



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

October 27, 2024



Order of Worship

Reformation Sunday

** 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

Open The Eyes of My Heart

By: Paul Baloche
Arr. By: Mark Hayes

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: We believe in God: Maker of Rainbows, Spinner of Chaos, Weaver of Stories, Daredevil Gambler.

All: We believe in Jesus Christ: Rabbi of the Poor, Carpenter of New Creation.

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit: Nudging Discomforter, Midwife of Changes.

All: We believe in the Church, as a group of people who have chosen to believe these outrageous, and wonderful truths.

One: Thanks be to this One God with many names: Lord of sea and sky, Lord of snow and rain.

All: Who gathers with us in this time of worship today. Amen.

~ adapted from a poem found @ Collected images of poet Brian Wren

Hymn of Praise

Here I Am, Lord

By: Dan Schutte

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people's cry.**

**All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lean me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

Passing of the Peace

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

Gift of Music

Debbie Marino, Soprano

People Need The Lord

By: Greg Nelson and Phill McHugh

Prayer of Discipleship

One: God You are our safe place to hide.
You are our mighty fortress.
You are our ever-present help in time of need.
We can and do turn to You in the midst of our troubles.

**All: And God our world is full of difficulties.
God we may feel afraid, but it does not overcome us
because we know we can put our trust in You.**

One: Your love and grace are like streams of water in the desert.
Your joy comes splashing down upon us.
You refresh and renew us like rain coming down on the earth.

**All: Bring Your water of life to those who are thirsty and living
in a dry and weary land.**

One: Where there are wars, bring Your peace.

All: Where there is starvation, fill the empty bellies.

One: Where there is despair, bring Your hope.

All: Where there is animosity, bring Your reconciliation.

One: Where there is abuse, bring Your tender mercies,

All: Where there is poverty, bring Your charity.

One: Where there is illness, bring Your healing.

All: Where there is grief, bring Your gentleness.

Where there is injustice, bring Your justice.

One: God You are a mighty fortress, our strong deliverer.

**All: In You we put our trust and release ourselves into Your
hands. Amen.**

~ slightly adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Abi, and posted on [A Place for Prayer](#).

Prayers for 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 Response

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Words: Thomas Obediah Chisholm

Music: William Marion Runyan

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

Scripture

Mark 10:46-52

Healing of blind Bartimaeus

⁴⁶Jesus and His followers came into Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho,

together with His disciples and a sizable crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, Timaeus' son, was sitting beside the road. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!" ⁴⁸ Many scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, "Son of David, show me mercy!" ⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Call him forward." They called the blind man, "Be encouraged! Get up! He's calling you." ⁵⁰ Throwing his coat to the side, he jumped up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Jesus asked him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see." ⁵² Jesus said, "Go, your faith has healed you." At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.

~ 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

Here I Am, Lord

By: Dan Schutte

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lean me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Fine-est bread I will provide
Till their hearts be sat-if-fied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lean me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

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

Debbie Marino, Soprano

The Lord's Prayer (Deliver Us)

By: Jason Kyle Saetveit

**** 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 at Noon
on Wednesday**

Faith Development

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

**In Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of
Jesus, Amy-Jill Levine explores selected miracles of Jesus in
historical and theological context. For each miracle, she**

discusses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today's readers can draw meaning from Jesus's words and actions.

Signs and Wonders Session 4: Taking Death Seriously

Reading: John 11

Today's flowers are gifted to the church by Tee and Flo Newbrough. They are in memory of Flo's sister, Shari Blevins. We would like to thank them for this beautiful gift.

Right after today's service we will be celebrating October birthdays. Please join us to celebrate:

Jean Lindenlaub
Thomas Johns
Elizabeth Kinsey
Douglas Hagge

Emma Drew Singer
Carol Skaza
Anna Lucia Smoot
Sandy Cole

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.

For next week's God's word:
All Saints Day
Revelation 21:1-6

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

Women's Fellowship - Events

The Women's Fellowship is collecting gently used jewelry and accessories (loose or broken pieces are okay).

****New: Holding game day the first Tuesday of every month at 12:30 PM in Cathy's Place. Contact Gail Courtwright if interested.**

HALLOWEEN TREATS - October 31st

Do you live in a neighborhood where costumed children coming to your door are far and few between? Join us in providing Halloween treats for children of the Edison Park neighborhood.

We plan to gather at the church at 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 31st to set up Trick or Treat Stations across the portico and front sidewalk from approximately 5:30 – 7:00. You may sign up on the bulletin board to help distribute and/or donate treats. Please drop off wrapped Store-bought treats at the church office any time Between now and Monday, October 28th during hours of 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon.

Guardian ad Litem works with ANA's Friends and will be coordinating the Wishing Tree Project at Christmas again this year. TAECC will be collecting children's books for the 3rd year for this project. The Wishing Tree Project will serve 765 children who are under court supervision appointed to the Guardian ad Litem office here in Lee County. The collected children's books will be distributed at Christmas to the foster parents and relatives to give to the children. If you would like to participate in the book drive this year, books can be brought to the church anytime and the drive will end on November 30.

