

January 28, 2024



Order of Worship Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

(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

Beautiful Savior

Tune: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU Arr. by Lorie Line

Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: Welcome home, welcome in.

All: Here we find a song for our souls and healing for our wounds.

One: Welcome home.

All: Here find laughter that chases dark clouds away, and quiet prayers that lead us to still waters and green pastures.

One: Welcome to this holy space.

All: Here there are friends with a tender embrace, and here there are words that heal brokenness and reveal God's amazing grace.

One: Welcome home. God has been expecting you. The lights are turned on, and the doors are open. Welcome to this festival of renewal and hope. Amen.

All: Amen.

Opening Hymn # 28

O God, Our Help in Ages Past Verses 1, 2, 3, & 6

Passing of the Peace

May Christ be with you and Your Journey! And also, with you!

Gift of Music: Deborah Marino, Soprano

Child of Mine

By: Michael A.Schmid

Child of Mine
I call you in the water
and put my name on you.
Child of Mine
Child of Mine
I claim you as my daughter
and you will always be
a child of Mine.

Water flowing
Spirit blowing
Now I see your faith is showing
while my life within you is growing strong.
And now I hold you
in my arms of grace
and you can rest your weary heart in my embrace
For you are loved
O child of mine.

Child of Mine
I call you in the water
and put my name on you.
Child of Mine
Child of Mine
I claim you as my daughter
and you will always be
a child of Mine.

In a world that's so uncertain many lives so full of hurting
I will give to you my promise now that I will never leave you
I won't grieve you
I will never let you down
I'll be around
for you are loved
O child of mine.

Baptism for Liliana Yvonne Diaz

A Prayer of Blessing Over the Water

Leader: Listen! (pour a little water into the font) The sounds and sight of the water of

Life.

People: Like the splash of a baby's bath, the crash of waves on an ocean shore, the gentle patter of falling rain, the tear in a friend's eye, the delicate dew glistening in the morning sun.

Leader: Listen! (pour a little more water) The water of history echoes of our story.

People: From the dry void and barren wasteland, God brought the teeming waters of creation. After the flood, God placed a rainbow in the sky, as a sign of your promise. When God saw the people as captives, God parted the waters and led the oppressed to new freedom and great responsibility.

Leader: Listen! (pour a little more water) The water of renewal, echoes of the

Redeemer.

People: Jesus was born in the water of a womb, baptized by John and anointed to preach the Good News of Freedom and forgiveness. He changed water into wine, calmed storms, offered living water to societies forgotten and invited us to share in His baptism and to make disciples locally and globally.

Leader: Listen! (pour the rest of the water) The water is always full of hope.

God, pour out Your Holy Spirit on us. May this gift of water become on us living water – Living water that takes us deep into the river of Life: that nourish our joy; and that cools and eases our burdens. Let

Your baptismal touch God bring us into Your Holy circle of

unconditional love and tender embrace.

Act of Baptism

Prayer of Baptism

One: We've been touched by water, praise God, we have received a new name!

All: We belong to the family of God, and we are glad to be alive — with eyes open to see the Creator's touch in the beauty of creation, ears tuned to the brush of angel wings; hands ready to embrace and hold.

One: We've passed through the waters of darkness to the showers of light, and we are so thankful to be alive -- to make a difference in our communities, to sing praise and dance on tiptoe, to love all children and keep a playful spirit.

All: We've been blessed by God, touched by water and Welcomed by grace. Praise God, we are so glad to be alive because we have been touched by the waters of grace. Amen.

Prayer of Discipleship (Responsively)

One: We believe that we are the light of the world. We believe we should let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.

All: We believe that our love should be genuine. We believe that we should hate what is evil, and that we should hold fast to what is good.

One: We believe that if we live by the Spirit, we should also be guided by the Spirit.

All: We believe in the church, the Body of Christ that is active in the world today to bring reconciliation and justice, and to announce the good news of God's love and forgiveness.

One: We believe we should not become conceited, compete against one another, or envy one another. We believe that we should clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

All: This we believe because we are people of faith, trying hard each day to follow in the sandals of the one from Galilee.

Amen.

Prayers of the People and Concerns of the Heart

The 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 Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Words and Music: Ken Medema

Lord, listen to Your children praying, Lord, send Your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to Your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Scripture Mark 1:21-28

Jesus throws a demon out

²¹ Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. ²² The people were amazed by His teaching, for He was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. ²³ Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, ²⁴ "What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are. You are the holy one from God." ²⁵ "Silence!" Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out. ²⁷ Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, "What's this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey Him!" ²⁸ Right away the news about Him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

[~]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 Hymn 57

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name! Verses 1, 5, & 6

Invitation of 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

Deborah Marino, Soprano

As the Deer

Tune: As the Deer By: Martin Nystrom

As the deer pants for the water, so, my soul longs after You. You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship You.

You alone are my Strength, my Shield, to You alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship You.

You're my Friend and You are my Brother, Even though You are a King. I love You more than any other, so much more than anything.

You alone are my Strength, my Shield, to You alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship You.

I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy. You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.

You alone are my Strength, my Shield, to You alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship You.

