



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*SEPTEMBER 7, 2025*



# **Order of Worship**

## ***Thirteenth 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**

**Flora Barnett, Piano**

#### **Sea Voyage**

By: Mary Leaf

#### **\*Call to Worship (responsively)**

One: Quiet your mind, still your restlessness. Come before God.

**All: Like a bird that lights on a branch, we come to the pause of God.**

One: Warm your heart, stir up your spirit. Come before God.

**All: Like flame dancing on a candle's wick, we come to the dance of God.**

One: Open your hands, meet the eyes of your neighbors. Come before God.

**All: Like palm trees blowing in tropical winds, swaying in the breeze and offering shade from the sun, we all bask in the presence of God. Amen.**

~Adapted from a prayer found @ <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2014/11/17/3590/>

#### **\*Hymn #**

#### **Morning Has Broken**

Tune: Buessan

**Morning has broken like the first morning;  
black bird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!**

**Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sun-lit from heaven,  
like the first dew fall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where His feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

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

**Gift of Music**

**Rachel Cox, Violin**

**The Lord' Prayer**

By: Albert H. Malotte

**Prayer for Grandparents Around the World (responsively)**

One: Look with love on grandparents the world over.

**All: Protect them!**

One: They are a source of enrichment for families and for all of society.

**All: Support them!**

One: As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families' strong pillars of Gospel faith, guardian of noble domestic ideals.

**All: May they become more faithful living treasuries of sound religious traditions.**

One: Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual

experience.

**All: Help families and society to value their presence and roles of grandparents.**

One: May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love.

**All: Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed in all the years of life which You give them.**

One: Keep them constantly in Your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by our prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in Your heavenly homeland.

**All: Where You God await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end. Amen.**

- Author Unknown, slightly adapted from a prayer found @ <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/prayers-for-grandparents>

## **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**

**Jesus, You Once Blessed the Children**

Tune: Nettleton

By: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**Jesus, You once blessed the children who were often pushed aside.**

**"God has given them the kingdom,"**

**You pro-claimed, arms open wide.**

**You call people to protect them and to**

**make sure they're all right.  
May we bless the world of children  
who are precious in Your sight.**

## **Today's Scripture**

**Psalm 145:1-5**

### **Praise. Of David.**

I will lift You up high, my God, the true king.

I will bless Your name forever and always.

<sup>2</sup> I will bless You every day.

I will praise Your name forever and always.

<sup>3</sup> The Lord is great and so worthy of praise!

God's greatness can't be grasped.

<sup>4</sup> One generation will praise Your works to the next one,  
proclaiming Your mighty acts.

<sup>5</sup> They will talk all about the glorious splendor of Your majesty;  
I will contemplate Your wondrous works.

~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**

**Stephen Brittain and Anton Pierce**

## **Hymn of Praise #386**

**Be Thou My Vision**

Verses 1,2, & 4

## **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 the clear plates is Gluten Free bread.

**Communion**

**Rachel Cox, Violin**

**Andante from Piano Concerto #21**

By: W. A. Mozart

Arr. by: Latham

**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**

**Fantasy Overture from Romeo and Juliet**

By: P. I. Tchaikovsky

**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 the Church**

**Quilting on Wednesday at noon**

**Faith Development**

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

**Falling in Love with the Bible All Over Again**

**Making The Bible Accessible for All**

**September 10 & 11** - Overview of the Bible and Overview of the Old Testament. Read your favorite Old Testament passage or story and share if you like.

**September 17 & 18** - Overview of Genesis, The Beginnings Identify which character in Genesis you most identify with and share if you like.

**September 24 & 25** - Overview of the New Testament and Overview of The Gospels and Letters of Paul. Read your favorite New Testament passage or story and share it if you like.

## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT			
GENESIS	JOB	HABAKKUK	COLOSSIANS
EXODUS	PSALMS	ZEPHANIAH	1 THESSALONIANS
LEVITICUS	PROVERBS	HAGGAI	2 THESSALONIANS
NUMBERS	ECCLESIASTES	ZECHARIAH	1 TIMOTHY
DEUTERONOMY	SONG OF SOLOMON	MALACHI	2 TIMOTHY
JOSHUA	ISAIAH	NEW TESTAMENT	TITUS
JUDGES	JEREMIAH	MATTHEW	PHILEMON
RUTH	LAMENTATIONS	MARK	HEBREWS
1 SAMUEL	EZEKIEL	LUKE	JAMES
2 SAMUEL	DANIEL	JOHN	1 PETER
1 KINGS	HOSEA	ACTS	2 PETER
2 KINGS	JOEL	ROMANS	1 JOHN
1 CHRONICLES	AMOS	1 CORINTHIANS	2 JOHN
2 CHRONICLES	OBADIAH	2 CORINTHIANS	3 JOHN
EZRA	JONAH	GALATIANS	JUDE
NEHEMIAH	MICAH	EPHESIANS	REVELATION
ESTHER	NAHUM	PHILIPPIANS	
LAW • HISTORY • POETRY & WISDOM • MAJOR PROPHETS			
MINOR PROPHETS • GOSPELS • HISTORY • LETTERS OF PAUL			
GENERAL LETTERS • PROPHECY			

Today's flowers are gifted to the church by  
Tom and Jan Sherman in memory on Tom's  
mother, Ione Sherman's birthday. Tom's parents were  
Members of our church for over 20 years.  
We would like to thank them for this beautiful gift.

