



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*JUNE 7, 2026*



# Order of Worship

## Second Sunday of the Growing Season/Communion

\*\* 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

### The Light of the World is Acknowledged in our Worship

"Jesus said: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). The presence of the light reminds us of Jesus' coming into our world and into our lives. The light is carried into the worship service as a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshipping community. During most of the time of our church year our congregation uses two candles on the altar to point out that Jesus was both a human being and God. The light of the world is among us today.

— adapted from <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-why-do-we-light-and-extinguish-candles-during-worship>

### Prelude

#### At the River Medley

Arr. by: Stephen Brittain

### Call to Worship (responsively)

One: God of rainbows, and God of fiery pillars, it is You who is leading every one of us where the eagles soar,

**All: Speak today to us Your people:**

One: We are Your people, and we long to hear Your still speaking voice in our time together;

**All: Ours is the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more. Amen.**

~Adapted from the Hymn In the Midst of New *Dimensions*, Words and Music by Julian Rush (1985)

### Hymn of Praise

## **In the Midst of New Dimensions**

Tune: New Dimensions, Written by: Julian Rush

**In the midst of new di-men-sions,  
in the face of chang-ing ways.  
Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples  
wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?  
God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar,  
lead-ing where the ea-gles soar.  
We Your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney  
now and ev-er, now and ev-er,  
now and ev-er-more.**

**Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple,  
war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,  
Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es?  
Who will light the flame of care?  
God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar,  
lead-ing where the ea-gles soar.  
We Your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney  
now and ev-er, now and ev-er,  
now and ev-er-more.**

**As we stand a world di-vid-ed  
by our own self-see-king schemes,  
Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage  
might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams  
God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar,  
lead-ing where the ea-gles soar.  
We Your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney  
now and ev-er, now and ev-er,  
now and ev-er-more.**

## **Passing of the Peace**

May the Pease of Christ be with you!

**And, also with you!**

**Gift of Music**

**Anton Pierce, Tenor**

**"His Eye is on the Sparrow"**

By: Civilla D Martin / Charles H. Gabriel

**Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)**

One: Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.

**All: Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.**

One: Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

**All: And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.**

*- slightly adapted from Frank Borman's, A Prayer from Apollo 8 for Universal Justice, December 24, 1968*

**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.**

## Prayer Response

### 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 our Creator we are family.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me, Let this be the moment now;  
With every 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.**

## Today's Scripture

**Genesis 12:1-2**

### Abram's family moves to Canaan

12 The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

**Romans 4:17**

### [The Apostle Paul writing to the church in Rome.]

As it is written: *I have appointed you to be the father of many nations.* So, Abraham is our father in the eyes of God in whom he had faith, the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that don't exist into existence.

**Romans 4:18-19**

### [The Apostle Paul continuing his writing to the church in Rome.]

18 When it was beyond hope, he had faith in the hope that he would become the father of many nations, in keeping with the promise God spoke to him: *That's how many descendants you will have.* 19 Without losing faith, Abraham, who was nearly 100 years old, took into account his own body, which was as good as dead, and Sarah's womb, which was dead.

**Romans 4:20-22**

**[The Apostle Paul continues his writing to the church in Rome.]**

20 He didn't hesitate with a lack of faith in God's promise, but he grew strong in faith and gave glory to God. 21 He was fully convinced that God was able to do what He promised. 22 Therefore, it was credited to Him as righteousness.

**Genesis 12:4-5**

4 Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. 5 Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan.

**Genesis 12:6-7**

When they arrived in Canaan, 6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. 7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I give this land to your descendants," so Abram built an altar there to the Lord who appeared to him.

**Genesis 12:8**

8 From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and worshipped in the Lord's name.

**Genesis 12:9**

9 Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

~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

### **In the Midst of New Dimensions**

Tune: New Dimensions, Written by: Julian Rush

**We are man and we are wom-an,  
all per-sua-sions, old and young,  
Each a gift in your cre-a-tion,  
each a love song to be sung.  
God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar,  
Lead-ing where the ea-gles soar.  
We Your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney  
now and ev-er, now and ev-er,  
now and ev-er-more.**

**Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions  
cause us to with-draw in pain,  
May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it,  
res-ur-rect the church a-gain.  
God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar,  
lead-ing where the ea-gles soar.  
We Your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney  
now and ev-er, now and ev-er,  
now and ev-er-more.**

## **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**

## 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

### How Great Thou Art

Arr. by: Stephen Brittain

## \*\* 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 5:7-20**

**Today's flowers are gifted to the church by  
Susie Niemela and Tommy Wood in honor of**

Tommy's father, Ruben Wood. We would like to thank them for this beautiful gift.

