



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

May 21, 2023



Order of Worship

Seventh 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

Morning Songs

Tunes: Nicea and Bunesan

Arr. By: Paul A. Tate

Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: We are here to celebrate life, to celebrate this world and the universe we live in, so unimaginable, so vast, yet so minutely beautiful.

All: We are here to celebrate human life with all its physical, intellectual and spiritual delight, so close to earth, so near to God.

One: We are here to celebrate our unity in Christ, to pray for peace, joy and love for ourselves and every human being.

All: We are here to praise God, the great giver of it all.

One: Let us worship God together.

All: The God who is our Creator, and we who all are God's creatures. Amen.

-Slightly adapted from a prayer written by Angus McLeod

Hymn #236

All Creatures of Our God and King

***Opening Prayer (Responsively)**

One: Creator God, who has put a song in our hearts and who desires that we live in harmony with one another: may our time together today brighten our spirits and motivate us to strive for a closer walk with you as we enter the path of this new week. Speak to us today God, for we are listening.
Amen.

***Gloria Patri** (unison) Henry W. Greatorex (from red hymnal #623)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World
without end. Amen, Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

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

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

**Hallelujah Hallelujah
Hallelujah Hallelujah**

We believe in God –
who brings sunshine after rain and works healing in the midst of pain; who looks into each soul with love, touches each memory with blessing and longs for us to know we are loved; who splashes the world with color and fills the air with the singing of birds and the roar of the oceans; who meets us at the tomb of our fears and sends us out with hope and joy.

**Hallelujah Hallelujah
Hallelujah Hallelujah**

We believe in Jesus –
the risen Christ, the Friend of the forgotten, Savior of the world; who
loves us without judgment, yet persuades us to change; who joins us as
we walk and work with the poor and oppressed; who befriends us when
we feel lonely, surprises us when we feel bored, prods us when we get
complacent; who loves all children, dances with the elderly, shows
compassion to the dying and blesses the breaking of bread.

We believe in the Holy Spirit –
who weaves us into communities of faith of all ages, nations and races; who is
the stillness in every silence, the breath in every deep sigh, the love in every
tender embrace.

**Hallelujah Hallelujah
Hallelujah Hallelujah**

We believe we are called to be Easter people –
challenging despair with glowing hope, acting peacefully in the midst of painful
Good Fridays and living joyfully
even in the midst of harsh realities.

We believe in the church –
the hand-holding, heartily singing and passionate,
caring fellowship of seekers and finders.

This we believe.
Thanks be to God.

**Hallelujah Hallelujah
Hallelujah Hallelujah**

~ adapted from a prayer written by Gill Le Fevre

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

Prayers of the People

Prayer for Mental Health Awareness

One: Loving Creator, We, come in earnest Prayer today for Mental Illness Recovery and greater Understanding, because we know that You are a God of love and compassion. We come as people of all creeds and all nations seeking Your presence, comfort and guidance. We come as consumers, family members, friends, co-workers and mental health professionals. We come this day because we believe that You, Divine One, love each one of us just as we are and walk with us on our individual journeys through life. You see ignorance and injustice that divides and separates persons struggling with mental illness and You weep with us.

All: God, heal all of our hearts. God, heal all of our minds. God, heal all of our souls. God hear our prayers.

One: Give us courage to face our challenges and open us today to the many ways You are already working in our midst. Help us to identify mental illness as the disease it is, that we might have courage and wisdom in the face of ignorance and stigma. Inspire us as we seek to overcome fear, acquire knowledge, and advocate for compassionate and enlightened treatment and services.

All: God, heal all of our hearts. God, heal all of our minds. God, heal all of our souls. God hear our prayers.

One: Lead us as we open our hearts and homes, our communities and job opportunities, our houses of worship and communities of faith. Enable us to find ways to be inclusive of persons living with mental illness in our everyday lives. Be with doctors, therapists, researchers, social workers, and all those in the helping professions as they seek to overcome ignorance and injustice with care and compassion.

All: God, heal all of our hearts. God, heal all of our minds. God, heal all of our souls. God hear our prayers.

One: Sometimes, Divine Spirit, we feel discouraged and hopeless in the face of so many challenges. Help us to see ourselves as You see us...persons of value and worth...persons of creativity and potential. May we come

to understand the inter connectedness of mind, body and spirit in bringing about health and wholeness. And may we go forward into our communities with a renewed sense of vision, hope and possibility for the future.

All: God, heal all of our hearts. God, heal all of our minds. God, heal all of our souls. God hear our prayers. Amen

Prayer adapted from a Pastoral Prayer written by the Reverend Susan Gregg-Schroeder found <https://umcdmc.org/worship/prayers-and-litanies/prayer-mental-health-awareness/>

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.

