



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

APRIL 5, 2026



Order of Worship

Easter 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

Rachel Cox, Violin

Prelude From Te Deum

By Marc-Antoine Charpentier
Arr. by Latham

Call to Worship (responsively)

Opening Prayer...

One: Christ is risen; our loads are lifted, and the path is cleared! Light rises over us as Jesus overcomes darkness and death. We need not struggle alone, pushing through pain, stumbling on our mistakes and trying to walk life's way unaided.

All: Lent is over, Easter has come, and our road is new. We are Loved; Jesus leads the way! Thank You, O God! Amen.

One: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Amen.

~Found @ homiletics online

Hymn #183

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Words: Latin, 14th c.

Music: Easter Hymn, from *Lyra Davidica*

**Je-sus Christ is ris'n to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
Our tri-um-phant ho-ly day, Al-le-lu-ia!
Who did once, up-on the cross, Al-le-lu-ia!**

Suf-fer to re-deem our loss, Al-le-lu-ia!
Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al-le-lu-ia!
Un-to Christ, our heav'n-ly King, Al-le-lu-ia!
Who en-dured the cross and grave, Al-le-lu-ia!
Sin-ners to re-deem and save, Al-le-lu-ia!

But the pains which He en-dured, Al-le-lu-ia!
Our sal-va-tion hath pro-cured, Al-le-lu-ia!
Now a-bove the sky He's King, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where the an-gels ev-er sing, Al-le-lu-ia!

Sing we to our God a-bove, Al-le-lu-ia!
Praise e-ter-nal as His love, Al-le-lu-ia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'n-ly host, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost, Al-le-lu-ia!

Passing of the Peace

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

Gift of Music

Katy Sumrow, Alto

Joyful Sound

By W. J. Kirkpatrick, Charles H. Gabriel and Priscilla Owens

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: God of life, thank You for empty tombs.

**All: Thank You that death does not have the final word,
ever.**

One: We pray for all who find it difficult to believe in new life
this Easter morning: victims of natural disasters, or terrorism,
those who are caught in financial hardship, or webs of addiction,
those who are struggling with sickness or are weighed down with
depression. Especially we pray for people on the edge of war,

terrorist attacks, people who feel that violence is the answer that will bring change, people with guns and bombs and plans to use them...Lord in Your mercy, show them another way.

All: We pray for our own communities—show us places where we can work for peace, reaching out to those who are desperate and hurting. Thank You that You are working every day in every way, new life bursting forth where it seems there is only death, surprising us with hope and delight.

One: Be with those of us today who are meeting with family, and those of us who will spend a quiet day;

All: In everything we do or say, we want to give glory to Jesus who is risen, risen indeed. Alleluia, Amen.

~Found @ Carol Penner Worship Recourses; Mennonite voice for ears of all kinds

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.

Gift of Music

Rachel Cox, Violin

Adoration

By Felix Borowski

God's Story for The Day

John 20:1-10

Empty tomb

20 Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus

loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put Him.” ³ Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. ⁴ They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. ⁵ Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn’t go in. ⁶ Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷ He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus’ head. It wasn’t with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. ⁸ Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ They didn’t yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Gift of Music

Katy Sumrow, Alto

Make a Joyful Noise

Worlds from Psalm 98:4-9

Music by Mark Hayes

Jesus appears to Mary

John 20:11-18

¹¹ Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. ¹³ The angels asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” She replied, “They have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they’ve put Him.” ¹⁴ As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?” Thinking He was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him and I will get Him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni” (which means *Teacher*). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold on to Me, for I haven’t yet gone up to My Father. Go to My brothers and sisters and tell them, ‘I’m going up to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, “I’ve seen the Lord.” Then she told them what He said to her.

Common English Bible

Response to the Sharing of God’s Story

The Story of God for the People of God!
Thanks Be to God!

