



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

MAY 3, 2026



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

Nocturne 5

by John Field

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: In turbulent times, when the knot of fear tightens,

All: Take heart, trust God and step out.

One: When doubt needles us and despair encircles us,

All: Take heart, trust God, follow Jesus and walk on.

One: As depression threatens to sink us and grief tries to bury us,

All: Take heart, trust God, follow Jesus and sing your song.

One: God help us as we sing of our faith and rejoice together in this celebration.

**All: God, grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of
this hour. Amen.**

~ adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online and words of the hymn God of Grace and God of Glory by Harry Emerson Fosdick

Hymn # 337

God of Grace, God of Glory

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

**Steal Away to Heaven,
Tradition Spirituals**

arr. by Mark Hayes

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: Awesome and disturbing God, You breathed life into each of us and called us to walk on the paths of peace.

All: You filled us with compassion and courage, yet we often act with caution and timidity.

One: We know Your intentions for justice, yet we keep silent too often or yield to the complexity of issues and do nothing.

All: We are overwhelmed with Your love yet are hesitant to mention Your name to another.

One: We have been forgiven much, yet we harbor old resentments, hold on to past hurts and turn away from reconciliation and fellowship.

All: God, You are awesome in Your love for us. Restore us to clear thinking, fill our hearts with compassion and lead us to intentional risk-taking faith.

One: Let us be peacemakers, creation protectors and praise-singers.

All: Praying in the name of all that is good and holy. Amen.

~adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online

Song of Prayer

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Music: Leonard Cohen

Songwriters: One Voice Children's Choir

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.

Song of Prayer

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

Music: Leonard Cohen

Songwriters: One Voice Children's Choir

Today's Scripture

Acts 7:51-60

⁵¹ “You stubborn people! In your thoughts and hearing, you are like those who have had no part in God’s covenant! You continuously set yourself against the Holy Spirit, just like your ancestors did. ⁵² Was there a single prophet your ancestors didn’t harass? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the righteous one, and you’ve betrayed and murdered him! ⁵³ You received the Law given by angels, but you haven’t kept it.” ⁵⁴ Once the council members heard these words, they were enraged and began to grind their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God’s majesty and Jesus standing at God’s right side. ⁵⁶ He exclaimed, “Look! I can see heaven on display and the Human One standing at God’s right side!” ⁵⁷ At this, they shrieked and covered their ears. Together, they charged at him, ⁵⁸ threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, accept my life!” ⁶⁰ Falling to his knees, he shouted, “Lord, don’t hold this sin against them!” Then he died.

~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

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 a clear plate is Gluten Free bread.**

Communion

Katy Sumrow, Alto

God Has Spoken, Bread Is Broken

by Jeremy Young

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

Larghetto from Voluntary in D

by William Boyce (Alena Michel)

**** 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

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

The Book of James

**Learn the Bible, Grow Closer to God,
And Grow as a Person.**

**A Bible study from the book written
by: Mark David Albertson**

Readings:

James 2:1-13

Today's flowers are gifted to the church
Dave and Jan Cornell, in honor of their parents.
We would like to thank them for this beautiful gift.

Friday May 8th

Alena Michel presents

Spring Piano Recital

starting at 6:00 PM here at the church.

Sunday, May 17th

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

**Women's Fellowship - All Women Are Welcome
will be meeting for lunch at Ginger Bistro
At 12:15 on May 20th. If you would like to attend, you**

**MUST R.S.V.P. to Gail (gailcourtwright26@gmail.com)
by Friday, May 15th.**

**For next week's God's
word:
John 14:15-21**

**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)

"The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love. May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone. Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor. May your hands be so blessed that everything you touch is a sacrament. Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love. May your feet be so blessed you run to those who need you. And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love, your love, changes everything". **AMEN**

— Black Rock Prayer Book, often attributed to Episcopal priest Brian Baker; Used at Burning Man Festival as a blessing.

Postlude

Flora Barnett, Piano

El Torero

by Catherine Rollin

**"I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm
learning how to sail my ship."**

~ Louisa May Alcott

Time with our Children

God Wants Me to Forgive

Acts 7:55-60

By Dell Smith Klein

Sam and Tony were playing in the yard. The ground was dry, and there were lots of dirt clods in the flower bed. At first, they threw the clods at the wooden fence in Tony's back yard. But then, Tony threw a clod at Sam. Sam got mad and he picked up a rock and threw it at Tony. It hit him hard and hurt a lot.

