



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

April 28, 2024



Order of Worship

Fifth 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

Danylo Zacharievich, Violin

La Serenata (Angel's Dream)

By: Gaetano Braga

Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: We believe in You, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to Your deeds we testify.

All: You call the worlds into being, create persons in Your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

One: You seek in, holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by Your righteous will, declared through prophets and apostles.

All: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You, have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to Yourself.

One: You bestow upon us Your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

All: In You we believe. In Your presence we gather for worship today.

Hymn of Faith

O Christ, Your Friends Were Gathered

Tune: Aurelia
Words from: Carolyn Gillette

**You met your friends and showed them your
wounded hands and side,
For you were Jesus risen and Jesus crucified.
You showed them God had triumphed and
God had suffered pain.
And in that intersection, you made them whole again.**

**You meet us in the places where all seems doomed or lost-
Where people face oppression, where children pay the cost,
Where poor ones cry in hunger, where illness takes its toll:
You meet us, suffering Savior, and make the wounded whole.**

Passing of the Peace

**May the Peace of Christ be with you!
And, also with you!**

Gift of Music

Debbie Marino, 2nd Soprano

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

By: Charles Wesley
Arr. By: Mark Hayes

*Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,*

*Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.*

*Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, oh, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.*

*Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
Vile and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.*

*Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.*

Prayer of Discipleship (Responsively)

One: Thank You God for calling us into Your church: To accept the cost and joy of discipleship; to be Your servants in the service of others. Remind each of us God that You call us: To proclaim the Gospel to all the world,

and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism, Eat at His Table; And to join Christ in His passion and victory.

All: God, remind us during this time of worship together that You promise to all who trust You: Forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace; courage in the struggle for justice and peace; Your presence in trial and rejoicing; and eternal life in Your realm which has no end.

One: And, so God, as we gather today in worship and as we seek Your presence in the daily minutes of real life: Bless our time together.

All: May we bring honor to Your Kingdom. May we understand where the origin and destination of glory resides. And may Your unexplainable resurrection-al power be with us all. Amen.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Discipleship

~ Prayer slightly adapted from United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology-

http://www.ucc.org/beliefs_statement-of-faith#DOX ~Prayer adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online.

Song of Prayer Response

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

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

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Scripture

Acts 8:26-40
(Pew Bible Pages 1335-1336)

Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch

²⁶ An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, “At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) ²⁷ So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) ²⁸ He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Approach this carriage and stay with it.” ³⁰ Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you really understand what you are reading?” ³¹ The man replied, “Without someone to guide me, how could I?” Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. ³² This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent
so he didn't open his mouth.*

³³ *In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.
Who can tell the story of his descendants
because his life was taken from the earth?*

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, “Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?” ³⁸ He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Lord’s Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip found himself in

Azotus. He traveled through that area, preaching the good news in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

~Common English Bible

Response to the Sharing of God's Story

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

Hymn of Faith

Christ Be with Us

Tune: Hyfrydol

Words by: Carolyn Gillette

**Christ be with us, Christ behind us,
Christ before us – all around!
Christ in busy, noisy cities,
Christ where hardly rings a sound.
Jesus, you're our Lord and Savior;
On your love we can depend.
Help us see your presence clearly
In each stranger and each friend.**

**Christ in lines of people fleeing,
Praying that a war will cease;
Christ in battered women's shelters,
Looking for a place of peace.
Christ with people sick or dying,
Loved ones trying hard to cope
In this world of so much suffering,
Christ, you give your people hope.**

**Christ with children who must struggle,
Working hard for daily food;
Christ in classrooms, learning, growing,
Asking questions, seeking good;
Christ in diners, waiting tables;
Christ in homes where children play
In this world of people working,
Christ, you work through us today.**

**Christ with all who keep on struggling,
Helping others to be free;
Christ with churches working, searching
For a greater unity;
Christ, in bread and wine, be with us,
Giving strength for each new day
In this world of daily crosses,
Be our joyful, living Way.**

Pastoral Words

Song of Prayer Response

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

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

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

Debbie Marino, 2nd Soprano

Loving Shepherd

By: J. S. Bach

**** 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

**JOIN US WEDNESDAY @ CHURCH @ 11 AM & 6:30 PM;
AS WELL AS ONLINE THURSDAY @ 11 AM**

Short Stories by Jesus — Explore a fresh and timely interpretation of Jesus' most popular parables. In Short Stories by Jesus, author Amy-Jill Levine takes you back in time and explains how original audiences understood Jesus' parables. You'll learn how new interpretations of the parables continue to challenge and provoke contemporary readers.

