



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

MAY 11, 2025



Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter

** 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

You Raise Me Up

By: Brendan Graham

Arr. By: Lorie Line

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: O LORD, You are our Soul Shepherd.

All: We shall not want what we need.

One: You make us to lie down in green pastures;

All: You lead us beside still waters.

One: You restore our souls.

All: You lead us in paths of righteousness.

One: Even though we walk through the darkest valleys,

All: We fear no evil because You are with us.

One: Your rod and staff comfort us.

All: You prepare a table before us.

One: You anoint us with oil, our cup overflows.

All: Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the LORD our whole lives long.

One: Let us worship the Lord, our Soul Shepherd.

~ adapted from a prayer written by Bill & Kristi Gaultiere, inspired by Psalm 23. Posted on **Soul Shepherding**. <http://www.soulshepherding.org/>

Hymn #374

He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought

Verses 1, 3, and 4

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Song of Prayer Response

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

~slightly adapted prayer from: Mac Campbell's Easter Lyrics to Leonard Cohen's anthem "Hallelujah"

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: The Lord is our Soul Shepherd who meets all our needs and makes us smile.

All: The Lord helps us to stop working and to relax.

One: The Lord takes us into quiet places to be still and know that we are loved;

All: The Lord heals and rejuvenates our whole beings with amazing grace from the inside out.

One: The Lord holds our hands at the crossroads and walks with us onto the paths of life.

All: Even though we go through dark and difficult times we don't fear anything bad because the Soul Shepherd is with us.

One: The Lord loves and converses patiently with us to bring out the best in all of our humanity;

All: The Lord prepares a celebration to bless and honor us right in front of our enemies.

One: You Lord anoint us with Your Spirit to minister to others out of the overflow of Your love.

All: We can count on Your generous favor and tender mercy coming to us wherever we go.

One: We will live in the presence of God

All: As the Soul Shepherd's companions and we are beloved in all things and at all times! Amen.

~ adapted from a prayer written by Bill & Kristi Gaultiere, inspired by Psalm 23. Posted on **Soul Shepherding**. <http://www.soulshepherding.org/>

Song of Prayer Response

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

~slightly adapted prayer from: Mac Campbell's Easter Lyrics to Leonard Cohen's anthem "Hallelujah"

Prayer of Celebration and Lament for Mother's Day

One: As a community of faith,

All: We take time to pause and give thanks for the gift of mothers.

One: We celebrate and give thanks, each of us, for our mother's.

All: The woman who carried us in her womb, gave birth to us, brought us into life.

One: We lament, each of us, separation from our mother's at different times, through conflict, distance of place, death.

All: We lament, we seek to forgive and be forgiven.

One: We celebrate and give thanks, each of us, for those who have been as mothers to us; our aunts and pseudo-aunts, big sisters, friends, mentors and teachers.

All: The women who have nurtured, taught, encouraged, shaped us with love.

One: We celebrate and give thanks, together, for the women in our communities. We celebrate the many women who invites us to share the

burdens and the joys of life. For the many strengths of women, their gifts of peace-making, nurture, education, entrepreneurship, healing, wisdom, creativity, endurance, collaboration, physicality – and so much more,

All: For all women we are so grateful.

One: We lament, together, that women are still discounted because they are women, in our culture and in others. That the difference between women and men is seen as threatening, a power struggle, a competition or a hierarchy is not, we know, your dream for us.

All: We lament, we seek to forgive and be forgiven.

One: We celebrate, those of who are mothers and grandmothers, the joy and privilege it is to collaborate with You in the creation of life.

All: We give thanks for children and grandchildren, their uniqueness, the delight we find in watching and helping them grow.

One: We lament, those of who are not mothers and want to be, or who are mothers of children who have died.

All: We lament and we have no words for our grief.

One: We celebrate, we give thanks, for You, our mothering God, whose wings enfold us like those of a mother hen, who gives birth to all that lives, who loves fiercely, protectively, and with great delight.

All: We celebrate what we know of You as like a mother.

One: Again and again, God welcomes us all home, as a mother welcomes her Children; as a shepherd welcomes her sheep.

All: Again and again, God celebrates us all, God's children, and delights in watching and helping us all grow.

One: Come, now all, under the wings of God; come, now all, into the warmth of Love. You are forgiven. You are loved.

All: We are all precious children of our Mothering God. Amen.

~ adapted from a prayer written by Reverend Sarah Agnew. Posted on sarah tells stories. <http://sarahellsstories.blogspot.ca/2015/05/for-mothers-day.html?spref=tw>

Gift of Music

Rachel Cox, Violin

Ladies in Lavender

By: Nigel Hess

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.

Today's Scripture

Psalm 23

A psalm of David.

The LORD is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

² He lets me rest in grassy meadows;

He leads me to restful waters;

³ He keeps me alive.

He guides me in proper paths

for the sake of His good name.

⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no danger because You are with me.

Your rod and Your staff—

they protect me.

⁵ You set a table for me

right in front of my enemies.