Quilting Ministry

Help the Quilting Ministry earn money for materials to make Quilts for In As Much.

There will be 2 options:

6 Holiday Placements or

A Small Wall Hanging/Quilt.

Both will be on display in the Fellowship Hall as of November 3rd.

Raffle ticket Sale: 6 for \$5.00 begins Sunday November 3rd thru December 8th.

Drawing will take place following the service on December 8th.

All Saints Day – November 3rd

You will have a chance to light a candle in memory of someone close who has passed.

Grief Support Group

There will be a 13-week group meeting starting on November 18th – February 10th from 5:30 – 7:00 PM here at the church.

There will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board.

Thanksgiving Sunday – November 24th

Monday November 25th

Decorate church for Advent – starting at 10:00 AM – lunch provided – sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. We need to know by November 20th who is planning to help.

Sunday December 1st
First Sunday of Advent

Friday December 6th – Edison Park Expressive
Arts School – Presentation of: *Sights and sounds
of the season*, on the Church lawn at 10:15.
Bring a Chair, and your Neighbors.

Friday December 6th
**Alena Michel presents Student's Piano Recital
"Keys to Christmas Magic"
starting at 6:00 PM here at the church.**

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

Tocatta in D Minor

By: J. S. Bach

Time with our Children

A Different Way of Seeing

By Lois Parker Edstrom

Mark 10:46-52

We see light and color and shapes with our miraculous eyes. Our eyes allow us
to see the faces of our friends and family, our pets, trees, flowers, lakes, streams,

and mountains. They allow us to read wonderful books, and we use our eyes to make things such as sewing, art or woodworking projects. We could go on and on about all the things our eyes enable us to see and do.

There is also a different way of seeing that has to do with what we feel and understand. Do you ever find yourself saying, “Oh, I see. Now I understand.”

You may experience this when you see and believe that someone loves you. Or when you realize that the world is a beautiful place – God’s creation. Or you may use this different way of seeing to realize you have choices about what you do and that certain things make you happy. This is a different way of seeing and knowing.

There is a Bible story about a blind man who was sitting by the roadside hoping that the many people who were passing by would help him by giving him money. Although he couldn’t see with his eyes, he somehow knew that Jesus was coming and he began to shout saying, “Jesus, You son of David, have mercy on me!” (10:47).

People around the blind man tried to quiet him, but he called out more loudly, “You son of David (Jesus), have mercy on me!” (10:48).

The blind man could not see with his eyes, but he used this different way of seeing and he understood that Jesus had the power of God to be able to heal him.

Jesus stopped and said to the man, **“What do you want me to do for you? (10:51)**

The man told Jesus that he wanted to be cured of his blindness and see again.

Jesus said to the man, **“Go your way. Your faith has made you well” (10:52)** and immediately the man could see.

This man received the miracle of healing and was able to see with his eyes because he understood and believed in the power of God.

Use your eyes to see all you can see of this beautiful world and also use this different way of seeing to understand that God loves you. Believe.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
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Prayer for the Election

God of justice and compassion,
God of Republicans and Democrats and Independents,
God of the poor and the 1% and the middle class,
in the heat of this election year
we pray for our nation, our churches, and ourselves.

In the midst of meanness and deception, may our words be kind and true.

In the midst of loud speeches and harsh accusations, may we listen well and try to understand.

May those who follow Jesus do the work of Jesus—
breaking down the dividing walls
speaking the truth in love
meeting together in the face of disagreements.

Holy, loving God, have mercy on Your children.
Amen.

~ written by Joanna Harader and posted on her **Spacious Faith** blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

“Your vote is a prayer for the kind of nation you want to live in!”

– Rev. Raphael Warnock, Senior Pastor of Atlanta’s Ebenezer Baptist Church since 2005. And a member of Congress since 2021.

Sunday, November 3rd.



Cards can be sent to the following:

**Duane Gardner
50 La Fonda Lane
North Fort Myers, Fl. 33903**

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Family of Katie Baumann in lieu of her passing; Liz Lloyd;
Pastor Anton after the passing of Barry Pierce;
Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Bill Persons; Tom Johns;
Greg Haston; Ian Laughlin; Duane Gardner (Hospice Care).

Friends & Family:

Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Jim Marc-Aurele (Lou & Carol's son); Darlene Gonzalez (Flo Newbrough's sister); Bob and Darlene Kulesza (Bob is Carol Marc-Aurele's brother); Howard Youngquist (brother of Malcolm Youngquist); Norma Stott (friend of Sandy Cole); Tom Jenkins (friend of Flo & Tee Newbrough); Michele Baron (friends of Rod Schaffter and Carol Skaza); Rosemary Wallace (after the passing of her husband);
Jim and Mary Pat Willis (friends of Carol & Ned Downing).

***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
Director of Sacred Arts – Alena Michel
Faith Community Nurse - Lori McMullen, RN
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.*