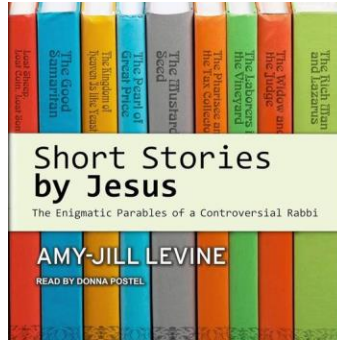
Session 1: Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son

Session 2: The Good Samaritan

Session 3: The Pearl of Great Price & The Widow and the Judge

Session 4: The Mustard Seed

Session 5: The Laborers in the Vineyard



Reading for Wednesday

Luke chapter 15

Today's flowers are gifted to the church by Pat Jessie in celebration of all the helping hands who made our church's Easter season beautiful and meaningful by decorating with palms for Palm Sunday, flowers on Easter and providing a delicious Easter feast! We would like to thank them for this beautiful gift.

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.

If you haven't returned your Volunteer Survey, Please pick one up in the basket in the Fellowship Hall and return it filled out.

We have a coupon for 4 people to go see the Araba Shrine Circus at Lee Civic Center on May 24, 2024, at the following times: 11:00AM, 3:00PM, and 7:00 PM

Danilo Zacharievich is a talented 7th grade student at Sanibel School. He was born in Kiev, Ukraine. Danilo spends much of his time keeping up with his studies and enjoys playing violin. He was a member of the Gulf Coast Sinfonietta, Gulf Coast Youth Orchestra, Naples Sinfonietta and currently the Naples Youth Orchestra. Danilo earned top award at a local music competition. Outside of school, he likes playing hockey and tumbling. Danilo is very thrilled and humbled about the opportunities he has been given this year including playing at TAECC.

**For next week's God's
word:
Friends Together
John 15:9-17**

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

Danylo Zacharievich, Violin

Allegro

By: G. H. Fiocco

Time with our Children

Choosing a Guide

By Lois Parker Edstrom

Acts 8:26-40

Sometimes we need a guide, someone to help us understand something or help us find our way.

When people climb tall mountains they go with a guide – a person who knows a lot about the mountain, is able to help them prepare for the journey and show them which route to take.

Guides, called sherpas, go with people who want to climb the Himalayan Mountains, some of the highest mountains in the world. Sherpas are very strong and are able to climb at high altitudes. They are famous for having great knowledge about mountain climbing.

A story in the Bible tells us about a man who needed a different kind of guide. He was reading what the prophet Isaiah had written about Jesus and he didn't understand what it meant.

Philip, one of Jesus' disciples came along and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The man said, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me (guides me)?"

Then Philip began to speak, and he told the man the good news about Jesus.

With Philip's help the man understood the message of God's love, asked to be baptized, and "he went on his way rejoicing".

We all have many choices to make each day. Some choices are difficult. Sometimes we don't have enough information to make good choices.

What we can learn from this lesson is that we need good guides. We can look to smart people we trust to help us make good choices. Those people could be your parents, grandparents, teachers, friends, or a pastor.

Above all we need to understand and remember the message of God's love. It will help us find our way and it is a good route to follow.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
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YOUTH IN MUSIC



*A special concert produced by.
arranged by and conducted by students*

**Thursday, May 9
6pm**



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church
1619 Llewellyn Dr.
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Free Admission

Additional parking on Llewellyn

Goodwill offering at the door

Vocal Arts Foundation annual awards
and recognitions immediately following

FMHSMusic.com



PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Kate Baumann; Roy Shipley; Liz Lloyd;
Barry Pierce; Dan Van Riper; Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch;
Joe Helling; Greg Haston; Ian Laughlin; Pat Jessie;
Nancy Bergman and family after the passing of John; Duane Gardner.

Friends & Family:

Pat Tangusso (Friend of the Church and Quilter);
Prayers for the family (Sister-in-law of Tom Johns & Joseph Helling); Betty
Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); 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); Shannon Randall
(daughter of co-worker of Pastor Anton); 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); Clay (homeless
gentleman); Elvis, Pamela, Franciso & other son (homeless family); Roy
Waldhauer (friend of Sandy Cole); Stephen (homeless gentleman); Lori and
Pops (homeless couple); Mitch (homeless gentleman);
Carl Richard Gilmore (friend of Sandy Cole); Matt, Bradley, Gregory, and Scott
(homeless men); Norma Stott ((friend of Sandy Cole).

***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
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.