Hymn of Praise #192

Because He Lives

Words: Gloria Gaither and William J. Gaither

Music: William J. Gaither

**God sent His Son, they called Him Je-sus,
He came to love, heal, and for-give;
He lived and died to buy my par-don,
an emp-ty grave is there to prove my Sav-ior lives.**

**Be-cause He lives I can face to-mor-row,
be-cause He lives, all fear is gone;
be-cause I know He holds the fu-ture.
And life is worth the liv-ing just be-cause He lives.
And then one day I'll cross the riv-er,
I'll fight life's fi-nal war with pain;
and then as death gives way to vic-tory,
I'll see the lights of glo-ry and I'll know He lives.**

**Be-cause He lives I can face tom-or-row,
be-cause He lives, all fear is gone;
be-cause I know He holds the fut-ure.
And life is worth the liv-ing just be-cause He lives.**

A Trialogue of Easter Haikus

One: Stone rolled far away,
Love breaks out of the cold tomb,
Rise and serve the world.

**All: Fear cannot hold us,
New life blooming in the cracks,
Justice finds its dawn.**

One: Yes! More empty tombs,
Spirit dancing in the street,
Hope is here and now.

**All: In forgiving debts,
In unlocking unwept tears,
We experience Easter.
Amen.**

~Easter Progressive Christian Haiku's written with the help of Google AI

Hymn of Praise #186

The Day of Resurrection!

Music by: William Henry Monk

**The day of res-ur-rec-tion! Earth, tell it out a-broad;
the Pass-o-ver of glad-ness, the Pass-o-ver of God.
From death to life e-ter-nal, from sin's do-min-ion free,
our Christ hath brought us o-ver, with hymns of vic-to-ry.**

**Our hearts be pure from e-vil, that we may see a-right
the Lord in rays e-ter-nal of res-ur-rec-tion light;
and, lis-t'ning to His ac-cents, may hear, so calm and plain.
His own "all hail" and, hear-ing, may raise the vic-tor strain.**

**Now let the heav'ns be joy-ful! Let earth her song be-gin!
The world re-sound in tri-umph, and all that is there-in;
let all things seen and un-seen their notes in glad-ness blend;
for Christ the Lord hath ris-en, our joy that hath no end.**

Pastoral Words

Easter Statement of Faith (sung/spoken responsively)

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

We believe in God --
who works in the hidden stillness of every dawn; who beckons us to visit the
tomb of our fears so, we might discover the birth of hope;
who sends reoccurring dreams, fragrant flowers, good friends
and bright angels with messages of joy and possibility.

We believe in Jesus, the risen Christ –
who meets us on every path; who greets us with respect, names and calms our
fears, and bids us walk and talk as children of the Light;
who is always going before us into our workplace and in our play spaces.

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

We believe in the Holy Spirit --
who gathers us into a kindred community; who works through the lame and the
late, the wrinkled and the newborn, the hurting and the hopeful;
who nudges our prayers, kindles our longings and prompts our praise.

We believe we are called to be Easter people --
challenging despair with glowing hope, acting peacefully in the midst of painful
good Fridays, and living joyfully even in the midst of harsh realities. We believe in
the church --the passing of the peace, the ringing of the bells for worship,
the hearty singing, the joyous laughter and the passionate, caring fellowship of
seekers and finders. This we believe because we are Easter people.

**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 @Homileticonline

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
Rachel Cox, Violin**

Canon of Joy, Based on “ Canon in D”

By J. Pachelbel and
“ Ode to Joy “

By Ludwig van Beethoven,
Arr. by Michael Scott

****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

NO Quilting on Wednesday.

NO Faith Development this week.

**Communion for April will be on
Sunday, April 12th.**

**For next week's
God's word:
John 20:19-31**

**FYI - Edison Park Centennial Celebration -
on April 12, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM. There will be
a resident's parade, along with FMHS Marching Band,
EP School Drum Group and EP School Violin Mini Recital.
All are welcome**

**Women's Fellowship – April 15th –
at noon at the church and the speaker will be
Grace Miller from EHC Global Farm.
All women are welcome.**

**Free Concert: Battles of the Sopranos
Here at the church on April 17th, 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.**

**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)

As you leave the sanctuary, recall that there is
Life after death.

Love yourself and your neighbor —

Exclaiming often that the source of life is God who
Loves all creation!

