



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*MARCH 8, 2026*



# Order of Worship

## *Third Sunday in Lent*

\*\* 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

#### Beautiful Savior

By Lorie Line

### Call to Worship (responsively)

One: We are looking for paradise here on Earth.

**All: We are searching for a love that lasts.**

One: We yearn for a glimpse of God.

**All: We thirst for the fountain of life.**

One: We hunger for lasting joy.

**All: Our hearts ache for something more.**

One: Bring all your hopes and longings to this place, for God is big enough to hold us all.

**All: God's love embraces us, calms us and strengthens us.**

**God's grace surprises us and causes us to sing.**

~adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online

### Hymn of Faith #53

### Fairest Lord Jesus

### Passing of the Peace

May Christ be with You on Your Journey!

**And, also with you!**

## Gift of Music

Emi Shannon, Soprano

### Let There Be Peace on Earth

by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

arr. by Mark Hayes

## Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

### Prayer For God's Guidance on our Journey of Lent

One: The Lord is my pace setter...I shall not rush

**All: God makes me stop for quiet intervals**

One: God provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity

**All: God leads me in the way of efficiency through calmness of mind and God's guidance is peace**

One: Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret, for God's presence is here

**All: God's timelessness and God's all importance will keep me in balance**

One: God prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity by anointing my mind with oils of tranquility

**All: My cup of joyous energy overflows**

One: Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours --

**All: For I shall walk in the Pace of my Lord and dwell in God's house for ever. Amen.**

## Silent/Individual Prayer

### Prayer for a Change of Heart and Change of Mind

One: God, from the cowardice that dares not face new truth,

**All: From the laziness that is contented with half-truth,**

One: From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,

**All: Good Lord, deliver us. Amen.**

~ adapted from a prayer Gardiner Street Church is a Jesuit Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin and is under the care of the Jesuits in Ireland. And a traditional Kenyan prayer

## **Prayers of the People / Concerns 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.**

### **Prayer of Response**

#### **Change My Heart, O God**

Eddie Espinoza and the Praise Song Advisory Team

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.  
You are the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.**

### **Today's First Scripture**

**John 4:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from His journey, so He sat down at the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me some water to drink." <sup>8</sup> His disciples had gone into the city to buy Him some food.

### **Song of Scripture**

**Fill My Cup, Lord**

Lyrics & Music by: Richard Blanchard

**Fill my cup, Lord. I lift it up, Lord!  
Come and quench this thirst-ing of my soul;  
Bread of Hea-ven, feed me 'til I want no more;  
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!**

**John 4:9-15**

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman asked, “Why do You, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” (Jews and Samaritans didn’t associate with each other.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus responded, “If you recognized God’s gift and who is saying to you, ‘Give Me some water to drink,’ you would be asking Him and He would give you living water.” <sup>11</sup> The woman said to Him, “Sir, you don’t have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? <sup>12</sup> You aren’t greater than our father Jacob, are You? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.” <sup>15</sup> The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!”

## **Song of Scripture**

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**John 4:16-26**

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, get your husband, and come back here.” <sup>17</sup> The woman replied, “I don’t have a husband.” “You are right to say, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus answered. <sup>18</sup> “You’ve had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn’t your husband. You’ve spoken the truth.” <sup>19</sup> The woman said, “Sir, I

see that You are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but You and Your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You and your people worship what you don’t know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship Him this way. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup> The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When He comes, He will teach everything to us.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I Am—the one who speaks with you.”

## **Song of Scripture**

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**John 4:27-30**

<sup>27</sup> Just then, Jesus’ disciples arrived and were shocked that He was talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” <sup>28</sup> The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who has told me everything I’ve done! Could this man be the Christ?” <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

**John 4:39-42**

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s word when she testified, “He told me everything I’ve ever done.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> Many more believed because of His word, <sup>42</sup> and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world.”