For next week's God's  
word:  
Genesis 18:1-15



June is Alzheimer's awareness month. The Dubin Center will be presenting an educational lunch and learn on June 14<sup>th</sup> after services. They will go over signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's. How to cope with living with someone who has Alzheimer's and resources available to everyone who is affected by the disease.

Since it is short notice, please call the office by June 11<sup>th</sup> so, I will know how much food to order. I am in the office Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 1:30.

The Women's Fellowship – will meet for lunch at KJ's Steakhouse on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. ALL Women are welcome. Reservations MUST be made by Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. RSVP: Gail at [gailcourtwright26@gmail.com](mailto:gailcourtwright26@gmail.com)

Parking for Sunday Service or Faith Development  
Please Park on church side on Llewellyn Dr. and

**Menlo Rd. If able we are allowed to park in the back of Covenant Presbyterian Church parking lot. Enter Off of Marlyn. This is to make room for emergency vehicles if needed to come into the neighborhood.**

**Birthday Celebration – Sunday, July 26th**

**If you are interested in helping with setting out the food and drinks for the Birthday Celebration, a Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. You will be responsible for setting up, serving and cleaning up after the Birthday Celebration.**

**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.**

**Free magazines are available behind the kitchen door next to the library shelves. Donations are welcome.**

**Benediction (responsively)**

One: "May the road rise to meet you, and the wind be always at your back. May the sunshine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."  
Amen.

**All: Amen.**

~The Irish Blessing A widely used cultural and spiritual blessing

**The Light of the World is Shared with the World at the end of our Worship**

At the end of the service, the light is carried out into the world to show that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere; This symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are to serve.”

— adapted from <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-why-do-we-light-and-extinguish-candles-during-worship>

## Postlude

### Thine is the Glory

Arr. by: Stephen Brittain

## Time with our Children

### Blessed to Be a Blessing

By Lois Parker Edstrom

### Genesis 12:1-9

Some of you may have moved with your family to another place because your mother or father found a new job. You may have moved to a different part of the city, another part of the country, or perhaps to a foreign country.

For those of you who have moved, you know this can be a difficult thing – to leave everything that is familiar – your neighborhood, your home, your school, your friends and perhaps some of your extended family such as grandparents.

That is what the Lord asked Abram to do. In the Old Testament of the Bible we learn that the Lord “...said to Abram, ‘Get out of your country, and from your relatives, and from your father’s house, to the land that I will show you’”(12:1). “I will make of you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing”(12:2).

The Lord asked Abram to leave what was familiar to him and move to another country. Abram did what the Lord asked him to do. He traveled to the land of Canaan and when he arrived in this new land he built an altar to honor God.

An important part of this lesson is that God said, “...I will bless you” so that “you will be a blessing.” To be blessed means that one receives a favor or a gift from God that brings happiness and thankfulness.

Think of all the wonderful favors and gifts you receive from God: beautiful sunrises and sunsets, flowers, forests, mountains, lakes and rivers, people who