It hurts to be hit with a rock. Wouldn't that hurt if someone threw this rock and hit you? We never want to throw rocks at a person, do we? That's right. Because we know that being hit by a rock would hurt, we don't want to throw a rock at a person, or an animal.

Our Bible story in Acts tells, about a man named Stephen. Stephen worked in the church. He was a kind person who helped others in many ways. One day, though, he said something that made people really mad. They got other people to go with them, and they gathered many rocks like this.

Soon, they began to throw the rocks at Stephen. It hurt a lot when the rocks hit his arms, his legs and his back. He knew he would die if they kept throwing rocks at him, but he did something surprising. Stephen began to pray for the people who were throwing rocks at him.

He prayed, "*Lord, don't hold this sin against them!*" Stephen was praying that God would forgive them.

It is hard to forgive someone who has hurt us. Our friend might do something to us and we get mad. Then we want to do something or say something that will hurt our friend. Sam and Tony felt like that. They were both hurt. They didn't even want to be friends any more.

Later, after their parents talked with them, they knew they needed to forgive each other. And once they forgave, they became friends again. Oh, and best of all, they stopped throwing rocks at each other, too.

Maybe someone has hurt you. You can forgive that person, too. For just a moment, think about someone who has hurt you – either by words they have said, or by hurting us in another way. Now let's pray.

PRAYER

God, we are thinking about something someone did to us that made us sad and maybe even hurt us. We want to forgive that person. Would you help us forgive? Thank you. Amen.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible, Copyright 2012, Richard Niell Donovan

May's Faith and Wellness Newsletter

“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest”

Matthew 11:28

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Your mental health matters just as much as your physical well-being. If you've been feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, or just “off,” it might be a sign that prioritizing mental health needs to be at the top of your to-do list.

Taking care of your mind is essential for a happy, balanced life.

Prioritizing mental health means recognizing when stress, anxiety, or burnout is taking over and then making intentional changes to support your well-being.

Using the 5 C's of mental health can help you maintain a healthy mindset and emotional well-being.

The 5 C's of Mental Health

- 1. Clarity** – When you prioritize mental health, you gain clarity on your thoughts, emotions, and goals, making it easier to navigate life.
- 2. Connection** – Reach out to friends, family, or professionals for support rather than withdrawing.

3. **Coping** – If you find yourself relying on unhealthy habits (like overeating, overspending, or excessive scrolling), it's a sign to prioritize mental health and develop healthier ways to manage stress.
4. **Control** – Taking small, intentional steps—like setting boundaries, practicing mindfulness, or seeking professional help—can help you regain a sense of control over your emotions and decisions.
5. **Compassion** – Be kind to yourself. If you're constantly criticizing yourself or setting unrealistic expectations, it's time to practice self-compassion and treat yourself with the same kindness you'd offer a friend.
1. **Better Emotional Resilience** – When you prioritize mental health, you build resilience, meaning you can handle challenges and setbacks more effectively without feeling completely overwhelmed.

Improving mental health involves a combination of self-care, physical health, and social connection. Key strategies include practicing mindfulness, maintaining a regular sleep schedule, exercising regularly, nurturing relationships, and setting boundaries with social media. Engaging in hobbies and seeking professional help when needed are also crucial.

See the checklist posted on the bulletin board for more tips on protecting your mental health.

Dear Worshipers,

We invite your child to join us for Faith Formation learning in Cathy's Place at Thomas Edison Congregational Church. Your children will learn about Jesus through age-appropriate faith activities, songs, prayers, Bible stories, games, and arts & crafts.

May class curriculum Faith Formation

May 10th – Mother's Day – Exodus 20:12

May 17th – Jesus Promises a Helper – John 14:15-21

May 31st – The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20

May 17th Blood Pressure Clinic

Lori McMullen RN-FCN

Cards can be sent to the following:

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

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier; Jean Long;
Phyllis Contino; Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch;
Kathy Bolen; Carol Krohse; Jack Walmsley's family in the
passing of Jack on Sunday, April 12, 2026.

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); Edward Yergeau (brother of Roger Yergeau); Ben Collens - stationed in Quatar (friend of Martha Jean Long).

***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.*