## **Song of Scripture**

### **Fill My Cup, Lord**

Lyrics & Music by: Richard Blanchard

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Come and quench this thirst-ing of my soul;  
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## **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 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**

**Emi Shannon, Soprano**

### **Pie Jesu From Requiem**

by Gabriel Faure

## **\*\*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

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

### Entering the Passion of Jesus

Dive deep into the history of the last days before the crucifixion.

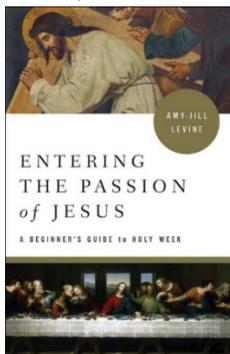
What if we look at the "ordinary" people who witnessed the Passion events... the women around Jesus? Or the "bad" guys...

Judas, Pilate, and Caiaphas?

Amy-Jill Levine looks closely at the people who were part of Jesus' life during his last days.

### Readings:

Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:1-9;  
Luke 7:36-39; and John 12:1-8.



### Timeline:

The Temple Incident - Jesus Teaching in the Temple  
The Anointing of Jesus  
The Last Supper Traditions  
The Night in Gethsemane

Today's flowers are gifted to the church  
by Tom and Lourdes Smoot for all the wonderful

memories shared in life with Uncle Ben (Benjamin Smoot).  
We would like to thank them for this beautiful gift.

**Women's Fellowship – March 18<sup>th</sup> Aloha Tea Party**  
Women's Fellowship will hold their Annual Tea Party  
on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at noon. Dress in tropical  
colors as we explore the tastes, sounds, and history of our  
50<sup>th</sup> state. Cost of luncheon is \$10.00 payable that day.  
You must RSVP by March 12<sup>th</sup> to [gailcourtwright26@gmail.com](mailto:gailcourtwright26@gmail.com)

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Concert Series  
March 20, 2026, A Joyful Celebration**

**Free concert: March 11<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM  
St. Michael Lutheran Church,  
3595 Broadway, Fort Myers.  
The Concordia University Christus Chorus**

### **EASTER LILY or HYACINTH ORDER FORM**

Each year our worship spaces are adorned with beautiful Lilies and Hyacinth for Easter Sunday. If you would like to order one of these flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, please pick up an order from the Fellowship Hall and return it to Cindy in the church office.

Lilies are \$13.00 each and Hyacinth's are \$10.00 each. We encourage you to take your flower home after services on Easter Sunday. You can make your check out to: TAECC. You can mail to church or drop off at the office after Sunday services. If you want to drop off the check during the week, the office is open Monday – Friday 9AM – 1PM.

**Name and phone number:**

**Email:**

**Which flower would you like to order**

In memory of:  
In honor of:  
Given by:

✨ **Two Sopranos. One Stage. A Night to Remember.** ✨

Join us for The Dazzling Drama Queens – Battles of the Sopranos and witness all the glamor and madness as international opera star Angela Maria Blasi, German American soprano Stephanie Lorenz, and phenomenal pianist Janet Carter grace the stage.

This lively concert pairs vocal brilliance with humor, drama, and heart as two remarkable voices take turns captivating the audience.

Whether you love live music, great storytelling, or simply a fun and uplifting evening out, this is a night you won't want to miss.

Save the date, Invite friends, Come enjoy something truly special

**Here at the church on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, At 7:00 PM.**

Battles of the Sopranos

Stephanie Lorenz and Angela Blasi

Janet Carter – Pianist

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

**Looking for Volunteers for Greeters and for Ushers. Sign-  
up sheets are on the bulletin board if interested.**

**For next week's God's word:  
"Jesus and the Blind Man"  
John 9:1-41**

**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**

### **Prelude in E Minor BWV 555**

by J. S. Bach

## **Time With Our Children**

### **The Living Water of God's Love**

**John 4:5-41**

By Dr. Dan Wuori

Raise your hand if you ever been really, really thirsty.

What do you like to drink when you're thirsty?

I like to drink lots of different things, but when I'm really, really thirsty I like to drink water. And our bodies need water, did you know that? Our bodies are filled with water, and without it we couldn't live – and so we have to keep drinking every day, don't we? It helps to keep us healthy.