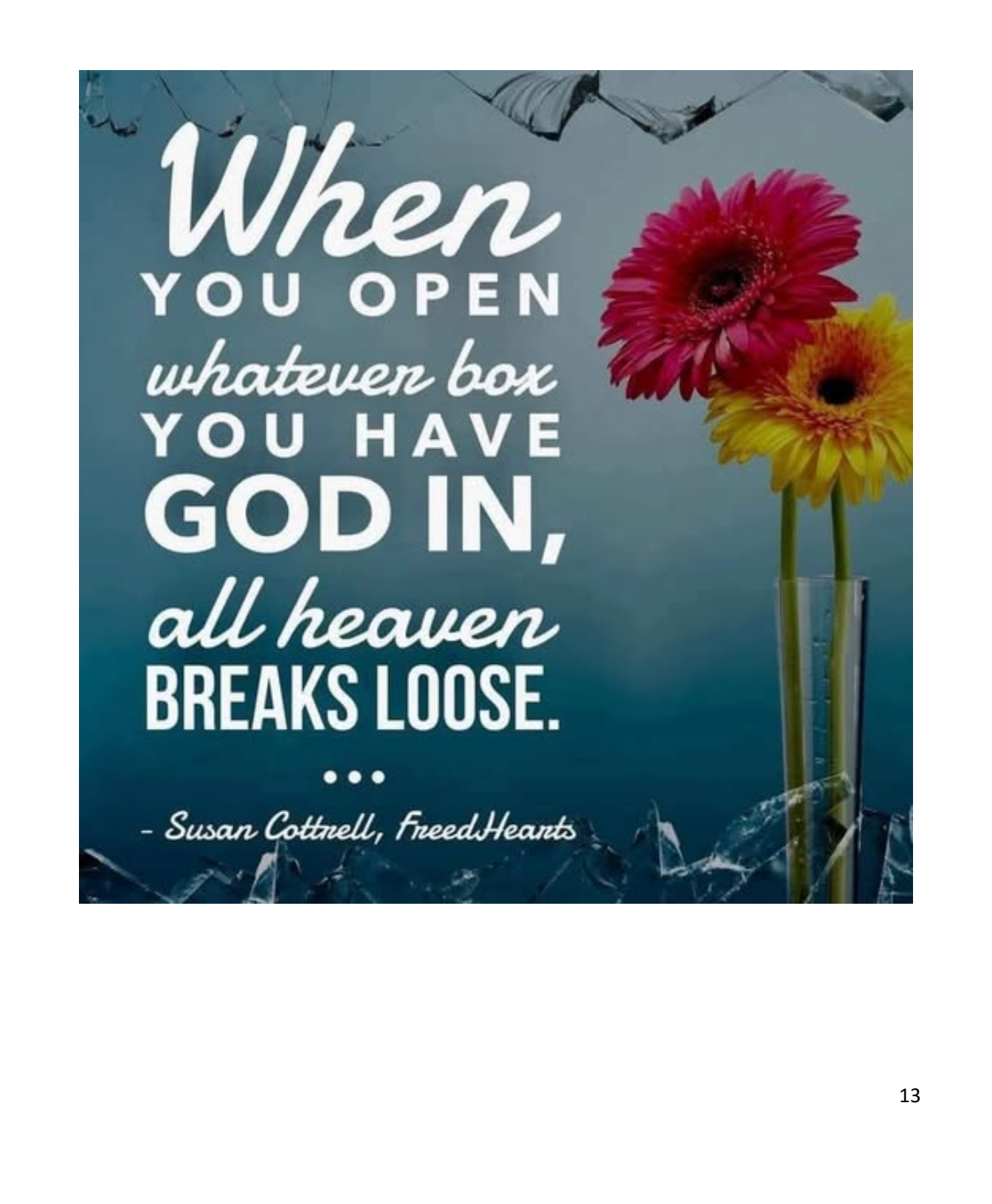
love you... The list could go on and on. (Encourage the children to participate in making this list, if time permits.) We are blessed each day by the beautiful world God has created.

When we do our best to follow what God wants us to do, whether it is our life work or the kind of person we will be, we become a blessing and are able to bring happiness to others.

God's plan for each one of us is wonderful. God says, "I will bless you" so that "you will be a blessing."

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



The image features a dark teal background with a border of broken glass shards. On the right side, two daisies are in a clear glass vase; one is pink and the other is yellow. The text is arranged on the left side of the image.

*When*  
YOU OPEN  
*whatever box*  
YOU HAVE  
**GOD IN,**  
*all heaven*  
**BREAKS LOOSE.**

...

- *Susan Cottrell, FreedHearts*

**A Prayer for the World»** by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner acts as a profound blessing by shifting the focus of prayer away from divine intervention in external events, and toward empowering humanity to heal, connect, and transcend hardship.

Let the rain come and wash away  
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds  
held and nurtured over generations.  
Let the rain wash away the memory  
of the hurt, the neglect.  
Then let the sun come out and  
fill the sky with rainbows.  
Let the warmth of the sun heal us  
wherever we are broken.  
Let it burn away the fog so that  
we can see each other clearly.  
So that we can see beyond labels,  
beyond accents, gender or skin color.  
Let the warmth and brightness  
of the sun melt our selfishness.  
So that we can share the joys and  
feel the sorrows of our neighbors.  
And let the light of the sun  
be so strong that we will see all  
people as our neighbors.  
Let the earth, nourished by rain,  
bring forth flowers  
to surround us with beauty.  
And let the mountains teach our hearts  
to reach upward to heaven.

Amen.

**Cards can be sent to the following:**

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

**Mr. Bill Persons  
Calusa Harbour Assisted  
Living – 2525 First St  
Ft. Myers, Fl. 33901  
Room 233**

## **PRAYER LIST**

### **Our Church Members:**

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier; Jean Long;  
Phyllis Contino; 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); Jennifer McMullen & family (Lori McMullen extended family); Renee Imm (friend of Sandy Cole); Fay Lombardo (friend of Sandy Cole).

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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-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.*



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