



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

April 21, 2024



Order of Worship

** 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

Hayden Gallo, Piano
Alena Michel, Organ

Theme from Symphony #40

By: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart ,

Canon in D

By: Johann Pachelbel ,

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Calm is Your gift to us, O God.

All: You lead us on the right path.

One: In the valley of the shadow,

All: You take our hand.

One: As we sit at table,

All: You join us and secure us.

One: You are eternally good for us.

All: and eternally present with us.

Hymn #373

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

(verses 1,3, and 4)

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Notturmo op. 54 #4

By: Edvard Grieg

Prayer of Discipleship

One: When we feel useless and despairing,

All: You lead us from the dark valley, O God, and You give us our confidence back.

One: When we have no wish to join in, but try to go it alone,

All: You lead us back to community, O God, and You show us the joy and the satisfaction of working with others.

One: When we refuse to meet a challenge or to get involved in a just cause,

All: You lead us from the place of denial, O God, and You give us the courage to stand with the oppressed.

One: When we neglect our life of faith and cannot find time for worship, prayer, or Your Word;

All: You lead us back into faithfulness, O God, and You enable us to see our priorities as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Time of reflection...

Words of Grace

One: God will not leave you without power or control; God will lead you into the way of new life.

All: We take courage from the promises and actions of God as we have read about them, believe them, and experience them.

One: God will grant you a fresh start; pardon and peace are yours!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

John 10:11-18

I am the good shepherd

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That's because he isn't the shepherd; the sheep aren't really his. So, the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ He's only a hired hand and the sheep don't matter to him. ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that don't belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd. ¹⁷ "This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I

can take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again. I received this commandment from my Father.”

Psalms 23

A Psalm of David.

23 The LORD is my shepherd. I lack nothing. ²He lets me rest in grassy meadows; He leads me to restful waters; ³He keeps me alive. He guides me in proper paths for the sake of His good name. ⁴Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because You are with me. Your rod and Your staff—they protect me. ⁵You 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! ⁶Yes, 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!

Hymn #370

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
(verses 1, 2, and 6)

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

Layla Morell, Piano

Allegro in f minor
By: Carl Philipp Emanuel 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

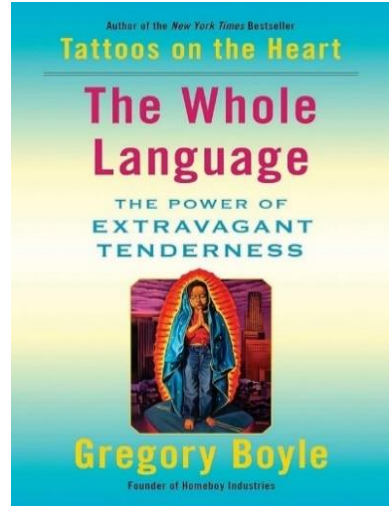
**JOIN US WEDNESDAY @ CHURCH @ 11 AM & 6:30 PM;
AS WELL AS ONLINE THURSDAY @ 11 AM**

**Meeting a modern-day saint, Father Greg Boyle.
Father Boyle is a Jesuit priest who works with
gang members in Los Angeles. This is a great
“good news” narrative to share in the shadows
of Easter.**

For this beautiful story
that is just waiting to be
heard.

Reading for Wednesday

Luke 10:25-37
Amos 5:21-24
Micah 6:8



Today's flowers are gifted to the church by
Cheryl Ellis. We would like to thank her
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.

For next week's God's word:
Abiding in Love
John 15:1-8

Hayden Gallo - is a 16-year-old native Floridian, born here in Lee County. He is currently a sophomore at Bishop Verot Catholic High School where he is exploring his future career options in engineering, media production and architecture. He has participated in competitions for robotics and yearly festivals for piano. He enjoys playing on his computer in his free time, soccer, and family time, including helping with the family pets. Hayden has been taking piano lessons as well as learning to play the organ with Alena Michel since he was 6 years old. The bond he has formed with Alena has kept him interested in music and his love for the piano.

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

Alena Michel, Organ

The Emperor 's Fanfare

By: Antonio Soler
Arr. By: E. Power Biggs

Time with our Children

The Good Shepherd

By Dell Smith Klein

John 10:11-18

Now listen carefully. Someone will say something, and I want to see if you know who is saying it. Listen. Who said that? Did you recognize what they said? That was harder to know who was speaking, but the person said, "Follow me," didn't he.

Now listen carefully again. Follow me! Did you recognize who said that? Yes, I said, "Follow me." Now, let's listen to our Bible story. It's about the Good Shepherd

Sheep are pretty dirty. They get stickers and dirt in their woolly coats, and they can't get them out on their own. They don't have a sense of direction, so even if they drank from a stream this morning, by evening, they won't remember how to get to the water. They need a shepherd.

A shepherd takes care of sheep. A shepherd leads sheep and helps them when they are in trouble. A shepherd pulls stickers out of a sheep's wool and takes care of them if they get sick. Sheep need a shepherd to lead them to water and food. Sometimes they even need someone who will even make them lie down in a safe place and rest.

In our Holy Bible, there are many stories about sheep. Moses took care of sheep for a long time in the wilderness. Before he became king, a boy named David cared for his father's sheep. He even protected them from a bear and a lion.

In the stories about Jesus in the Holy Bible we see Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In one of the stories He told His disciples, He says, **"I am the good shepherd. I know My own, and I'm known by My own"**. He defends us. Sometimes we lose direction, too, and He helps us get on the right path.

You can hear a lot of people talking, but you will only recognize the voice of someone close to you, like your parents, your brother or sister, or your teacher. Earlier, it was hard to tell who said, "Follow me," because we didn't know the person who said it.

Jesus wants us to follow Him, doesn't He? He's the Good Shepherd who will guide us, help us, and teach us. He helps us when we are in trouble, but He is always with us. He speaks to us through the Holy Bible. Let's follow Jesus.

PRAYER: God, again, we Thank You for Jesus. Thank You, that He is the Good Shepherd who helps us as we lose direction or need help. May we follow the Good Shepherd. Amen.

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);
Duane (Friend of Tom & Sherrie McIntyre); 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.*