Use your talents to make the world an “Easter place,”

Integrating “resurrection newness” into your thinking and your decisions.
Align yourself with the living Christ who invites you and me to spiritual adventure.
(an acrostic on “alleluia”)

~Found @ homiletics online

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED DURING POSTLUDE

Postlude

**Alena Michel, Organ
Stephen Brittain, Piano**

Duet on Hallelujah from Messiah

By: G .F. Handel

Arr. By: A. Michel and S. Brittain

Time with our Children

A Happy Surprise

John 20:1-18

By Lois Parker Edstrom

A surprise is when something happens that you don't expect. Some surprises can be scary. Suppose you are blowing up a balloon and it suddenly pops. You don't expect that to happen and when it does the loud noise may frighten you.

That's a scary surprise. The same thing can happen if your brother, sister, or a friend hops out from behind a door and says, “Boo!” You may scream and jump back.

Then there are happy surprises. We like those the best. Perhaps friends you haven't seen for a long time come to visit, your family plans a surprise birthday party for you, or a new puppy arrives at your house. You may have received 100 percent on a test at school when you didn't expect it, won a contest, or found a new friend. These are all pleasant surprises. Have any of you had happy surprises happen? (Ask this question, time permitting.)

Probably the biggest surprise in all of history occurred to Mary Magdalene. She is a woman who knew Jesus and she was very sad when He died. Here is what the Bible tells us about her story: “... Mary was standing outside at the tomb (of Jesus) weeping” (20:11).

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying.... They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” (20:13).

She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they have laid Him” (20:13). “When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing (there)...” (20:14).

Can you imagine what a surprise it must have been for Mary to see Jesus again after He had died? Jesus said to Mary, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to My God and your God”(20:17).

At Easter time this is the happy surprise that we talk about – that Jesus rose from the dead and went to be with God in heaven. This is the happy surprise that makes us Christians. This is the happy surprise of God’s love.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible, Copyright 2008, [Richard Niell Donovan](#)



Easter Flowers

- In memory of: Barbara Person
Given by: William Persons
- In gratitude of: For everyone helping in my time of need
Given by: Martha J. Long
- In memory of: my mother, Patricia Ellis
Given by: Cheryl Ellis, daughter
- In honor of: our Granddaughter Heidi Kinsey who is graduating from
college in June.
Given by: Hugh and Liz Kinsey
- In memory of: Harold and Lorraine Perry
Given by: Preston Perry
- In memory of: Charles & Carolyn Simpson (parents)
Given by: Kathy Bolen
- In memory of: Harry & Ione Sherman, Charles & Gloria Wade
In honor of: Marcus Nichols & Rachel Morgan of their marriage March 28th
Given by: Tom & Janice Sherman
In memory of: Rev. Dr & Mrs. Robert J. Laughlin
Given by: Ian Laughlin
- In memory of: Richard Kennedy
Given by: Sherry Gunsett, Josh & Jacob Kennedy
- In memory of: Beloved family members
Given by: Denise Hagge
- In memory of: Anita Toole & Harold Toole, Jim Harper Jr.
Given by: Jim, Tina & Camryn Harper
- In honor of: Judy Harper and Gwen Ashenden
Given by: Jim, Tina & Camryn Harper
- In memory of: Conrad & Mary Schmidt (parents)
In memory of: Decker and Cavel Hawk (parents)
Given by: Mike Schmidt & Rick Hawk

