



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

November 27, 2022



Order of Worship

First Sunday of Advent

(** 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

Leslie Baker, Bagpiper

Call To Worship (Responsively)

One: Good morning again, God.

All: Eternal God, who has given us the church and its holy days for our preparation and inspiration.

One: May these days of Advent help keep us focused on whose birthday we celebrate at Christmastime.

All: May the fact that our presence is more important than our presents, and that we can help bring hope, peace and good will to all during our intentional journey through this Advent season,

One: Speak to us today, God

All: Because we are all listening for Your voice in the wishers of angel wings and in the choirs of angels as they sing. Amen.

— adapted from a prayer found in Listening to the Spirit, by John E. Biegert

Opening Advent Carol #72

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
V. 1, 2, 7**

Welcome New Members

One: If able, the new members please remain standing. Everyone else can take a seat. Do you wish to travel spiritually with this Congregation at this time? Do you strive to follow in Jesus's footsteps as you strive to grow in your spiritual faith? If so, say we do.

New Members: We Do.

One: Will you all please stand. Do you promise to travel with our new members spiritually? Do you as a family of faith, welcome these new members? Promise to pray for them and encourage them? If so, please say we do.

All: We do.

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you!
And also, with you!

Advent Carol

Hope, Hope, Hope

Tune: Still, Still, Still
Words By: Ken Bible
Music: Traditional Austrian Melody
Arr. By: Ken Bible

Still, Still, Still - Advent Version



Acknowledging the Light of Hope in our Midst

One: As this season of “sparkle and bright” unfolds before us, the glimmering promises of hope lie like boxed jewels awaiting an adoring light.

All: May we hold fast to hope’s patient possibilities. May we lift them high, that they might catch the light of our dreams, and shine bright in our broken world.

One: And may we instill hope’s challenge in the hearts of our children; that they too, will live it into meaning—pouring their lives, as we do ours, into making it real—for themselves, for each other, for the world.

All: May Hope light the world during our Advent Journey and beyond Christmas this year. Amen.

— adapted from <https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/advent-candle-lighting-readings/>

Prayers of the People and Concerns of the Heart

The 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.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Bob McGee

Bob McGee

Em-man-u - el, Em-man-u - el, his name is called Em-man-u - el. God with us,

11 re - vealed in us, his name is called Em - man - u - el.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Emmanuel, Emmanuel'. It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

A Scripture for the Day

Isaiah 2:1-5

The LORD's Mountain

² This is what Isaiah, Amoz's son, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In the days to come the mountain of the LORD'S house will be the highest of the mountains. It will be lifted above the hills; peoples will stream to it.

³ Many nations will go and say, "Come, let's go up to the LORD's Mountain, to the house of Jacob's God so that He may teach us His ways and we may walk in God's paths." Instruction will come from Zion; the LORD's word from Jerusalem.

⁴ God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war.

⁵ Come, house of Jacob, let's walk by the LORD's light.

-Common English Bible

Here's a Promise We Can Count On

W ZLOBIE LEZY 4.4.7.4.4.7.4.4.4.7 ("Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")

Here's a promise we can count on!
It's the word Isaiah saw:
One day coming, God's own mountain
Will be highest of them all.
All the nations will be yearning
For God's teaching, and returning,
They'll find guidance in God's law.

On that day of celebration,
All will listen to the Lord.
God will judge between the nations
Till all justice is restored.
Out of weapons made for harming
They will fashion tools for farming
And they'll put aside the sword.

One great day, the prophet told us,
God will triumph! It is true.
Lord, we trust this word of promise
As we hear your word anew.
When we're lost among the mountains
Of the world's ways that confound us,
Show the path that leads to you.

Biblical Reference: Isaiah 2:1-5

Tune: Polish melody ("Infant Holy, Infant Lowly") ([MIDI](#))

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Day and hour

³⁶ “But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the heavenly angels and not the Son. Only the Father knows. ³⁷ As it was in the time of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Human One. ³⁸ In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. ³⁹ They didn’t know what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. The coming of the Human One will be like that. ⁴⁰ At that time there will be two men in the field. One will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill. One will be taken and the other left. ⁴² Therefore, stay alert! You don’t know what day the Lord is coming. ⁴³ But you understand that if the head of the house knew at what time the thief would come, he would keep alert and wouldn’t allow the thief to break into his house. ⁴⁴ Therefore, you also should be prepared, because the Human One will come at a time you don’t know.

-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

Gift of Music

Debbie Marino, Vocalist

Prophets Told Us, "Pay Attention!"