For next week's God's  
word:  
Luke 15:1-10

**We will be welcoming new members on  
Sunday, September 28th. If anyone would like to become  
a member of the church, please see or call Pastor Jim.**

**Saturday, October 25, 2025  
Craft Show 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Here at the Church.**

**Call for Vendors - \$20.00 for a Table maximum 2 tables.  
See bulletin board or someone from the  
Women's Fellowship Group for more information and  
Reservation Forms.**

**Looking for bakers for our upcoming Craft Show on Oct. 25! We  
are in need of cookies, cakes, brownies, and breads. NO  
chocolate icing because of the heat! Most items will be  
repackaged in clear clamshell containers to sell. We could also  
use homemade jams/jellies/sauces too. Items should be brought  
to the church after 12 on Friday, Oct. 24 or by 9 on Saturday, Oct.  
25. Thanks, and happy baking!**

**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)**



**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**

### **Dialogue**

By: Gilbert M. Martin

## **Time with our Children**

To effectively talk about grandparents with children, maintain open communication, share stories and memories to keep their presence alive, and provide age-appropriate information when dealing with challenges like aging, illness, or death. Reassure them of continued love and support, validate their feelings, and use technology or visits to foster a strong connection across distances.

## **For Living Grandparents**

- **Foster Connection:** Encourage regular communication and visits, using video calls or photos to bridge geographical gaps and build relationships.
- **Explain Differences:** Acknowledge that grandparents may have different perspectives or approaches to parenting; explain that it's often because they haven't seen the child in a while or grew up in a different time.
- **Be a Mediator:** If there are clashes over rules or discipline, calmly speak with the grandparents first, then, provide the child with a clear, supportive explanation about the family's approach.

## **When Grandparents are Aging or Ill**

- **Provide Basic, Honest Information:** Explain in simple terms what is happening, focusing on what's being done to help.
- **Address Changes:** Inform children how aging or illness might affect a grandparent's appearance, energy levels, and interactions, while assuring them that the love remains.
- **Allow Questions and Feelings:** Let children ask questions at their own pace and create a safe space for them to express any confusion or fear.
- **Be Prepared for Varied Reactions:** Some children may seem unaffected, while others may be upset or have many questions; validate all their feelings.

## For Grandparents Who Have Passed On

- **Share Their Story:** Tell your children about the grandparents' life, your memories, and what they meant to you.
- **Create Rituals and Traditions:** Celebrate their favorite holidays, eat their favorite foods, or visit special places to keep their memory alive in a positive way.
- **Incorporate Memories Naturally:** Weave stories about them into your daily life or during family gatherings to help them feel present.
- **Allow for Expression:** Let children have a special item, like a photo, that belonged to their grandparent and set aside time for them to talk about their feelings.

## General Tips

- **Be Calm and Reassuring:** Your emotional state influences your child's; a calm demeanor can prevent confusion and fear.
- **Follow Their Lead:** Let the child's questions and responses guide the conversation.
- **Use Technology:** If grandparents live far away, utilize video calls to help children feel connected.
- **Be Honest About What You Don't Know:** It's acceptable to say "I don't know" when asked a question you can't answer.




## Job 32:7

**“I thought age should speak, and increased years should teach wisdom”**



### September is Healthy Aging Month

#### How to celebrate Healthy Aging Month:

- **Stay physically active:** Engage in activities like walking, yoga or other exercises to maintain a healthy body.
- **Eat nutritiously:** Incorporate a diet rich in fruits and vegetables to support overall health. 
- **Prioritize sleep:** Ensure you get adequate sleep for your body and mind.
- **Be social:** Maintain a strong network of friends and family to enrich your life and stay connected.
- **Keep your mind active:** Read, do puzzles, or learn a new skill to stay mentally engaged. 
- **Be proactive about health:** Schedule regular medical checkups and tests to prevent diseases and catch issues early.
- **Stay hydrated:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day. 
- **Cultivate a positive outlook:** Maintain a positive attitude as you age.

#### Septembers Upcoming events:

**Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, and Sept 28<sup>th</sup> – Craft and learn days at Cathy’s Place.** Kids will be making crafts to take home and to sell at the Craft show on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**September 7<sup>th</sup> – Blood Pressure Clinic**



**October 12<sup>th</sup>** will begin Children’s Faith Formation Fun days that will be held every other week at Cathy’s Place from 10:00 – 11:00 AM. This program provides a structured environment for learning about faith, connecting with others, and growing in

moral and ethical understanding. It includes Bible study, workshops, crafts, games and more.

