



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*March 9, 2025*



# Order of Worship

## *First Sunday of 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

#### **It Is Well With My Soul**

By: Philip Paul Bliss  
Arr. By: Stephen Brittain

### Opening of Worship (responsively)

One: After He was baptized by John, Jesus went by Himself to the Wilderness where He was tempted. Forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful. Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent, which brings us to face with some of our own internal and external struggles.

**All: Let us worship God and walk the journey together, seeking the Spirit as our guide and companion along the way.**

One: God, you know our hearts. You are attentive in our inmost being and You know our deepest desires, fears and worries.

**All: Help us to journey during this Lenten season into a new awareness of Your presence in our lives. Save us from our own struggles, so that we may more freely follow You.  
Amen.**

— slightly adapted from copyright © Chris Heckert, and posted on his website, Heckert Resources...which doesn't seem to exist anymore. His new blog (I think!) is at Chris Heckert Blog <http://chrisheckertblog.com/>

## Opening Hymn: #151 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days Passing of the Peace

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

Gift of Music

Emi Shannon, Soprano

### Softly and Tenderly

By: Will Thompson

### Prayer of Discipleship (Responsively)

One: Jesus, forty days You were alone, in a wilderness of thoughts, tempting and inviting thoughts, which could so easily have distracted You from Your task, Your mission, Your vision.

**All: Yet You emerged, stronger and more attuned to all that had to be done in your life and Your ministry.**

One: We too live in stressful times. Demands are made of our time, that leave so, little for the important things of life.

**All: We are easily distracted in the wilderness of our lives: by every call to go this way or that; and to turn stone to bread; leap from mountains.**

One: We listen to the voices of this world, and ignore the one who endured all this and so much more, and emerged triumphant, that we might not have to suffer so.

**All: Forgive us, God, when we get distracted from our task. Forgive us those times when we try to be all things to all people, and fail to be anything to anyone. Change our hearts and stir our minds while we are beginning this Lenten journey. Amen.**

— adapted from a poem written by John Birch, and posted on his Faith and Worship; website. <http://www.faithandworship.com/>

## **Prayers of the People and Concerns of the Heart**

### **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 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 Scripture**

**Luke 4:1-13**

### **Jesus' temptation**

**4** Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. **2** There He was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. **3** The devil said to Him, "Since You are God's Son, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." **4** Jesus replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread.*" **5** Next the devil led Him to a high place and showed Him in a single instant all the kingdoms of the world. **6** The devil said, "I will give You this whole domain and the glory of all these kingdoms. It's been entrusted to me, and I can give it to anyone I

want. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, if You will worship me, it will all be Yours.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, “It’s written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only Him.*” <sup>9</sup> The devil brought Him into Jerusalem and stood Him at the highest point of the temple. He said to Him, “Since You are God’s Son, throw Yourself down from here; <sup>10</sup> for it’s written: *He will command His angels concerning you, to protect you* <sup>11</sup> and *they will take you up in their hands so that you won’t hit your foot on a stone.*” <sup>12</sup> Jesus answered, “It’s been said, *Don’t test the Lord your God.*” <sup>13</sup> After finishing every temptation, the devil departed from Him until the next opportunity.

~ 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 Faith #461**

**Just a Closer Walk with Thee**

## **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**

**Emi Shannon, Soprano**

**You Alone**

By: Sarah Hart

## **\*\*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**

**PARABLES -- Putting Jesus's Stories in Their  
Place – Josh Scott**

Read the stories of Jesus in a new light. When Jesus taught in parables, he was doing more than telling simple morality tales. His stories were grounded in the world in which he lived and his vision of the Kingdom of God.

The Parable of the Wine and Wineskins  
The Parable of the Mustard Seed  
The Parable of the Leaven  
The Parable of the Wicked Tenants  
The Parable of the Wedding Party  
The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

### Reading:

Matthew 9:14–17, Mark 2:18–22, and Luke 5:33–39.

Today's flowers are gifted to the church by Jackie Sellers in honor of my Grandchildren on their Birthdays. We would like

to thank her for this beautiful gift.

**Women's Fellowship Meeting**  
will meet on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>  
at noon at the church. The guest speaker  
will be Pastor Jim on, The "We" of Congregationalism.  
Please bring your own lunch – coffee and dessert  
will be provided.

### **EASTER LILY or HYACINTH ORDER FORM**

Each year our worship spaces are adorned with beautiful Lilies and Hyacinth for Easter Sunday. If you would like to order one of these flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out an order form online or pick up a paper from the Fellowship Hall and return it to Cindy in the church office.