You bathe my head in oil;

my cup is so full it spills over!

⁶ Yes, goodness and faithful love

will pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live in the LORD's house as long as I live.

Common English Bible

Response to the Sharing of God's Story

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

Pastoral Words

Hymn of Faith #45

Come Christians, Join to Sing

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

Rachel Cox, Violin

Meditation from Thais

By: J. Massenet

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 on Wednesday at noon

**Faith Development this week.
JOIN US WEDNESDAY @ CHURCH @ 11 AM & 6:30 PM;
AS WELL AS ONLINE THURSDAY 11 AM**

**Tony Campolo wanted so much to be like Jesus! Five
weeks of listening to the witness and testimony of**

**Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo. Anthony Campolo Jr.
(February 25, 1935 – November 19, 2024)
was an American sociologist, Baptist pastor, author,
public speaker, and spiritual advisor to U.S. President
Bill Clinton. Campolo was an influential leader in
the evangelical left. Campolo was a popular commentator
on religious, political and social issues.**

**Week Two Reading:
Matthew 5:1-14
Luke 6:17-31**

**For next week's God's
word: Acts 11:1-18**

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

**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.**

Benediction (responsively)

Go in peace and love and care for another in the name of the Lord;
and may God, the Soul Shepherd, lead you to places of rest and renewal;
may Christ Jesus give you life in abundance; and may the Holy Spirit fill your
hearts with gladness and generosity, both now and forevermore. Amen.

— slightly adapted from a prayer written by Richard Fairchild and posted on his [Kir-Shalom](#) website.

Postlude

Hayden Gallo, Piano

Clocks

By: G. Berryman, & J. Buckland

Arr. By: Lorie Line

Time with our Children

The Lord is My Shepherd

By Lois Parker Edstrom

Psalm 23

Most of us know about shepherds from seeing Christmas pictures and hearing about how shepherds in the fields learned of Jesus' birth. These men, who care for flocks of sheep, still work in many parts of the world. (Show pictures.)

One of the most well-known parts of the Bible is Psalms 23. This is David's song to God. David was a shepherd when he was young and he starts his song by saying, the Lord "is my shepherd..." (23:1).

Let's talk about how a shepherd cares for his sheep. He leads them to a place where they will find grass to eat and clean water to drink.

A shepherd uses a staff to guide the sheep. If one of the sheep gets caught in the brambles or falls into a place where it can't get out, the shepherd uses the curved part of his staff to lift and rescue the sheep.

Sometimes sheep are bothered by flies and other insects that gather around their faces and make them uncomfortable. The shepherd rubs oil over their heads. That causes the insects to go away. Then the sheep feel peaceful so they can lie down and rest.

David compares how a shepherd cares for his sheep to the love that God has for each one of us. Listen to parts of this song that David sings to God and see if you can imagine how much God cares for us and loves us.

"The Lord is my shepherd: I shall lack nothing" (23:1). "He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters" (23:2). The Lord's "rod and... staff, they comfort me" (23:4). The Lord "anoints my head with oil" (23:5).

When we think about how a shepherd cares for his sheep, we may have a better understanding of how much God cares for us. God provides what we need to feel peaceful and loved.

David finishes his song to God by saying, “Surely goodness and loving kindness shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in Yahweh’s (God’s) house forever” (23:6).

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
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Psalm 23 - Bobby McFerrin

The Lord is my Shepard, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk, through a dark & dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said She won't forsake me,
I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,
She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness & kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house,
Forever, forever & ever.

Glory be to our Mother, & Daughter,
And to the Holy of Holies,
As it was in the beginning, is now & ever shall be,
World, without end. Amen.

Arrangement and Words by Bobby McFerrin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9fzWq-d8jU>

Cards can be sent to the following:

General Dozier
Barrington Terrace, of Ft. Myers
9731 Commerce Center Ct., Room #408
Fort Myers, Fl. 33908

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier; Sharlene Dozier;
Barbara Buch; Bill Persons; Ian Laughlin; Jack Walmsley;
Erleene Sanders; Jeannie Gardner after the passing of her husband;
Camryn Harper.

Friends & Family:

Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Michele Baron (friends of Rod Schaffter and Carol Skaza); Jim and Mary Pat Willis (friends of Carol & Ned Downing and Malcolm Youngquist); Linda Pekkarinen (Friend of Tee & Flo Newbrough); Hunter and Family (Friend of Jean Long); Andrew (age 11) Grandson of dear friends of (Tee & Flo Newbrough); Paula Brown (Sister of Roger Yergeau); Fred & Natalie Johnson (friend of Rod Schaffter & Carol Skaza); Bob Mesce (brother of Patti Seebock); Ann Whealton (sister of Wayne Daltry & sister-in-law of Marti Daltry); Wyatt Daltry (son of Wayne & Marti Daltry).

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

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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-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

Distinguished Director of Sacred Arts – Alena Michel

Faith Community Nurse – Lori McMullen

Pianist - Stephen Brittain

*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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