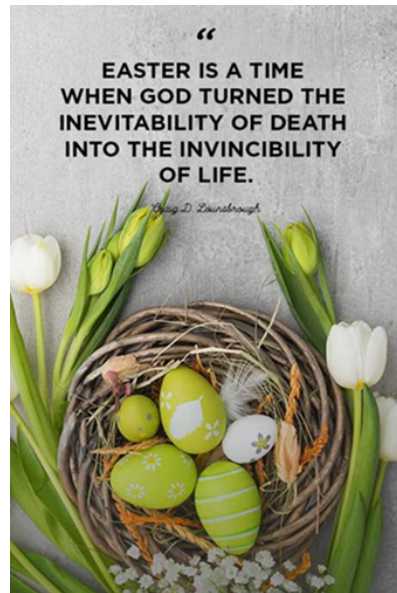
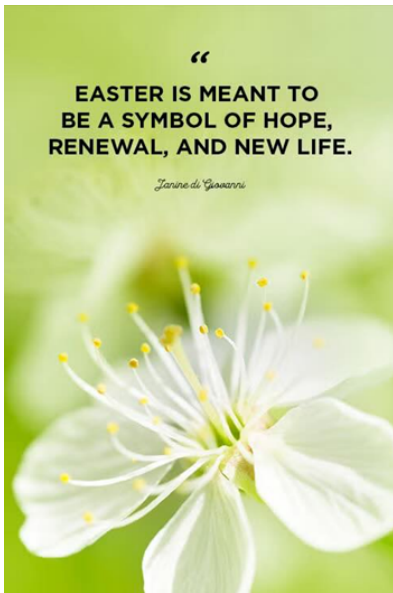
In memory of:	Betsey Pierce – Godmother
In memory of:	Bob Lucas - partner
Given by:	Mike Schmidt & Rick Hawk
In memory of:	Joe Macaluso - friend
Given by:	Mike Schmidt & Rick Hawk
In memory of:	Our loved ones
Given by:	Domnick & Frances Minella
In memory of:	Pat & Gene Moss (parents) Darrell Moss (brother)
Given by:	Teri Martin
In memory of:	Vince & Peggy Mullarkey (parents)
In memory of:	Bill & Grace Summers (parents)
Given by:	Tim & Ellen Mullarkey
In memory of:	Roger & Rose Yergeau and Paula Brown
Given by:	Roger Yergeau
In memory of:	Margaret Allen (mother)
Given by:	Karen Doyle
In memory of:	Family and Friends
Given by:	Sandy Cole
In memory of:	Ora & Grace Vergin (parents)
In memory of:	Ernie & Opal Morgan (parents)
Given by:	Jim & Mary Jane Vergin
In memory of:	Steven DiMaria & Dorothy Peterson
Given by:	Faith DiMaria & Lisa Peterson
Given by:	In Thanksgiving for Family
	Fred & Diana Kizer
In memory of:	Pat Haston & Frank Haston
Given by:	Ronni & Greg Haston
In honor of:	The Gallo and Kizer Families
Given by:	Jeff, Jennifer & Kayden Gallo
In honor of:	Madeleine Deragon
In memory of:	Gerald R. Deragon
Given by:	Cynthia Deragon

In honor of: Hutson and Thelma Lundy, my parents that did so much for me
Given by: Pat Jessie

In memory of: loved ones no longer in my life
Given by: Pat Jessie

In honor of: Rose (mother)
Given by: Jim O'Brien

In memory of: Carol (sister)
Given by: Jim O'Brien



Wellness Newsletter

April Faith and Wellness Newsletter

April 2026



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”

Romans 15:13

April is Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Month. Routine cancer screenings can mean better outcomes for your health, more treatment options, and more time with the people you love.

Talk with your health care provider about any personal or family history of cancer or other risk factors to determine if you should begin cancer screenings at an earlier age or be tested more frequently. Having one or more family members with a history of certain cancers, including breast, colorectal and prostate cancers, may place you at higher risk for the development of cancer.

Suggested screenings include:

- **Breast and Cervix**
- **Colorectal**
- **Lung**
- **Prostate and Testicle**
- **Oral**
- **Skin**



Blood Pressure Clinic on April 19th

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

Edison Church and Our Ministry Partnerships.

Ministry Partnerships 2024

Edison Park Elementary School (total value \$2,750.00)

Operation INASMUCH Fort Myers (\$3,800.00)

South Fort Myers Food Pantry

Mision Peniel

Nations Association Charities

ACT – Abuse, Counseling & Treatment

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

One Great Hour of Sharing

Builders without Borders

Campolo Center for Ministry

Local outreach with Food, Power Bill's and Prescriptions

Center for Sight, a US Eye Company, Ahuachapan, El Salvador

Eye and Medical Care

Guardian ad Litem – 316 books collected

1,020 Egg Cartons for Mision Peniel

230 Toys for the farm workers kids for Christmas

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; Jack Walmsley;
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.*

