



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*FEBRUARY 8, 2026*



## Order of Worship

### *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

\*\* 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

##### **A Comme Amour**

By Paul de Senneville

#### Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Love is... hugs  
Love is... a pick me up  
Love is... when two become one  
Love is... friendship  
Love is... sharing the last piece of pizza

**All: Love is... hard to explain**

**Love is... unbelievable**  
**Love is... unpredictable**

One: Love is... giving away your last soft peppermint  
Love is... endless  
Love is... protection  
Love is... a rollercoaster

**All: Love is... a smile**

**Love is... a heartbeat**  
**Love is... patient**  
**Love is... kind**

## **Love is... a never-ending story**

One: Love is... eternal  
Love is... a circle of friends  
Love is... a circle of eternity  
Love is... a circle called God

**All: According to the Beatles all the world needs is Love ... all you and I need is Love; so, may we find Love today. Amen.**

~ written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on **Listening to the Stones**. <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/> Used by permission.

## **Hymn of Faith #276**

## **The Love of God**

### **Passing of the Peace**

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

## **Gift of Music**

**Katy Sumrow, Alto**

### **Love Never Fails**

By J. S. Bach  
Arr. by Amy Sky and Mark Jordan, text: Corinthians 13

## **Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)**

One: Lord,  
Because Love is patient...  
Help us to be slow to judge, but quick to listen,  
hesitant to criticize, but eager to encourage,

**All: Remembering Your endless patience with me.**

One: Because Love is kind...  
Help our words to be gentle and our actions to be thoughtful.  
Remind us to smile and to say "Please" and "Thank You"

**All: Because those little things still mean so much.**

One: Because Love does not envy or boast, and it is not proud...  
Help us have hearts that are humble and sees the good in others.

May we celebrate and appreciate all that we have and all that we are,

**All: As well as doing the same for those around me.**

One: Because Love is not rude or self-seeking...

Help us to speak words that are easy on the ear and on the heart.

When we are tempted to get wrapped up in our own little worlds,

**All: Remind us there's a great big world out there full of needs and hurts.**

One: Because Love is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs...

Help us to forgive others as You have forgiven us.

When we want to hold onto a grudge,

gently help us release it

**All: So, we can reach out with hands of Love instead.**

One: Because Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth...

Help us stand up for what is right and good.

May we defend the defenseless and help the helpless.

**All: Show us how we can make a difference.**

One: Because Love always protects and always trusts...

Help us to be a refuge for those around us.

When the world outside is harsh and cold,

**All: May our hearts be a place of acceptance and warmth.**

One: Finally, because Love always perseveres...

Help our hearts continually beat with Love for You and for others.

**All: Thank You for showing us what the word Love really means. Amen.**

~ slightly adapted from a prayer written by Holley Gerth, and posted on Taking it one step at a time. <http://onestep87.blogspot.ca/>

## **Prayers of the People / Concerns of 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.**

## **Prayer of Response**

### **Spirit of the Living God**

Words/Music by: Daniel Iverson

**Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.**

## **Today's First Scripture**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

### **Salt and light**

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It’s good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people’s feet. <sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

~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 Praise #272

**O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus**  
Katy Sumrow, Alto – 1<sup>st</sup> Versus  
Congregation Versus 2 & 3

## 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

**Katy Sumrow, Alto**

### **How I love Your Word**

By Mark Hayes, words from Psalm 119

## \*\*Doxology

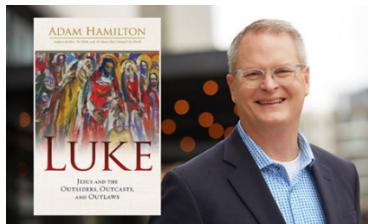
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## Life of Our Church

Quilting on Wednesday at 12:00 pm.

### **Faith Development**

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



## **Luke — Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws written by Adam Hamilton.**

**From Birth to Resurrection in the Gospel of Luke Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it. In Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.**

### **Session Six Reading: Luke 23**

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

**Edison Church Luncheon for 8 will meet on February 15th at Pinchers Restaurant, on the first floor near the elevators right after church service. If you have any questions, please see Jack Walmsley or call him at 720-292-7043.**

**Wednesday - February 18, 2025  
Women's Fellowship – “Winter Auction”  
at the church. This is to help support the  
Children’s Ministry. Accepting donations.**

**Bring your own lunch at noon and Auction will start right after lunch around 1:00pm.**

**The new quilt displayed in the Fellowship Hall is by Carol Krohse and it won first place in the local quilt guild show. Please take a moment to thank Carol.**

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

**Looking for Volunteers for Greeters and for Ushers. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board if interested.**

**INASMUCH DAY – March 7, 2026, - 4 more Saturdays.  
JOIN US! SUPPORT US! DONATE!**

**Activity 1-3 Prior to Event, 4-9 Day of Event**

**Donation Opportunities - more details will be forthcoming**

- New children's clothing, diapers & pull-ups
- Adult socks & underwear
- Quarters for laundromat (in Fellowship Hall)
- Home repair & landscape supplies

- Toiletries
- Backpacks & duffel bags
- Flannel fabric
- Greeting card materials, Crayons, stickers

**For next week's God's word:  
Mardi Gras Sunday  
Matthew 17:1-9**

## **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, 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**

### **The Gift of Love**

By Hal Hopson  
Arr. by John Carter

## **Time With Our Children**

### **Shake That Salt!**

### **Matthew 5:13-16**

By Dr. Carol J Miller

Salt! Now that's a weird thing to call anybody! Jesus called us salt. He said his disciples were salt for the whole world. Let's think about salt. What do people use salt for? For flavor, yes. Especially on popcorn.