Lilies are \$12.00 each and Hyacinth's are \$9.00 each. We encourage you to take your flower home after services on Easter Sunday. You can make your check out to: TAECC. You can mail to church or drop off at the office after Sunday services. If you want to drop off the check during the week, the office is open Monday – Friday 9AM – 1PM.

Name and phone number:

Email:

Which flower would you like to order

In memory of:

In honor of:

Given by:

**We are hoping to have an Easter lunch here at the church again after the service. Please stay tuned**

for further details.

For next week's God's word:  
Second Sunday in Lent  
Luke 13:31-35

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board to donate  
flowers to enhance our other Sunday Service.

## Benediction/Blessing for Our Journey of Faith (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

## Time with our Children

### Jesus' Temptation

By Dell Smith Klein

**Luke 4:1-13**

What's your favorite food? (Give children time to respond.) Maybe you like  
pizza, or hamburgers, or ice cream. Just talking about food makes you hungry,  
doesn't it? Ummm, I'd like to have a pizza right now.

One time Jesus was taken into the wilderness. Jesus was there and He didn't have  
any food with Him. That's when the devil began to tempt Jesus. Do you know what  
the word "tempt" means? (Allow the children to respond.) To be tempted is when we  
think we might want to do something that we know we should not do, like telling a lie,  
or taking something that belongs to someone else.

Jesus didn't have food with Him, and He was hungry. The devil tempted Jesus turn  
the stones into bread. Jesus was hungry, but He refused to turn stones into bread.



From the very top of the temple, the devil told Jesus to jump off. The devil said the angels would keep Jesus from being hurt. What could have happened if Jesus had jumped off the roof? (Allow the children to respond – they might say “break his leg,” or “get hurt”.) Yes, Jesus might have been hurt or even killed. Jesus didn’t jump.

The next time the devil tempted Jesus, they were on a high mountain, and the devil said that everything that Jesus could see would be His if he would worship the devil. Jesus didn’t listen to the devil.

When He was tempted to turn the stones into bread, Jesus said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’” (Luke 4:4 WEB)

When Jesus was tempted to worship the devil, Jesus spoke very. He said, “Get behind me Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and you shall serve Him only.’” (Luke 4:8)

Aren’t you glad that Jesus reminded the devil that God had already made sure that those temptations were taken care of in the Holy Bible? What were the important words that Jesus said? (Pause to listen for their responses.) Yes, “It is written....”

When Jesus was tempted, He found help in a book? That book was the Bible.

When He said, “It is written,” He meant, “It is written in the Bible.” Because Jesus knew the Bible so well, He was able to use it to help Him stand when the Devil was trying to get Him to fall.

If the Bible could help Jesus like that, it can help us too. That’s one reason we study the Bible—because it can help us when we need help.

When we are tempted to do things, we know we should not do, we can say, “It is written, I’m not supposed to do that.” Let’s pray.

#### PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for the Holy Bible. Thank You for giving us words to say when we are tempted. We are glad that we can defeat temptation with Jesus’ words. Amen.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible, Copyright 2012, [Richard Niell Donovan](#)

**March 9<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 16<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Third Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 30<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**April 13<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday (10:00 AM)**

**April 17<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday (6:30 PM)**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday (6:30 PM)**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter (10:00 AM)**

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

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

## **PRAYER LIST**

### **Our Church Members:**

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; Sharlene Dozier;  
Barbara Buch; Bill Persons; Ian Laughlin; Jack Walmsley;  
Duane Gardner (Hospice Care); Erleene Sanders;  
Ronni Haston; Lori McMullen.

### **Friends & Family:**

Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Jim Marc-Aurele (Lou & Carol's son); Bob and Darlene Kulesza (Bob is Carol Marc-Aurele's brother); Michele Baron (friends of Rod Schaffter and Carol Skaza); Jim and Mary Pat Willis (friends of Carol & Ned Downing and Malcolm Youngquist); Linda Pekkarinen (Friend of Tee & Flo Newbrough); Jeannie Martin (Friend of Erleene Sanders), Hunter and Family ( Friend of Jean Long); Stanley Helling (Brother of Joe Helling); Andrew (age 11) Grandson of dear friends of (Tee & Flo Newbrough); Paula Brown (Sister of Roger Yergeau; Fred & Natalie Johnson (friend of Rod Schaffter & Carol Skaza).

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

---

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 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<br>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.*



CCLI Copyright License for Music and Video # 11164399; Live-Streaming License #20628968