



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

MAY 25, 2025



Order of Worship

Sixth 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

Castle On A Cloud

By: Claude- Michel Schonberg

Arr. By: Lorie Line

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: With open hands, with open doors,

All: The church is ready:

One: Ready to welcome us, to gather us in,

All: To lift our spirits and lighten our grief,

One: To double our joy and deepen our awe.

All: With open hands, with open arms, we are home! Amen.

~Adapted from Homiletics Online

Hymn # 451

Lead On, O King Eternal

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: We believe in an Easter God, who transforms darkness into light, hatred into tolerance and despair into hope. We believe God is always working for good, changing every Good Friday nightmare into an Easter dream of new possibility.

All: This we believe because we are Easter people.

One: We believe in the risen Christ, who befriends us on our roads of doubt and worry; who touches us through song and silence, word and gesture; who calls us by name to enter the dance of life. We believe in the Spirit, the hidden presence behind every resurrection, who beckons us to leave tomblake safety and trust the gracious invitation to live joyfully.

All: This we believe because we are Easter people.

One: We believe the Spirit is always renewing the church and making us a people who practice kindness, encourage beauty and work for justice and freedom. We believe we are an Easter people, a sign that with God all things are possible.

All: This we believe because we are Easter people. Amen.

~Adapted from Homiletics Online

Song of Prayer Response

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

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

Prayers 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.

Gift of Music

Debbie Marino, Soprano

The Impossible Dream

By: Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion

Arr. By: Mark Hayes

Today's Scripture

Acts 16:9-15

⁹ A vision of a man from Macedonia came to Paul during the night. He stood urging Paul, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" ¹⁰ Immediately after he saw the vision, we prepared to leave for the province of Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

Lydia's conversion

¹¹ We sailed from Troas straight for Samothrace and came to Neapolis the following day. ¹² From there we went to Philippi, a city of Macedonia's first district and a Roman colony. We stayed in that city several days. ¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the riverbank, where we thought there might be a place for prayer. We sat down and began to talk with the women who had gathered. ¹⁴ One of those women was Lydia, a Gentile God-worshipper from the city of Thyatira, a dealer in purple cloth. As she listened, the Lord enabled her to embrace Paul's message. ¹⁵ Once she and her household were baptized, she urged, "Now that you have decided that I am a believer in the Lord, come and stay in my house." And she persuaded 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!

Pastoral Words

Hymn of Praise #337

God of Grace and God of Glory
Verses 1, 2, and 4

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, Soprano

Blessings

By: Laura Story

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
has been canceled
until further notice.**

Today's flowers are gifted to the church by
Rick Hawk. We would like to
thank him for this beautiful gift.

This Sunday, May 25th

Lori McMullen will be offering Blood Pressure checks.
Blood Pressure Screening is an important part of health
maintenance. All are encouraged to do this.

This Sunday, May 25th , right after the
service, we will be celebrating May's
birthdays. Please join us to celebrate:

Jean Long
Kathy Bolen
David Angert

Joseph Hilling
Lori Main
Pam Noland
Gail Courtwright

Jim O'Brien
Jim Paxton
Steve Anderson

**For next week's God's
word:
John 17:20-26**

Road Closure
Llewelyn Drive will be closed
from May 26th - June 16th

**The eastbound/northbound - off of McGregor Blvd should turn
right on Linhart Avenue, take a left on Cortez Boulevard, and
then a left on Llewellyn Dr.**

The westbound/southbound - off of McGregor Blvd should take a left at Virginia Avenue, a right on Euclid Avenue/Marilyn Road, and on to Llewellyn Dr.

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.

The office will be closed on Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day

Benediction (responsively)

One: May the Love of God
be the ocean that you sail on
And the grace of God
bring you calm in stormy days.
May the Word of God
guide you to your destination
And the breath of God
speed you safely on your way. Amen.

All: Amen.

~Slightly adapted from a prayer written by John Birch, [Godspace](#)

Postlude

Tuba Tune in D Major ,op.15

By: C.S.Lang

Time with our Children

Listen for the Call

Acts 16:9-15

By Lois Parker Edstrom

There are many animals, insects, and even fish that hear some sort of call telling them it is time to move to another place. We don't know exactly how this happens.

Perhaps you have seen wild geese fly overhead in that beautiful V-shaped wedge. The poet, Rachel Field, in her poem "Wild Geese" says, "Something told the wild geese / It was time to go..." (Read the entire poem if it is appropriate to your situation.)

The same thing is true for whales. Something tells them it is time to move to another location. On the island where I live, we see grey whales swim by our shores in the spring. They are on their way north after spending the winter in the waters near Mexico.

Salmon that swim in our big oceans also get some sort of signal that tells them it is time to return to the rivers and streams where they began as tiny fish. We don't know exactly how this happens.

You could say that we get calls too. Have you ever had the feeling that you need to check in with someone to see how they are doing? Or perhaps you have felt the need to do something special to make someone feel loved. I believe this is God's Spirit calling us to move – to do something for others.

The Bible tells us that the disciple, Paul had this experience. Paul's call from God came in a dream. "A vision appeared to Paul in the night. There was a man of Macedonia standing, begging him, and saying, 'Come over into Macedonia and help us'" (16:9).

Paul was called to go to Macedonia to tell the people about God's love. No one had done that before. While Paul was there, he came upon a group of women, and he sat down and spoke with them. One of the women, Lydia, was especially eager to learn. She accepted what Paul told her about God's love and her entire household was baptized.

This story teaches us that we too can listen for God's Spirit to call us to service – to do something for others. Your call may not come in a dream as Paul's did, but

you may have a “knowing within you” that you are being called to do something special. Listen for your call.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
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Memorial Day Prayer


Creator God, it is in a spirit of love and community that we pause on this Memorial Day to remember the lives lost and the lives forever changed. In doing so, may we also remember your great love for us. May we remember that there is no greater demonstration of love than choosing to lay down one's life for another. May our somber celebrations this day honor those who made that choice and the many more willing to do so if called upon. May we remember that even in the darkest days of war, terror, or sorrow, you promise to sustain us, to give us strength, and to provide us with a deep and abiding peace.

In safeguarding the legacy of those who paid the ultimate price, may we become ever more vigilant in our love for others, our nation, and the cause of freedom, justice, and peace throughout the world. Amen.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



*-UCC Chaplain Ted Randall,
U.S. Army Chaplain at Arlington National Cemetery.*



"When a wise old
man wants to
learn something,
he always goes
to a wise old
woman."

- JOSEPH CAMPBELL

"The Male and Female Journey"
LO828 Audio Discussion (March, 1987)

www.jcf.org/subscribe

EXPERIENCE *the*
POWER
of **MYTH**
at the movies

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; 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); 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).

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

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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