Any other uses? I'll give you two more. They were used in Jesus' day. First, salt could be used as money, right—money! Good clean salt was hard to find. You couldn't just go to a supermarket and buy a box of salt. Today, salt doesn't cost much money—but in Jesus' day good clean salt was so precious that people sometimes used it as money.

Second, salt preserves foods. That means that if you prepare certain foods with a lot of salt on the outside, it will last a long time, without any refrigerator. Just so you know, the people of Jesus' time did NOT have refrigerators, or anything like them. So, it was important to have salt—it was the only way to make meat, and some other foods last a long time.

So now we know that salt was used for flavor, for money and for keeping things. What does that have to do with us—Jesus' modern disciples. Well, we do add flavor to the world. We celebrate God, we help people who are hurt or sad and we make them feel better. We don't walk around feeling bad about ourselves. We know that God loves us because God is good—that's tasty! Christians do a lot of helping and a lot of celebrating; that adds flavor to life.

What about money? How are Jesus' disciples like money? We collect money—there will be some in our offering plates soon. What do we use money for—a lot of it goes to pay for all the people and things a church needs, but where does the rest of it go? (Food, pantries, hospitals, kits for emergencies, whatever our church is involved in). So we are like money; in fact, we collect it and use it to help people.

The last one is tricky. How do people who follow Jesus preserve something? Well, the most important thing the Church has is the Good News about God's love for us. How do we keep the world from forgetting the Good News? (Remind them that pastors preach the Good News and teach the Good News—so does Sunday school). So, we make sure Jesus' Good News is not forgotten. We use money to live the Good News; and we make the world a more interesting and a tasty place. Salty Christians.

Where is salt kept? Right; in a shaker. So now all of you stand up and show us for 5 seconds how you would look as salt getting shaken out of the shaker.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible, Copyright 2013, [Richard Niell Donovan](#)

## Two free concerts



<https://www.christrapper.com> Campfire Symphony <https://youtu.be/UFSpXYATBgU?si=qwEIVMRk1rT7JbRI>

We are blessed with this wonderful opportunity for a night of music and conversation with recording artist, Chris Trapper. Friday night, February 13th, Chris will perform for an hour or more on our church campus and the event is free for our church family.

Take a moment to visit Chris's website or listen to the YouTube clip to hear a sampling of his music.

Looking for a family friendly event, join us @ Edison or you might be interested in the Battle of the Sopranos at Peace Lutheran, details below.





## Interfaith Event

**Thursday, March 5**

**6:30-8:00pm**

*followed by dessert & fellowship*

**Edison Congregational Church**

1619 Llewellyn Dr. Fort Myers, 33901

Join our interfaith community for a communal reading of Emma Lazarus's poem The New Colossus on the Statue of Liberty. We'll reflect on our shared humanity and America as the land of freedom and opportunity.

**Sponsored by: Cypress Lake United Methodist Church, Edison Congregational Church, Iona-Hope Episcopal Church, Temple Beth El & Temple Judea**

Part of Faith 250- a national interfaith project to come together in fellowship, meaningful conversation, and local rituals that celebrate our shared civic story.

# ***The New Colossus***

By: Emma Lazarus  
1849 – 1887

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she  
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”*

This poem is in the public domain.

**February 18<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday (6:30 PM)**

**\*Drive through Ashes available from Pastor Anton and Pastor Jim from 11:00 AM – 12:00 noon or join us for our worship service at 6:30 PM**

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> – First Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> – Second Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 8<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fifth Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday (10:00 AM)**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maundy Thursday (6:30 PM)**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday (6:30 PM)**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter (10:00 AM)**

**Cards can be sent to the following:**

**General Dozier**  
**Barrington Terrace, of Ft. Myers**  
**9731 Commerce Center Ct., Room #326**  
**Fort Myers, FL 33908**

**Ms. Martha Jean Long**  
**7133 Almendro Terr #2**  
**Fort Myers, FL 33907**

**Mr. Bill Person**  
**Calusa Harbour Assisted Living**  
**2525 First St, Room 233**  
**Fort Myers, FL 33901**

## **PRAYER LIST**

### **Our Church Members:**

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier;  
Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Bill Persons;  
Sharon Nelson; Martha Jean Long.  
Charly Gwiz (passing of her father Charles);  
Tom Smoot and family (the passing of his uncle Ben).

### **Friends & Family:**

Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Michele Baron (friends of Rod Schaffter and Carol Skaza); Fred & Natalie Johnson (friend of Rod Schaffter & Carol Skaza); Bob Mesce (brother of Patti Seebock); Tom Simpson (brother of Kathy Bolen); Dwight Brzinski (friend of Pat Jessie); Christopher Smith and Darwin Solorzono – missing at sea (friends of Mark Rosandich).

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**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:      | <a href="http://www.edisonchurch.com">www.edisonchurch.com</a>                |
| Facebook:     | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/EdisonChurch">Facebook.com/EdisonChurch</a> |
| Email Pastor: | <a href="mailto:Pastorjim@taecc.com">Pastorjim@taecc.com</a>                  |
| Email Office: | <a href="mailto:Admin@taecc.com">Admin@taecc.com</a>                          |
| Office Phone: | 239-334-4978  |
| Office Hours: | Monday-Thursday 9 AM – 12PM   |
| Mailing:      | 1619 Llewellyn Dr., Ft. Myers<br>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.*

