



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*FEBRUARY 15, 2026*



# Order of Worship *Mardi Gras Sunday*

\*\* 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

#### **Amazing Grace**

Arr. by Hal H. Hopson

### Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Your church gathers, God, in Virginia and Mozambique, in Brazil and to the ends of the earth. Your church gathers, God, in city and country, in suburbs and slums, in sanctuaries and buildings, under trees and by streams of water.

#### **All: Lift Every Voice and Sing**

One: Your people gather to praise You, God, in English and in Portuguese, with organ and guitar and drum, with voices of young and old, with song and with silence, with dance and with prayer.

#### **All: Lift Every Voice and Sing**

One: Your people praise You, God, for hope in the midst of despair, for strength in times of weakness, for justice in situations of oppression, for courage in the face of fear, for life in the midst of death.

#### **All: Lift Every Voice and Sing**

One: We are the people who call You God.

#### **All: Lift Every Voice and Sing.**

~ adapted from a prayer written by Kristin Holbrook, Brazil 2008. From a collection of calls to worship on the **Roanoke UMC** website. <http://www.roanokeumc.org/>

## Hymn of Faith #602

## Lift Every Voice and Sing

### Passing of the Peace

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

### Gift of Music

**Dr. Dan Davis, Saxophone**

### **Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel**

Traditional African-American Spiritual  
arr. by William Graham Dawson, Jr.

### Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: We believe in God --

who brings forth life from death, joy from sorrow, blessing out of disaster;  
who meets us behind our closed hearts and speaks a word of peace;  
who is known in the simple act of breaking bread, gathering around a table;

**All: Who never forgets our name, who feels our pain, who renews our lives from the inside out.**

One: We believe in the risen Christ -- who bears wounds so that we might not hide from our own; who is present to us in our loneliness, our fear, our doubt;

**All: Who embraced the hard questions, faced death's door and walked ahead into every experience so we might know we have a Companion on the way.**

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit -- who is as close to us as the air we breathe; who inspires the church to be a beacon of light, an oasis of peace and a fountain of joy; who blows free as the wind, touching souls, chasing away the blues, setting loose an alleluia.

**All: Because we believe in all this and so much more, we shout alleluia as we live as a people of God. Amen.**

~adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online.

## **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**

#### **When the Saints Go Marching In**

Arr. By: Stephen F. Key

**O when the saints go marching in,  
O when the saints go marking in,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in.**

**O when the sun refused to shine,  
O when the sun refused to shine,  
O Lord, I want to be in the number  
When the sun refused to shine.**

**O when they crown Him Lord of all,  
O when they crown Him Lord of all,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number  
When they crown Him Lord of all.**

## **Today's Scripture**

## **Psalm 150**

Hallelujah! Praise God in His holy house of worship,

Praise Him under the open skies;

Praise Him for His acts of power,

Praise Him for His magnificent greatness;

Praise with a blast on the trumpet,

Praise by strumming soft strings;

Praise Him with castanets and dance,

Praise Him with banjo and flute;

Praise Him with cymbals and a big bass drum,

Praise Him with fiddles and mandolin.

Let every living, breathing creature praise God!

Hallelujah!

~The Message

## **Response to the Sharing of God's Story**

The Story of God for the People of God!

**Thanks Be to God!**

## **Pastoral Words**

## **Song of Response**

**Stephen Brittain, Piano**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

~slightly adapted prayer from: Mac Campbell's Easter Lyrics to Leonard Cohen's anthem "Hallelujah"  
~and slightly adapted from Prayers found @Homileticsonline

## **Pastoral Words**

### **Hymn of Praise #383**

**There is a Balm in Gilead**

### **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**

**Dr. Dan Davis, Saxophone**

**Were You There?/There Is a Balm in Gilead**

African American Spiritual  
Arr. by Brant Adams

### **\*\*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**

**NO Quilting on Wednesday**

**NO Faith Development  
Next Wednesday or Thursday**

**Today's flowers are gifted to the church**

**by Cheryl Ellis. We would like to thank her  
for this beautiful gift.**

**Edison Church Luncheon for 8 will meet on  
February 15th at Pinchers Restaurant, on the  
first floor near the elevators right after church  
service. If you have any questions, please see  
Jack Walmsley or call him at 720-292-7043.**