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7 ("Angels, from the Realms of Glory")

Prophets told us, "Pay attention! God is working in the land.
Lo, the days are surely coming; seek the justice God has planned!
Seek the signs of your redemption; hear God's word and understand!"

Christ, you taught us: "Pay attention! Nature's signs are sure and clear:
When the trees grow leaves and blossom, summertime is almost here."

So, it is in God's good kingdom; be alert; God's reign is near!

As we welcome your salvation, all around we see distress;
There is trouble in the nations! There is greed and wickedness;
As we trust in your redemption, may we live your righteousness.

May we work for what you call for; may we labor for your reign.
Families cry out at the border; children suffer grief and pain.
May your church, committed, prayerful, work for justice in your name.

Christ, you taught us: "Pay attention!" So, we humbly serve and pray:
May we gladly live your kingdom in a world that's gone astray.
May the hope of our salvation guide the things we do and say.

Biblical References: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36

Tune: Henry Thomas Smart, 1867 ("Angels, from the Realms of Glory") (MIDI)

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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

Leslie Baker, Bagpiper

*** Doxology**

For Advent

Words: Thomas Ken

Music: 15th Century French

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here – below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Life of Our Church

Quilting on Wednesday at 12:00 pm.

**Faith Development will be starting back up on
December 7. We will be listening to:**

“Stories around Christ’s Birth”

**Wednesday at 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary;
Thursday at 11:00 AM Online.**

**Looking for Volunteers for Cathy’s Place and for Ushers. Sign-
up sheets are on the bulletin board if interested.**

**FREE - Magazines are available beside the
library shelves.**

Benediction (responsively)

A Hopeful Benediction

Be people of hope. Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet. Share hope by noticing someone else’s humanity. Share hope by listening to someone’s story. Share hope by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope. As you go out into the wonder of God’s creations, share hope with those you meet. Amen.

<https://www.liturgylink.net/2015/11/23/benedictions-for-advent/>

Postlude

**Leslie Baker, Bagpiper
Pastor Anton, Vocalist**

Amazing Grace

Music Traditional
Words: Sts. 1-5 John Newton

Time With Today's Scripture and Our Children

Following God's Path

Isaiah 2:1-5

By [Lois Parker Edstrom](#)

Today I'd like to talk with you about bighorn sheep. They are huge animals that live high in the mountains of North America. As they grow older their horns curl into a circle and these horns can weigh as much as thirty pounds. That's much more weight than you could lift.

Their hooves are in two parts that separate to allow them to walk and jump on the steep and rocky side of a mountain. The hooves are hard at the outer edges and soft in the middle. This helps them keep their balance and also prevents them from sliding on the slippery rocks. Didn't God think of everything in the way these bighorn sheep were created?

During the summer they stay high up in the mountains and then, in winter, travel down lower on the mountain where there is less snow and more food. When they do this, they travel over the same narrow paths that their parents and grandparents used for many, many years.

You may wonder what bighorn sheep have to do with today's Bible lesson. Listen carefully. The prophet, Isaiah, talked about a place where people could come and worship God. He said that at this place God would "teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths".

What do you think it means to walk in God's paths? Yes, God gives us directions that help us find our way to a good life. When we come to church to worship God we study, we pray, and we learn how to follow God.

Just as the bighorn sheep follow the same path, year after year, we too are given directions to a way that allows us to become the best that we can be. What could be better than walking in God's paths?

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

Be Ready

Matthew 24:36-44

By: [Lois Parker Edstrom](#)

Have you ever been riding in a car when you heard a loud siren and then saw an ambulance speeding by? That usually means someone is in trouble and needs help. The people in the ambulance, who are paramedics or emergency medical technicians, have been trained so they know how to drive fast, but safely, to the scene of an accident or to someone's home where medical help is needed. They have also been trained to give first aid and to care for the person who is ill or injured until they can get that person to a hospital.

If you could look inside an ambulance, you would see that it has many storage compartments. Inside the various compartments are medications, syringes, bandages, surgical gloves, stethoscopes, thermometers, a supply of oxygen and more. It also has a bed on wheels, blankets and pillows. In fact, the inside of an ambulance is like a miniature emergency room.

The emergency workers check their supplies often. They also keep the ambulance clean at all times, so whenever they get a call, they are ready to go. They never know when an emergency might happen so they are always equipped and ready to respond.

The Bible tells us that one day Jesus will return to earth and **“you don't know in what hour your Lord comes”**.

In the meantime, we can make good choices and keep our lives clean, just as an ambulance is kept clean and well equipped. We can, at all times, live our lives in a way that honors God so we will be prepared to meet Him.