Don't forget your Hurricane Prep-list. Prepare early, prepare now.

Lori McMullen



# Grandparents Day 2025

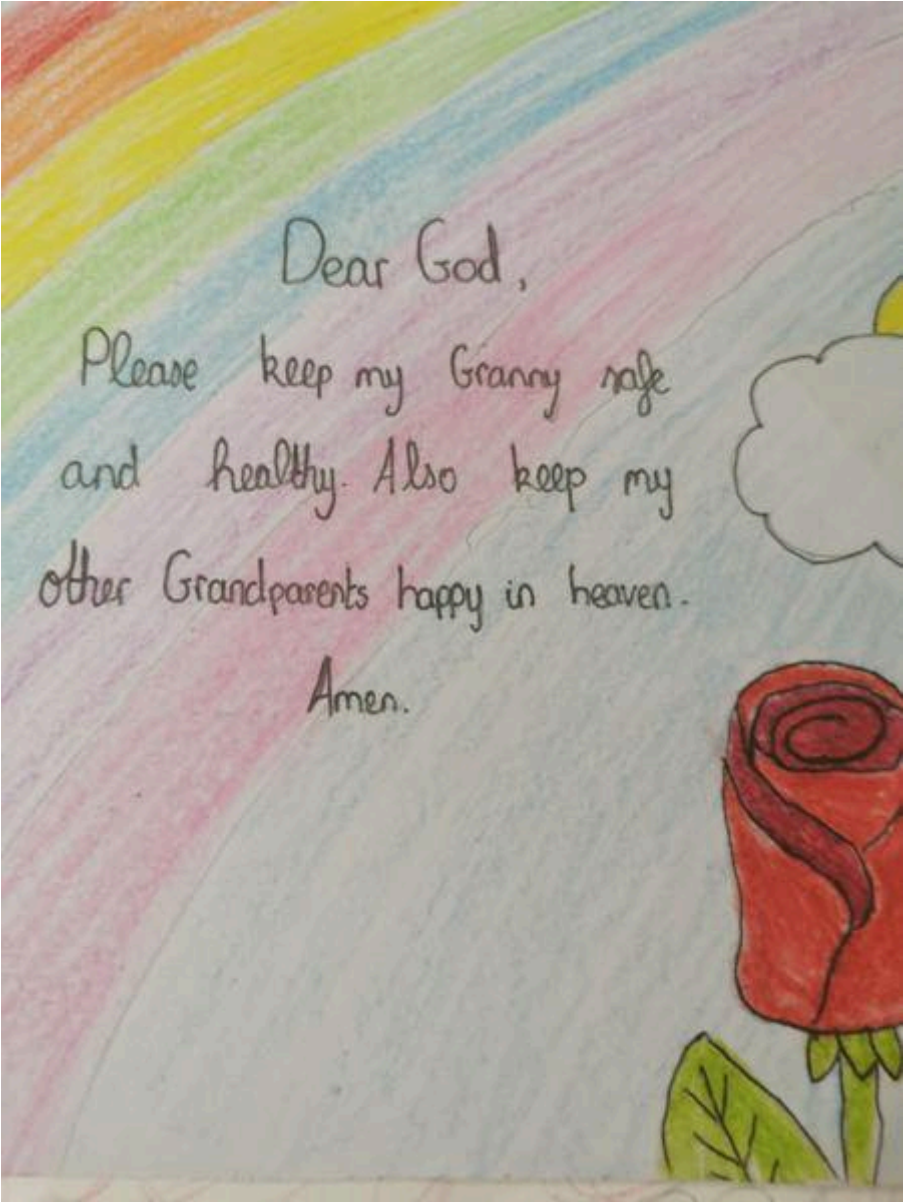
Sunday, September 7

# Grandma Prayer

*May you be showerd with joy, love,  
and peace as you celebrate  
life with your children  
and grandchildren.*

*May you know how much  
you are loved and how  
much you impact others.*

*May you take a moment  
each day to step back and  
inhale the  
miracle of your life.*



Dear God,  
Please keep my Granny safe  
and healthy. Also keep my  
other Grandparents happy in heaven.

Amen.

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

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

**Bill Persons**  
**736 Knotty Pine Circle**  
**North Fort Myers, FL 33917**

## **PRAYER LIST**

### **Our Church Members:**

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier;  
Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Bill Persons.

### **Friends & Family:**

Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Michele Baron (friends of Rod Schaffter and Carol Skaza); Paula Brown (Sister of Roger Yergeau); Fred & Natalie Johnson (friend of Rod Schaffter & Carol Skaza); Bob Mesce (brother of Patti Seebock).

***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-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*

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