Today's Scripture

John 17:9-11

Jesus Praying in the Garden

⁹“I’m praying for them. I’m not praying for the world but for those You gave Me, because they are Yours. ¹⁰ Everything that is Mine is Yours and everything that is Yours is Mine; I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to You. Holy Father, watch over them in Your name, the name You gave Me, that they will be one just as We are one.

~Common English Bible

Response to the Sharing of God's Story

The Story of God for the People of God!
Thanks Be to God!

Gift of Music

Mark LaMontagne - Vocalist

Hear My Prayer for Unity

Tune: Aberystwyth
Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Pastoral Words

Hymn #461

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

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

Interlude #8

By: Paul A. Tate

****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 12:00 pm.

**Faith Development on Wednesdays at,
11:00 AM and 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary;
Thursday at 11:00 AM Online.**

for 6 weeks of:

“Faith Talks from Ted Talks”.

Please read any 7 of the following...

**2 Timothy 1:7; Deuteronomy 31:8; Isaiah 43:1; Isaiah
41:10; Psalm 34:17; Psalm 42:11; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Psalm 40:
1-3; Philippians 4:6-7; Jeremiah 29:11; John 14:27; Galatians
1:10; Psalm 18:32; 1 John 1:9**

**Today’s flowers are gifted to the church by
Lou and Carol Marc-Aurele. We would like
to thank them for this beautiful gift.**

**Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board to donate
flowers to enhance our Sunday Service.**

**Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board
for Ushers and Volunteers for Cathy’s Place.**

**May 31/June 1 there will be no
Faith Development Classes.
Pastor Jim will be traveling to
Indianapolis for Boundary
Training and Annual Meeting.**

**Next Sunday May 28, please, wear red
for Pentecost Sunday**

**For next week's God's word:
Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness -
Acts 2**

Sung Benediction

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sly Miller and Bill Jackson

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, fam'ly all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

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

Recessional In C Major

From the Three Vestival Voluntaries

By: Michael Helman

Time with our Children

Finishing the Work

John 17:1-11

By [Lois Parker Edstrom](#)

Mary Cassatt is an artist who lived in the 1800s. Although she never married and had no children, she liked painting pictures of mothers and children. The mother and child are close to each other. The mother holds the child's hand and kisses her. You can feel the love these two have for each other.

Can you imagine this picture if the artist had not included the mother in the painting? Can you imagine this picture if the child was not a part of the painting? No, the picture would not seem complete. The artist, Mary Cassatt, worked on this painting until the mother and child, their expressions, the colors, the light, and the background, are all in harmony. She worked until those viewing the painting can feel what is happening in the picture. It is complete; a work of art. Art like this can be a way of bringing honor to God.

When Jesus was on earth He prayed to God and said, **“I glorified You on the earth. I have accomplished the work which You have given Me to do”**.

The work that Jesus was given to do while He was on earth was to show us God's love. He did that in many ways by performing miracles, healing the sick, and giving His life for us. He honored God by remaining here until His work was finished.

We all have special work to do. As you are growing and becoming an adult it is important that you find what it is that you are meant to do. One of your friends may become a teacher, another may own a store. One, may become a truck driver, another may be an artist. Through our work we all have an opportunity to honor God.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
Copyright 2007, [Richard Niell Donovan](#)

Parish Nurse

Beth Moss RN, MA will discuss the role of the Faith Community Nurse (previously known as Parish Nurse.) Beth is a Registered Nurse with many years of experience. She has lived in the Fort Myers area for over 20 years.

She will be giving an informal discussion, concerning the aspects of a Faith Community Nurse – Health Educator, Health Advocate, Health Agent/Liaison, and Integrator of Faith and Health. It will also correlate the importance of Mental Health as it relates to your Faith Community.

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Kate Baumann; Roy Shipley; Malcolm Youngquist;
Barry Pierce; Dan Van Riper; Pam Vallozzi; Sharlene Dozier; Annette Brown;
Susan McElligott .

Friends & Family:

Pat Tanguoso (Friend of the Church and Quilter);
Larry Zeigler (Lana's Husband); Duane (Friend of Tom & Sherrie McIntyre);
Shelly (friend of Pastor Anton); Lillian Helling (Sister-in-law of Tom Johns &
Joseph Helling); Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Dave Gaide
(Kim Gaide's husband); Martha Calvert, (Friend of Ian Laughlin);
Jeffrey Lloyd (Son of Liz Lloyd).

***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-Thursday 9 AM – 12PM
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 – Dr. Tony Contino

Pianist - Barry Pierce

*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.*