Wouldn't it be great if we never got thirsty? What if there was special water that we could drink once and it would take care of us forever?

Well in this week's Gospel story, Jesus is taking a long walk – and guess what happens? He gets thirsty. So, He, stops by a well, and asks a woman there if she will help Him get a drink. And while they're talking, He tells her about how God's love is sort of like water.

Now He doesn't mean real water, that we drink. He's talking about that special water I was wishing for. Jesus calls it "Living water" – because we need it, and it fills us up and like that special water, once we have God's love, we always have it. It lasts forever and we never need to go looking for more.

So, this week, we're going to ask God to fill us up with His love. Will you pray with me?

**Dear God,**

We are thirsty. Not for the water that we drink, but for the special living water that comes from Your love. Please fill us up and watch over us always. **Amen.**

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**March 8th – Third Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**  
**“Jesus and the Women at the Well”**

**March 15th – Fourth Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**  
**“Jesus and the Blind Man”**

**March 22nd – Fifth Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**  
**“Jesus and Lazarus”**

**March 29th – Palm Sunday (10:00 AM)**  
**“Jesus on the Road Again”**

**April 2nd – Maundy Thursday (6:30 PM)**  
**“Jesus in the Upper Room”**

**April 3rd – Good Friday (6:30 PM)**  
**“Jesus and the Old Rugged Cross”**

**April 5th – Easter (10:00 AM)**  
**“Jesus Is An Early Riser”**



## Wellness Newsletter

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* **John 16:33**

### Measles Update

**Measles** (rubeola) is an illness caused by a contagious virus, rubeola. Measles is spread through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. The virus may remain active in the air or on surfaces for up to two hours.

#### Who is at Risk

- Vaccination lowers risk but does not exclude measles, especially with high-intensity exposure, if suspected, isolate and get tested
- If you live or work in Ave Maria, Immokalee, or area of outbreak
- If you've had a known measles exposure
- If you are contacted by the Florida DOH and told you have encountered someone who has tested positive for measles
- If you are immunosuppressed

#### You are at low-risk if

- You have been vaccinated against measles even if the immunizations occurred during childhood. Vaccine effectiveness is approximately 75% after the first dose and 97% after the second dose for measles, mumps, and rubella.
- You have laboratory confirmation of having been infected with the disease in the past.
- You were born before 1957 – Although birth before 1957 is considered acceptable evidence of immunity, you should consider vaccinating if you were born before 1957 **and** lack laboratory evidence of immunity or laboratory confirmation that you have had the disease.
- Your physician can order a blood titer test to check for antibodies to confirm immunization.

#### Measle Symptoms include:

- Early Symptoms, within 7-14 days after exposure: Fever (>100.3), cough, runny nose, red watery eyes (conjunctivitis).
- Symptoms that develop within 3-5 Days after early symptoms (within 10-19 days after exposure): A rash all over the body, known as a Descending maculopapular RASH. This rash may extend to the mouth and appear as red spots, known as Koplik spots.

- If you experience any of these symptoms, see your health care provider immediately.

## **Confirmed Measle cases by county as of Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

<b>Total in Florida</b>	<b>92</b>
Alachua	2
Broward	1
Collier	66
Duval	6
Escambia	5
Hillsborough	2
Lee	1
Manatee	3
Miami-Dade	1
Pinellas	3
St. Johns	2

### **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.**

**March class curriculum Faith Formation**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Jesus Heals a Blind Man, *John 9***

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 – Jesus Raises Lazrus, *John 11***

**Blood Pressure clinic on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**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;  
Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch.

### **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).

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***No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you're welcome here at Edison Congregational Church.  
Welcome home!***

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Website:	<a href="http://www.edisonchurch.com">www.edisonchurch.com</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/EdisonChurch">Facebook.com/EdisonChurch</a>
Email Pastor:	<a href="mailto:Pastorjim@taecc.com">Pastorjim@taecc.com</a>
Email Office:	<a href="mailto:Admin@taecc.com">Admin@taecc.com</a>
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 – 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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