



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

September 1, 2024



Order of Worship

Fourteenth 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

Beautiful Savior

Tune: Schonster Herr Jesu
Arr. By: Robert A. Hobby

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Something so big we can't hold it.

All: Something so deep we can't reach it, yet it beckons us.

One: It has many names: God, Love, Truth, Community.

All: God is in all of it, and God draws us here.

One: To feel some light. To dwell in some peace.

All: To experience some love. To sing joyfully. To worship in the presence of the Holy! Amen.

— Slightly adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online

Hymn # 1

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Verses 1,2 and 4

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Song of Prayer Response

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven

Music: Charles Crozat Converse

**What a Friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev – ‘ry-thing to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
ev – ‘ry-thing to God in prayer!**

Prayer of Discipleship

One: O God, We find ourselves at the beginning of another week. We do not know what it will bring.

**All: Please help us to be ready for whatever it may come
our way.**

One: If we are to stand up, help us to stand bravely.

All: If we are to sit still, help us to sit quietly.

One: If we are to lie low, help us to do it patiently.

All: If we are to do nothing, let us do it gallantly.

One: We pray just for this week, for these upcoming 168 hours,

**All: for the ability to cooperate with others according to the
way Jesus taught us to live.**

One: God, in a few minutes we will all pray;

**All: “Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in
heaven.”**

One: God, please free us all from all forms of self-will, self-centeredness, dishonesty, and deception; so that your will, will be done on earth as it is in heaven – today.

All: God, please infuse in us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

One: God, please send Your Spirit to us

All: So, we can follow You and walk also in Your sandals along both the dusty and muddy roads of life. Amen.

- Adapted from a prayer written by J. Veltri, S.J.

Song of Prayer Response

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven

Music: Charles Crozat Converse

**Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a Friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.**

Prayers for the people

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.

Song of Prayer Response

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven

Music: Charles Crozat Converse

**Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
in His arms He'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.**

Scripture

James 1:17-27

¹⁷ Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth by His true word, and here is the result: we are like the first crop from the harvest of everything He created.

Welcoming and doing the word

¹⁹ Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. ²⁰ This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the very word that is able to save you. ²² You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. ²³ Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. ²⁴ They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do. ²⁶ If those who claim devotion to God don't control what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion is worthless. ²⁷ True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the

Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.

-Common English Bible

Response to the Sharing of God's Story

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

Gift of Music

Sam Eash, Baritone

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

Words By: Civilla Durfee Martin
Music By: Charles Hutchinson Gabriel

Pastoral Words

Invitation to the Table / Blessing and Sharing of the Gifts

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at this table.

Today's breads: Garlic Tuscan, Brioche bread, English Breakfast bread with fruit and nuts, Brown Wheat Dinner Rolls, and on clear Gluten Free bread.

Gift of Music during Communion

Sam Eash, Baritone

Panis Angelus

By: Cesar Franck

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

Stephen Brittain, Piano

Swing Low Sweet Chariot

By: Wallace Willis

Arr. By: S. Brittain

** Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Tune: Thomas Ken, 1709

Life of Our Church

Quilting at Noon

Faith Development

**There will be no Faith Development
On September 4th or the 5th.
Sessions will start on September 11th.**

**Today's flowers are gifted to the church by
Tom and Janice Sherman. We would like to
thank them for this beautiful gift.**

Sunday September 1st

**Right after service today, Lori McMullen, RN, will be
offering Blood Pressure checks. Blood Pressure
Screening is an important part of health
maintenance. All are encouraged to do this.**

Women's Fellowship

All women are invited to the Women's Fellowship Meeting, on Wednesday, September 18th at noon. Lunch will be provided by the Women's Fellowship Officer's; therefore, an accurate count is needed. Please R.S.V.P. to Gail Courtwright at: gailcourtwright26@gmail.com. Come see what we are all about!



Sunday September 29th Lunch and Learn

Immediately following the service, Lori McMullen will have a discussion on: Human Trafficking
Guest Speaker: Karen Gaston

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or you can RSVP to the office by September 25th so we will know how many boxed lunches to order.

Food Drive for Lehigh

**Soups and Stews
Instant Potatoes
Canned or Bried Beans
Peanut Butter / other
nut butters**

**Mac N Cheese
Bags of Rice
Canned Vegetables
Canned Fish/Meat
Shelf-Stable Milk**

We are looking for Volunteers for Greeters and for Ushers. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board, or you can go to the website "Signup Genius" if interested.

**For next week's God's word:
James 2:1-10, 11-13, 14-17**

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

**Alena Michel, Organ
Stephen Brittain, Piano**

Ode to Joy

By: Ludwig van Beethoven
Arr. By: Fred Bock

Time with our Children

Managing Anger

By Lois Parker Edstrom

James 1:17-27

What happens when someone gets angry? Yes, they usually get red in the face, they look very unhappy; they talk fast in a loud voice, sometimes shouting. They may even strike out at another person.

Have you ever said, "He or she makes me so angry"? Guess what. No one can make you angry but yourself. You have a choice. You are the only one who has the power to make yourself angry.

But wait a minute. “He or she just did this or that, hit me, called me a bad name, said a hurtful thing; did not want to play with me... I’m angry!”

We’ve all felt angry. It is normal and natural and there are times when we must act on our anger to protect ourselves or another person.

However, what the Bible teaches, and what we must understand, is how to become “slow to anger.” We must learn not to act so fast. Take time to stop and think about what happened to cause this feeling. What really caused you to feel so angry? What do you want to do about it? You have many choices, you know.

Sometimes the best choice is to let go of your anger. When you hold on to anger you give the person who hurt you too much power.

Our Bible verse suggests this: ” let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger” (1:19).

Think about letting go of your anger – take your power back. Decide if you really want to feel angry or if you would rather feel peaceful. Most of the time, when we feel angry, it does not achieve God’s purpose.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible, Copyright 2012, Richard Niell Donovan



Cards can be sent to the following:

Winkler Court

**Attn: Kathy Baumann
3250 Winkler Ave
Fort Myers, Fl. 33913**

**Duane Gardner
50 La Fonda Lane
North Fort Myers, Fl 33903**

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Kate Baumann (Hospice Care); Liz Lloyd;
Pastor Anton after the passing of Barry Pierce;
Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Bill Persons; Tom Johns;
Greg Haston; Ian Laughlin; Duane Gardner (Hospice Care).

Friends & Family:

Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Jim Marc-Aurele (Lou & Carol's son); Darlene Gonzalez (Flo Newbrough's sister); Bob and Darlene Kulesza (Bob is Carol Marc-Aurele's brother); Rhonda and Hunter (friends of Martha Long); Howard Youngquist (brother of Malcolm Youngquist); Norma Stott (friend of Sandy Cole); Tom Jenkins (friend of Flo & Tee Newbrough); Michele Baron (friends of Rod Schaffter and Carol Skaza); Carol Theiss (friend of Jackie Sellers).

***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-Friday 9 AM – 2 PM
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
Director of Sacred Arts – Alena Michel
Lori McMullen, RN-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.*

