



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*MARCH 1, 2026*



# Order of Worship

## *Second 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

Maria Zacharievich, Violin

**Largo**

by Francesco Maria Veracini  
arr. by Mario Corti

### Call to Worship (responsively)

One: God so loved the world ...

**All: That God gave us light.**

One: God so loved the world ...

**All: That God gave us Jesus -- who is the glimpse into the heart of God.**

One: God so loved the world ...

**All: That God gave us abundant and eternal life.**

One: Let us worship in the light of God's love for the world.

**All: And as we encounter Jesus today, may this encounter change our lives forever. Amen.**

~adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online

**Hymn of Faith #13**

**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

**Passing of the Peace**

May Christ be with You on Your Journey!

**And, also with you!**

## **Prayer For God's Guidance on our Journey of Lent (responsively)**

One: The Lord is my Shepherd --

**All: That is Relationship!**

One: I shall not want --

**All: That's Supply!**

One: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures --

**All: That's Rest!**

One: He leadeth me beside the still waters --

**All: That's Refreshment!**

One: He restoreth my soul --

**All: That's Healing!**

One: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness --

**All: That's Guidance!**

One: For His name sake --

**All: That's Purpose!**

One: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death --

**All: That's Testing!**

One: I will fear no evil --

**All: That's Protection!**

One: For Thou art with me --

**All: That's Faithfulness!**

One: Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me --

**All: That's Discipline!**

One: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies --

**All: That's Hope!**

One: Thou anoints my head with oil --

**All: That's Consecration!**

One: My cup runneth over --

**All: That's Abundance!**

One: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life --

**All: That's Blessing!**

One: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord --

**All: That's Security!**

One: Forever Amen. --

**All: That's Eternity! 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.**

—slightly adapted from a prayer found @ <https://www.talkjesus.com/threads/23rd-psalm-with-a-twist.353/>. 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 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God didn't send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

## **1 John 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> This is how we know love: Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> But if someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help—how can the love of God dwell in a person like that?

~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 #330**

**Lets Us Break Bread Together**

## **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 Gluten Free bread.**

**Communion**

**Katy Sumrow, Alto**

**The Lord's Prayer**

by Albert Hay Malotte

**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**

**Katy Sumrow, Alto**

**A Gaelic Blessing**

by John Rutter

**\*\*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**

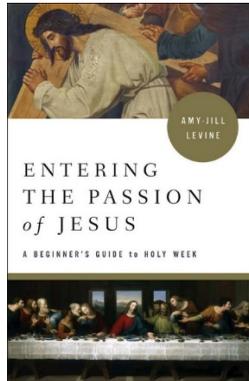
**Dive deep into the history of the last days before the crucifixion.**

**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 this week:**  
**Matthew 21:12–17, Mark 11:15–19,**  
**Luke 19:45–48, John 2:13–16**



**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 & Lourdes Smoot. We would like to  
thank them for this beautiful gift.**

**INASMUCH DAY – March 7, 2026.**  
**JOIN US! SUPPORT US! DONATE!**

**Activity 1-3 Prior to Event, 4-9 Day of Event**

**Donation Opportunities - more details will be forthcoming**

**\*New children's clothing, diapers & pull-ups**

**\*Toiletries**

- \*Adult socks & underwear
- \*Backpacks & duffel bags
- \*Quarters for laundromat (in Fellowship Hall)
- \*Flannel fabric
- \*Home repair & landscape supplies
- \*Greeting card materials, Crayons, stickers

Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, here at the church  
Interfaith Event  
6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Following by dessert and Fellowship  
Reading of the Poem  
The New Colossus  
by Emma Lazarus

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



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

**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)**

**✨ 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.

**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 Women at the Well"  
John 4:5-42**

## **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**

### **Sarabande**

by Georg Friedrich Handel

## **Time With Our Children**

Show the children a round life preserver, connected to a long line. Ask them to imagine being out on a fishing boat on a stormy day, when all of a sudden a fisherman falls overboard, into the ocean. Find out what could be done to save him. Suggest that the life preserver could be thrown to the man in the water, while the line is firmly grabbed by someone on the boat. Explain that both the life preserver and the line are important because the man needs to be kept afloat, while also connected to the boat. Suggest that Jesus is like a life preserver that God throws to us, in order to save us — the Bible says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16). Hold out the life preserver, and have the children grab it — say that when they believe in Jesus, they are grabbing hold of a life preserver from God. Stress that God is holding the other end of the line, and is pulling them toward eternal life in heaven. Emphasize that God gives us Jesus when we are sinking in life and in our own personal problems, and all he asks us to do is to trust Jesus and hang on. Close by saying that life-preserver-Jesus is a completely free gift, thrown to us by a God who loves us.

~Adapted from a Children’s Sermon found @ homiletics online.



**March 1st – Second Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**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



<https://blessingofblankets.com>

**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).

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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.*

