



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*MAY 29, 2022*



# 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

#### *Jesus, Lover of my Soul*

Tune by: Aberstwyth/Arr. By: Joseph Parry

### Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells in our lives. We need not look up to find God;

**All: we need only to look around: within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.**

One: We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God; we need only listen to:

**All: the music of life, the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.**

One: We worship the God

**All: who inhabits our world and who indwells our lives.**

One: People of faith, let us worship God together.

**All: Amen.**

—Adapted from a prayer Posted on the Presbyterian Church USA website, [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org).

### Hymn of Faith #22

#### *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

## **Passing of the Peace**

May Christ be with You on Your Journey!  
**And also, with you!**

## **Hymn of Lament, Faith and Action**

### **God, Our Nation Feels the Loss**

Tune: For The Beauty of the Earth

**God, our nation feels the loss  
as our children pay the cost  
for the violence we accept,  
for the silence we have kept.  
Rachel weeps for children gone;  
God of love, this can't go on!**

**Jesus, Lord, we hear you say,  
"Don't turn little ones away!"  
May we build a kinder land  
where our children understand:  
Every child here matters more  
than the guns we clamor for.**

## **Prayer for the Candles We Light (Responsively)**

**One:** We light a candle to honor this sacred time of mourning as we continue to grieve the loss of our innocence, safety, security, and too many lives to count.

**All:** We acknowledge that the intensity of our grief and suffering represents the depth of our love our friends, family and neighbors; and that our tears are a testament to the longing we have for safer neighborhoods, schools, churches, shopping venues and over all community.

One: We pray for faith and courage to face dark days when we feel frightened and alone and for the friendship of others to help bear our burden of grief and our anger at innocence that can't be replaced or recovered.

**All: We are thankful for the opportunity to gather with others who are also broken hearted and understand our sorrow. We are thankful for thoughts, prayers, action, change and new ideas about how we can live in a new community not consumed with fear and violence – someday, someday soon.**

One: God help each of us be people of prayer and people that work hard to create your Kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: Praying in the name of all that is good and holy, Amen.**

## Candle Lighting



## Song of Response

**Holy Spirit, wind and flame,  
send us out in Jesus' name.  
May we shout and say, "Enough!"  
May we build a world of love —  
till the sounds of weapons cease,  
till our young can grow in peace.**

Tune: For The Beauty of the Earth

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

Hymn Note for "God, Our Nation Feels the Loss"

See the reference to the Slaughter of the Innocents:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more" (Matthew 2:18).

This hymn was written in remembrance of the beloved children of God who died in the school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Many of us, as individuals, do not accept violence, keep silence, or clamor for guns. Yet, as a nation, we do these things, and as a nation, we need to repent; we need to turn around and live a different way. All of us are called to do more than sing and pray; please work for gun safety laws in your community and state.

Permission is given for free use of this hymn for churches and ecumenical services.

## 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.**

## Scripture for the Day

Acts 16:16-34

### Paul and Silas in prison

<sup>16</sup> One day, when we were on the way to the place for prayer, we met a slave woman. She had a spirit that enabled her to predict the future. She made a lot of money for her owners through fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She began following Paul and us, shouting, “These people are servants of the Most High God! They are proclaiming a way of salvation to you!” <sup>18</sup> She did this for many days.

This annoyed Paul so much that he finally turned and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to leave her!” It left her at that very moment.

<sup>19</sup> Her owners realized that their hope for making money was gone. They grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the officials in the city center.

<sup>20</sup> When her owners approached the legal authorities, they said, “These people are causing an uproar in our city. They are Jews <sup>21</sup> who promote customs that we Romans can’t accept or practice.” <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attacks against Paul and Silas, so the authorities ordered that they be stripped of their clothes and beaten with a rod. <sup>23</sup> When Paul and Silas had been severely beaten, the authorities threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to secure them with great care. <sup>24</sup> When he received these instructions, he threw them into the innermost cell and secured their feet in stocks.

<sup>25</sup> Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> All at once there was such a violent earthquake that it shook the prison’s foundations. The doors flew open and everyone’s chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer awoke and saw the open doors of the prison, he thought the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword and was about to kill himself. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted loudly, “Don’t harm yourself! We’re all here!”

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for some lights, rushed in, and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He led them outside and asked, “Honorable masters, what must I do to be rescued?”

<sup>31</sup> They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your entire household.” <sup>32</sup> They spoke the Lord’s word to him and everyone else in his house. <sup>33</sup> Right then, in the middle of the night, the jailer welcomed them and washed their wounds. He and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. <sup>34</sup> He brought them into his home and gave them a meal. He was overjoyed because he and everyone in his household had come to believe in God.

— Common English Version

## **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 Faith #33**

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

### **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**

***Inno Festoso***

(Festival Hymn)

By: Felix Mendelssohn

### **\*\* 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.**

WORDS: Ken Thomas; MUSIC: Old 100<sup>th</sup>, attributed to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

## Life of Our Church

Quilting on Wednesday at 12:00 pm.

