



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

MAY 17, 2026



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

Maria & Danylo Zacharievich, Violins
Concerto in D Minor for 2 violins
by J. S. Bach

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Gracious God, we gather this morning in this house of worship which,

All: Thanks to Your love, is our home away from home.

One: We come to add our human voices

All: To the chorus of praise raised by Your creation!

One: We come as we are – distracted and weary, hopeful and open –

All: Knowing that You accept us and are ever mindful of our cares and joys.

One: Still in us now the many voices that clamor for attention,

All: That we might center ourselves upon You.

One: Speak to us in word and melody and quiet,

All: That we may be renewed in our faith and strengthened for Your service. Amen.

~Slightly adapted from a prayer found @ <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au>

Hymn #27

How Great Thou Art!
Verses 1, 2, & 3

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music

Emi Shannon, Soprano

The Impossible Dream

by Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion

arr. by Mark Hayes

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: Let the sun come down and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.

All: Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.

One: Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.

All: Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.

One: Let it burn away the fog so that so that we can see each other clearly.

All: So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color.

One: Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness, so that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors.

All: And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.

One: Let the earth nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty.

All: And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven. Amen

~Slightly adapted from A Prayer for the World by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, April 3, 1935 – April 27, 2023; Prayer Written: 2/17/2021

Song of Prayer

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

Music: Leonard Cohen
Songwriters: One Voice Children's Choir

Prayers 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.

Song of Prayer

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

Music: Leonard Cohen
Songwriters: One Voice Children's Choir

Today's Scripture

John 17:1-11

Jesus prays

When Jesus finished saying these things, He looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son can glorify You. ² You gave Him authority over everyone so that He could give eternal life to everyone You gave Him. ³ This is eternal life: to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I shared with You before the world was created.

⁶ "I have revealed Your name to the people You gave Me from this world. They were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they

know that everything You have given Me comes from You. ⁸ This is because I gave them the words that You gave Me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

⁹ “I’m praying for them. I’m not praying for the world but for those You gave Me, because they are Yours. ¹⁰ Everything that is Mine is Yours and everything that is Yours is Mine; I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to You. Holy Father, watch over them in Your name, the name You gave Me, that they will be one just as We are one.

~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 #363

It Is Well with My Soul

Verses 1, 2, & 4

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

I Know He lives

by Linda Chapman and Bonnie Heidenreich

**** 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 on Wednesday at noon

Faith Development

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

The Book of James

**Learn the Bible, Grow Closer to God,
And Grow as a Person.**

**A Bible study from the book written
by: Mark David Albertson**

Readings:

James 3:1-12

**Today's flowers are gifted to the church
Cheryl Ellis in honor for all mothers,
grandmothers, aunts, etc. We would like to
thank her for this beautiful gift.**

Sunday, May 17th

**Lori McMullen will be offering Blood Pressure checks.
Blood Pressure Screening is an important part of health
maintenance. All are encouraged to do this.**

**For next week's God's word:
Acts 2:1-8 & 12-21, 2 Thessalonians 3:10,
Luke 12:19-20, 1 Corinthians 8:1, Proverbs
11:1, 1 Corinthians 13:2, Amos 5:21-24, &
Proverbs 29:2**

**Women's Fellowship lunch – Ginger Bistro
At 12:15 on Wednesday, May 20th.**

Birthday Celebration – Sunday, May 31st

If you are interested in helping with setting out the food and drinks for the Birthday Celebration, a Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. You will be responsible for setting up, serving and cleaning up after the Birthday Celebration.

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

Free magazines are available behind the kitchen door next to the library shelves. Donations are welcome.

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.

Benediction (responsively)

“The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love. May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone. Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor. May your hands be so blessed that everything you touch is a sacrament. Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love. May your feet be so blessed you run to those who need you. And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love, your love, changes everything”. **AMEN**

— Black Rock Prayer Book, often attributed to Episcopal priest Brian Baker; Used at Burning Man Festival as a blessing.

Postlude

Postlude on St. Anne

by Gordon Young

Time with our Children

Finishing the Work

By Lois Parker Edstrom

John 17:1-11

Mary Cassatt is an artist who lived in the 1800s. Although she never married and had no children, she liked painting pictures of mothers and children. The mother and child are close to each other. The mother holds the child's hand and kisses her. You can feel the love these two have for each other.

Can you imagine this picture if the artist had not included the mother in the painting? Can you imagine this picture if the child was not a part of the painting? No, the picture would not seem complete. The artist, Mary Cassatt, worked on this painting until the mother and child, their expressions, the colors, the light, and the background, are all in harmony. She worked until those viewing the painting can feel what is happening in the picture. It is complete; a work of art. Art like this can be a way of bringing honor to God.

When Jesus was on earth He prayed to God and said, **“I glorified You on the earth. I have accomplished the work which You have given Me to do”**. The work that Jesus was given to do while He was on earth was to show us God's love. He did that in many ways by performing miracles, healing the sick, and giving His life for us. He honored God by remaining here until His work was finished.

We all have special work to do. As you are growing and becoming an adult, it is important that you find what it is that you are meant to do. One of your friends may become a teacher, another may own a store. One may become a truck driver, another may be an artist. Through our work we all have an opportunity to honor God.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
Copyright 2007, Richard Niell Donovan

May's Faith and Wellness Newsletter

“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest”
Matthew 11:28

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Your mental health matters just as much as your physical well-being. If you've been feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, or just “off,” it might be a sign that prioritizing mental health needs to be at the top of your to-do list. Taking care of your mind is essential for a happy, balanced life. Prioritizing mental health means recognizing when stress, anxiety, or burnout is taking over and then making intentional changes to support your well-being.

Using the 5 C's of mental health can help you maintain a healthy mindset and emotional well-being.

The 5 C's of Mental Health

1. **Clarity** – When you prioritize mental health, you gain clarity on your thoughts, emotions, and goals, making it easier to navigate life.
2. **Connection** – Reach out to friends, family, or professionals for support rather than withdrawing.
3. **Coping** – If you find yourself relying on unhealthy habits (like overeating, overspending, or excessive scrolling), it's a sign to prioritize mental health and develop healthier ways to manage stress.
4. **Control** – Taking small, intentional steps—like setting boundaries, practicing mindfulness, or seeking professional help—can help you regain a sense of control over your emotions and decisions.
5. **Compassion** – Be kind to yourself. If you're constantly criticizing yourself or setting unrealistic expectations, it's time to practice self-compassion and treat yourself with the same kindness you'd offer a friend.
1. **Better Emotional Resilience** – When you prioritize mental health, you build resilience, meaning you can handle challenges and setbacks more effectively without feeling completely overwhelmed.

Improving mental health involves a combination of self-care, physical health, and social connection. Key strategies include practicing mindfulness, maintaining a regular sleep schedule, exercising regularly, nurturing relationships, and setting boundaries with social media. Engaging in hobbies and seeking professional help when needed are also crucial.

See the checklist posted on the bulletin board for more tips on protecting your mental health.

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.

May class curriculum Faith Formation

May 17th – Jesus Promises a Helper – John 14:15-21

May 31st – The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20

May 17th Blood Pressure Clinic

Lori McMullen RN-FCN



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; Jean Long;
Phyllis Contino; 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); Edward Yergeau (brother of Roger Yergeau); Ben Collens - stationed in Qatar (friend of Martha Jean Long).

***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
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.