**Wednesday - February 18, 2025  
Women's Fellowship – "Winter Auction"  
at the church. This is to help support the  
Children's Ministry. Accepting donations.  
Bring your own lunch at noon and Auction will  
start right after lunch around 1:00pm.**

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Lori McMullen will be offering Blood Pressure checks.  
Blood Pressure Screening is an important part of health  
maintenance. All are encouraged to do this.**

**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:  
First Sunday in Lent**

**INASMUCH DAY – March 7, 2026, - 3 more Saturdays.**

**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**

## **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**

### **Jubilate**

By Gordon Young

## **Time With Our Children**

Kids can participate in Lent through simple, daily actions focused on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Engaging activities include donating toys, doing extra chores, offering daily prayers, practicing kindness, reducing screen time, and participating in Lenten crafts or reading Bible stories. These actions help children understand sacrifice and service.

## Acts of Kindness & Almsgiving (Giving)

**Donate:** Set aside toys, books, or clothes for charity.

**Service:** Do a sibling's chore, help with dishes, or make someone's bed.

**Kindness:** Smile at everyone, write letters to veterans or sick relatives, and pay someone a compliment.

**Community:** Create "blessing bags" for the homeless, feed birds, or pick up litter.

**Save:** Donate coins from a piggy bank to a church or charity.

## Fasting & Self-Discipline (Giving Up)

**Screens:** Limit video games (e.g., no Roblox or Fortnite on school days) or TV time.

**Sweets:** Give up candy, soda, or dessert except on Sundays.

**Behavior:** No complaining, whining, or begging.

**Comfort:** Give up a favorite chair or blanket or skip headphones.

## Prayer & Preparation (Taking Up)

**Daily Prayer:** Memorize a new prayer or read one Bible story every night.

**Devotion:** Attend Stations of the Cross, light a candle at church, or make a Lenten paper chain.

**Gratitude:** Create a jar to list things they are grateful for each day.

**Activities:** Use a Lenten calendar, make crafts, or "bury the Alleluia" (hiding the word until Easter).

## Tips for Success

**Keep it Simple:** For young kids, choose one small, manageable action per day.

**Use Visuals:** Put ideas in a jar or hang a checklist on the fridge.

**Focus on Love:** Emphasize that these actions are to show love for God and others, not just rules.

## HALLELUJAH AROUND THE WORLD

Hebrew: הללויה (Halleluyah)

Latin/Italian/French: Alleluia

German: Halleluja

Swedish: Halleluja

Finnish: Halleluja

Greek: Αλληλούια (Allēlouia)

Swahili: Haleluya

Arabic: هلولويا (Halleluyah)

Ukrainian: Алілуя, Aliluja / Aliluya

Klingon: Dajath'a

Liberian Kreyol: "Hal-le-lu-ya"

Sotho/Tswana: Haleluya

English: Hallelujah, Alleluia

Spanish: Aleluya

Dutch: Hallelujah

Danish: Halleluja

Chinese: 哈利路亚 (Hālìlùyà)

Korean: 할렐루야 (Halleluyah)

Hindi: ह ललू याह (Haleluyah)

Portuguese: Aleluia

Belarusian: Добры дзень вам

Creole: Alelouya

isiZulu / Ndebele: Haleluya

**February 18<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday (6:30 PM)**

**\*Drive through Ashes available from Pastor Anton and  
Pastor Jim from 11:00 AM – 12:00 noon or join us  
for our worship service at 6:30 PM**

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> – First Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> – Second Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 8<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fifth Sunday of Lent (10:00 AM)**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday (10:00 AM)**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maundy Thursday (6:30 PM)**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday (6:30 PM)**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter (10:00 AM)**

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

**General Dozier  
Barrington Terrace, of Ft. Myers  
9731 Commerce Center Ct., Room #326  
Fort Myers, FL. 33908**

**Ms. Marth Jean Long  
7133 Almendro Terr #2  
Fort Myers, FL. 33907**

**Mr. Bill Person  
Calusa Harbour Assisted Living  
2525 First St, Room 233  
Fort Myers, FL 33901**

## **PRAYER LIST**

**Our Church Members:**

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier;

Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Bill Persons;  
Sharon Nelson; Martha Jean Long;  
Charly Gwiz (passing of her father Charles);  
Tom Smoot and family (the passing of his uncle Ben).

## **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.*



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