Mid-Week Prayers and Coffee with the Pastors (May 18 – June 29)  
11:00 AM, Wednesday (Prayers from 7 different Religious Groups)

Intermezzo Singers Summer Concert

St. Hillary's Episcopal Church

6:30 PM, Wednesday, June 1

Free Concert

Singing for the good health of it  
with friends in a dementia-inclusive choir  
featuring a variety of favorite songs  
from Doo-Wop to Broadway

### Memorial Day Weekend Blessing (Responsively)

One: In the quiet sanctuaries of our own hearts, let each of us name and call on the One whose power over us is great and gentle, firm and forgiving, holy and healing ...

**All: God, You, who created us, who sustain us, who call us to live in peace, hear our prayer this day.**

One: Hear our prayer for all who have died, whose hearts and hopes are known to you alone .... Hear our prayer for those who put the welfare of others ahead of their own and give us hearts as generous as theirs .... Hear our prayer for those who gave their lives in the service of others, and accept the gift of their sacrifice ... Help us to shape and make a world where one day we will lay down the arms of war and turn our swords into ploughshares for a harvest of justice and peace .... Comfort those who grieve the loss of their loved ones and let your healing be the hope in our hearts...



**All: Hear our prayer this day and in your mercy answer us in the name of all that is holy.**

One: May the peace of God be with you.

**All: And also, with you! Amen.**

- Slightly adapted from a prayer written by Austin Fleming, found @ <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/memorial-day>

## Postlude

### Fantasia on “America the Beautiful”

Tune: Moderna

Arranged By: Rex Koury

## *Memorial Day Prayer*

*Creator God, it is in a spirit of love and community that we pause on this Memorial Day to remember the lives lost and the lives forever changed. In doing so, may we also remember your great love for us. May we remember that there is no greater demonstration of love than choosing to lay down one's life for another. May our somber celebrations this day honor those who made that choice and the many more willing to do so if called upon. May we remember that even in the darkest days of war, terror, or sorrow, you promise to sustain us, to give us strength, and to provide us with a deep and abiding peace.*

*In safeguarding the legacy of those who paid the ultimate price, may we become ever more vigilant in our love for others, our nation, and the cause of freedom, justice, and peace throughout the world. Amen.*

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
OF CHRIST



*-UCC Chaplain Ted Randall,  
U.S. Army Chaplain at Arlington National Cemetery.*

**Notes and Cards can be sent to Kathy Baumann at:**

**Winkler Court  
Attn: Kathy Baumann,  
3250 Winkler Ave  
Fort Myers, Fl. 33913**

## **PRAYER LIST**

### **Our Church Members:**

Kate Baumann; Roy Shipley; Susan M.;  
Malcolm Youngquist; Jack & Bev Becton; Tom Sherman;

### **Friends & Family:**

Pat Tangusol (Friend of the Church and Quilter);  
KC (Friends of Lori Main);  
Ruth Mackechnie (Extended Family of Caroleah Mackechnie);  
Larry Zeigler (Lana's Husband); Bernice (Friend of Bill Persons);  
Leon & Wes (friends of Patty Newcomer) & Joan (Patty's Mother);  
Lisa and Brian (Bill Person's daughter and son-in-law)

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## **Time With Our Children and Today's Scripture**

**Acts 16:16-34/The Best of a Bad Situation**

By [Lois Parker Edstrom](#)

(Note to Family Members/Care Givers/Teachers/Clergy): This text is difficult for kids. I've pared it down to an element suitable for them.)

The disciple, Paul and his friend, Silas traveled around to different cities telling others about God's love.

Because they were in a different part of the country, in an area that had different laws and customs, there was a misunderstanding and these two men were beaten and thrown into prison. How scary would that be!

Now here is an important lesson that we can apply to our own lives. When they found themselves in prison they may have been frightened and they were undoubtedly in pain from the beating. They probably were angry about what had happened to them, but they did something unexpected.

The story tells us that “about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them” (16:25).

Wow, that seems remarkable. These two men, even though they found themselves in a terrible situation, decided to pray and sing to God. They made a choice to turn to God and give thanks. They made the best of a bad situation. There may be times in your life that will be difficult. You may find yourself in an unfair or frightening situation. At that time, you can make an important decision—you can choose to “pray and sing to God.” You can decide to make the best of a bad situation.

The story tells us that other prisoners listened to Paul and Silas praying and singing. Not only were Paul and Silas strong, they helped the other prisoners understand that they also could pray and stay strong. Making good choices helps us through tough times. Pray and sing to God. Find your strength.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible  
Copyright 2010, Richard Niell Donovan - Adapted from Homiletics Online

***Making good choices helps us through  
tough times. Pray and sing to God.  
Find your strength.***

***These are a few of God's favorite things...***

**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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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  
Organist – Dr. Tony Contino  
Pianist - Barry Pierce*

Website:	<a href="http://www.edisonchurch.com">www.edisonchurch.com</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/EdisonChurch">Facebook.com/EdisonChurch</a>
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Office Phone:	239-334-4978
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