shipley; Malcolm Youngquist; Don Cole; Rod Schaffter;
Ian Laughlin; Sherri McIntyre; Pat Jessie; Tom Sherman;
Liz Lloyd.

Friends & Family:

Pat Tanguzzo (Friend of the Church and Quilter);
KC (Friends of Lori Main);
Larry Zeigler (Lana's Husband); Bernice (Friend of Bill Persons);
Leon & Wes (friends of Patty Newcomer); Joan (Patty's Mother);
Duane (Friend of Tom & Sherrie McIntyre); Shelly (friend of Pastor Anton); Max
(friend of Pastor Anton); Lorene Ellerhoff (Sister-in-law of Joseph Helling);
Betty Denson.

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

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
Organist – Dr. Tony Contino
Pianist - Barry Pierce*

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.

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| 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 |