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

Worship Theme: - Edison Congregational Church

Advent Season

December 4: **A Vision of Peace – Advent Two – Peace Candle/Isaiah 11:1-10**

December 11: **A Heartbeat of Justice – Advent Three – Joy Candle/Luke 1:46b-55**

December 18: **Preparing for God to Be with Us – Advent Four – Love Candle/Isaiah 7:10-16**

Badges

We will be making badges for anyone that is interested in having one. The badges per unit cost around \$8.00, so to offset the cost, we would appreciate any donations, but it is not necessary. Thanking you in advance for your generosity towards the purchase of these badges.

These badges have a magnetic backing instead of a pin closure.

Please, either call the Church Office at 239-334-4978 between 9:00 - 2:00 Monday through Friday or email: admin@taecc.com the correct spelling/way of how you would like the badge to read. You can either do First Name and Last Initial or both First and Last Name. Once I have the information, I will start making up the badges.



Notes and Cards can be sent to:

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

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Kate Baumann; Roy Shipley; Malcolm Youngquist; Don Cole; Rod Schaffter;
Ian Laughlin; Sherri McIntyre; Pat Jessie; Tom Sherman;
Liz Lloyd; Ian Laughlin; Barry Pierce; Dan Van Riper.

Friends & Family:

Pat Tanguoso (Friend of the Church and Quilter);
KC (Friends of Lori Main);
Larry Zeigler (Lana's Husband); Bernice (Friend of Bill Persons);
Leon & Wes (friends of Patty Newcomer); Joan (Patty's Mother);
Duane (Friend of Tom & Sherrie McIntyre); Shelly (friend of Pastor Anton); Max
(friend of Pastor Anton); Lorene Ellerhoff (Sister-in-law of Joseph Helling);
Betty Denson; Will (Friend of Bill Persons); Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband).

Calendar of upcoming events:

***December 2** – Edison Park Expressive Arts School –
Presentation of: *Sights and sounds of the season*, on the
Church lawn at 12:00. Bring a Chair, Lunch and your Neighbors.



***December 4** – Second Sunday of Advent



***December 9** – Holiday Party – Edison Park Neighborhood
Association at noon. Details to follow.

***December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent**



***December 14 – Women’s Fellowship Christmas Party.** All are welcome. The gathering will be at the church at noon and there will be a fun gift exchange. It will be a pot-luck luncheon. Please RSVP to Gail Courtwright - gailcourtwright26@gmail.com for more details.

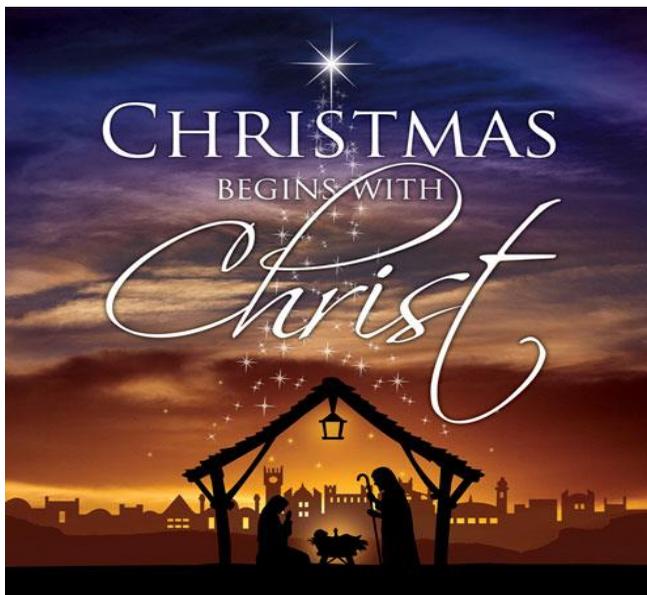
***December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**



***December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship – music starting at 4:30**



***December 25 – Christmas Day service at 10:00**



Ministry Partnership 2022

Below are the organizations that we partner with locally & globally:

Edison Park Elementary School

Operation INASMUCH Fort Myers

South Fort Myers Food Pantry

Mission Peniel

Nations Association Charities

Lee County Military Support

ACT – Abuse, Counseling & Treatment

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

One Great Hour of Sharing

Builders without Borders

Campolo Center for Ministry

Quality of Life Center of SW Florida
(Afghan Refugee Relocation)

Supply and Multiply
(Purchase Solar Lights for Homes in Haiti)

Association with Food, Power Bill's and Prescriptions

Hurricane Ian Local Relief

CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Beginning December 1st, read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each Evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve, you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

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

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*

*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.*

Website:	www.edisonchurch.com
Facebook:	Facebook.com/EdisonChurch
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