** 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

Wednesday 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Thursday at 11:00 AM Online.
6 Weeks of Spiritual Development via
The Vicar of Dibley



Navigating changes in our lives. Focusing in on the most important things in life. Hope is found in the gifts of community. Recognizing the Holy in the middle of a disaster. Faith is sometimes believing without seeing. Love of creation reflects our Love of God.

Reading for Wednesday: 2 Timothy 4:6-8a

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

THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW
ON THE LAWN WITH MAYBERRY

EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT, BEGINNING SUNDAY JANUARY 7TH – FEBRUARY 4TH AT 5:00 PM.



We will gather on the lawn to watch an episode of The Andy Griffith Show.

We will finish with 7 minutes of dialog.

Bring your chairs, neighbor, and kids! Bring something to eat and drink!

Reflect on the years of Mayberry, and expand your faith.

If it is raining, we will be inside.

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 if interested.

Layla Morell is 13 and is in 7th grade at Mariner Middle School. Layla maintains all A's in her classes at school. She studies piano with Alena Michel for three years and enjoys using her talent in jazz band and school chorus. When she has time to spare, she likes to draw and paint. Layla also loves to read; she reads every night before bed. Her favorite book series is Harry Potter. Layla works very hard and really applies herself to school and the piano.

For next week's God's word:
Hide and Seek/Everyone is
searching for Jesus, and he
is hiding and praying
Mark 1:29-39

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 4TH AFTER WORSHIP.

Sunday February 11th Lunch and Learn



Immediately following the service, Beth Moss will have a discussion on: Health and Happiness.

Beth will discuss the meaning of happiness and it's relationship to our physical and spiritual health.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or you can RSVP to the office by February 8th so we will know how many boxed lunches to order.

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

Layla Morell, Piano

Mark 1:21-28

First movement from Concerto Romantic

By: Catherine Rollin

Time with our Children

Casting Out Our "Unclean Spirits"

By Dr. Dan Wuori

Have you ever done something you shouldn't have?

I know that I have. Sometimes I'm grumpy – or selfish. Sometimes I say things that aren't so kind. Those aren't things I'm proud of, but I must admit I make those mistakes sometimes.

In this week's Gospel story, Jesus meets a man who has an "unclean spirit." The story describes it almost as if there was a *ghost* that had taken over the man's body and was making him act in ways that he shouldn't have. So, Jesus tells the spirit to be quiet and *get out* of the man's body – and guess what? It does! It comes right out of his body.

The people watching were all amazed that Jesus was able to do this – that even spirits did what He asked! This is one of the ways that Mark tells us that Jesus' fame began to spread.

I've never had a ghost take over my body – but do you know what? Maybe that's not really what Mark was trying to help us to understand?

You see, the word "spirit" can mean a ghost, like in his story – but it can also describe our attitudes – or *the ways that we think*.

And so, the more I thought about it, I realized that Jesus *helps me to remove unclean spirits too*, just like the man in the story. And He can help you.

When I'm feeling grumpy, or selfish – or I'm tempted to do or say something unkind – I try to think about what Jesus would do. And when I do, I almost always manage to change my way of thinking. I leave the wrong – or unclean – thoughts behind and trade them for better ones.

Will you try to do the same this week when you're faced with a challenge? Let's pray.

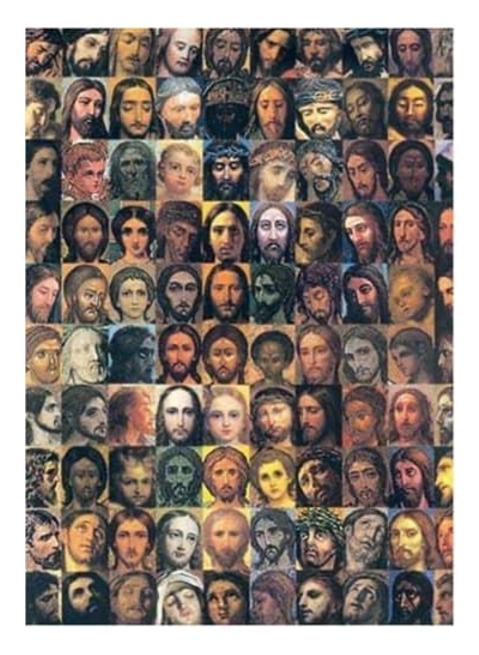
Dear God,

Thank You for casting out our unclean spirits and helping us to lead good and faithful lives.

Amen

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Photo Credit: Jesus Christ: In Christian Art and Culture 14th to 20th Centuries



PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Kate Baumann; Roy Shipley; Barry Pierce; Liz Lloyd; Dan Van Riper; Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Joe Helling.

Friends & Family:

Pat Tangusso (Friend of the Church and Quilter);

Duane (Friend of Tom & Sherrie McIntyre); Shelly (friend of Pastor Anton); Prayers for the family (Sister-in-law of Tom Johns & Joseph Helling); Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Kim Gaide (for the passing of her husband Dave); 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 Gonzales (Flo Newbrough's sister); Bob and Darlene Kulesza (Bob is Carol Marc-Aurele's brother); Rhonda and Hunter (friends of Martha 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

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Email Office: Admin@taecc.com
Office Phone: 239-334-4978

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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.



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