



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

June 11, 2023



Order of Worship

Second Sunday of the Growing Season

** 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

I Want to be a Christian

Arr By: Mary McCarthy

Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: Beckoning God, You, call each of us by name and set us on this journey of life together.

All: Grant that we will hear when You call us, to new destinations and challenging possibilities.

One: Give us the courage to follow the One You sent to lead us.

All: Inspire us by the faithful testimony of that great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us.

One: We pray through Jesus,

All: Who is our Way, our Truth and our Life. Amen.

— adapted from a prayer found at homiletics online.

Hymn

**In the Midst of New Dimensions
(See next page)**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Passing of the Peace

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

Prayer of Encouragement for a Life Full of Risk

One: There at the table with my head in my hands. A column of numbers I just did not understand. You said add these together carry the two now you.

All: You can do this hard thing. You can do this hard thing. It's not easy I know but I believe that it's so, you can do this hard thing.

One: At a cold winter station breathing into our gloves. It would change me forever, leaving for God knows what. You carried my bags. You said I'll wait for You.

All: You can do this hard thing. You can do this hard thing. It's not easy I know but I believe that it's so, you can do this hard thing.

One: Late at night I called and You answered the phone. The worst it had happened, and I did not want to be alone. You quietly listened. You said, we'll see this through

All: You can do this hard thing. You can do this hard thing. It's not easy I know but I believe that it's so, you can do this hard thing.

One: Here we stand breathless and pressed in hard times. Hearts hung like laundry on backyard clothes lines. Impossible just takes a little more time. From the muddy ground comes a green volunteer in a place we thought barren, new life appears. Morning will come whistling some comforting tune for you

All: You can do this hard thing. You can do this hard thing. It's not easy I know but I believe that it's so, you can do this hard thing. Amen.

— adapted from lyrics written by Carrie Newcomer

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

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Words: William Walford

Music: Sweet Hour, William Batchelder Bradbury, 1861

**Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
that calls me from a world of care
and bids me at my, Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known!
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by Thy return, sweet hour of prayer.**

Today's Scripture

Genesis 12:1-9

The Call of Abram

12 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your

father's household to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." ⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. ⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So, he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. ⁹ Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

-Common English Bible

Response to the Sharing of God's Story

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

Gift of Music

Emi Shannon, Vocalist

The Summons

Tune: Kelvingrove

Arr. By: John Bell

*If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?*

*Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?*

*Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?*

*Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.*

Words: 1987 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland, G2 3DH (Admin. by Wild Goose Resource Group), Music: David Peacock - The Jubilate Group (Admin. by Hope Publishing Company)

This morning Emi Shannon will be singing a hymn, The Summons, that was written by John Bell of the Iona Community in Scotland. The Iona Community dates from the late 1930s and is an “ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship.” The community attracts many visitors from around the world to their weekly services. As a result, much of the music that Bell has written consists of easily learned tunes that stick with the listener filled with lyrics that set the teachings of Jesus furthering social justice. Listen closely to Emi this morning and take in the rich lyrics of this simple tune. You can be transported for a moment to that small inner, Hebrides Island of Iona, and share the Iona Community’s Ministry.



Pastoral Words

Hymn

In the Midst of New Dimensions

**We are man and we are woman,
all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung.**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading
where the eagles soar, We your people,
ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.**

**Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit
resurrect the church again.**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading
where the eagles soar, We your people,
ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.**

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, Vocalist

The Call

By: Ralph Vaughn Williams

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.*

*Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.*

Life of Our Church

Quilting on Wednesday at 12:00 pm.

Join us for Faith Development for June 14, and 21, as we explore 6 Questions Jesus Asked. These 6 questions are simple, but they are not easy to answer. These questions, which include “Why Are You Anxious?” and “What Do You Live For?” Get right to the heart of what it means to be human. Our answers shift and evolve throughout our lives as we experience the joys and pains that life brings us. Jesus’ questions are always open, inviting us to dive in, wrestle, and become who we are intended to be. Join us on Wednesdays at 11:00 AM, 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary; and Thursdays at 11 am online.

Today’s flowers are gifted to the church by Cheryl Ellis. We would like to thank her for this beautiful gift.

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

Blood Pressure check for Sunday has been rescheduled for Sunday June 11, right after service, due to a health issue with one of Beth's family members. Blood Pressure Screening is an important part of health maintenance. All are encouraged to do this.

Special invitation: All Invited

Women's Fellowship will be having their **Lunch Bunch** get together on June 21, 2023 at **Pinchers** on West First Street at 11:45 am. Anyone that is interested in joining in on this fellowship please **RSVP to: Gail Courtwright by June 19th**. Hope to see everyone there.

We are looking for Volunteers for Cathy's Place and for Ushers. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board if interested.

**For next week's God's word:
Sarah Laughs With, and At
God
Genesis 18:1-15**

**Festival of Dance
at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre
1380 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers, Fl.
Tuesday, June 13th, 2023
Performance starts at 6:30 pm.
Tickets are still on sale for \$40.00**

Source for today's Pastoral Words:

**You can now find the source for
today's words from Pastor
on the bulletin board.**

****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

Benediction (Responsively)

One: May you see the way wherever the journey takes you, sailing safely over rough water and weathering the waves' dips and crests. May you find treasure in Earth's infinite variety, beauty and surprise. May you hear the ocean's music in every shell you hold to your ear. May your boat fill with insight, laughter, generosity and love as you discover new landscapes and explore the wide expanse of memory. Amen.

All: Amen.

— slightly adapted from NAVIGATOR'S BLESSING by little gold boat

Postlude

Doxology Declaration

By: Phil Frehenbauer

Time with our Children

Blessed to Be a Blessing

By [Lois Parker Edstrom](#)

Genesis 12:1-9

Some of you may have moved with your family to another place because your mother or father found a new job. You may have moved to a different part of the city, another part of the country, or perhaps to a foreign country.

For those of you who have moved, you know this can be a difficult thing – to leave everything that is familiar – your neighborhood, your home, your school, your friends and perhaps some of your extended family such as grandparents.

That is what the Lord asked Abram to do. In the Old Testament of the Bible, we learn that the Lord "...said to Abram, 'Get out of your country, and from your relatives, and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you'". "I will make of you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing".

The Lord asked Abram to leave what was familiar to him and move to another country. Abram did what the Lord asked him to do. He traveled to the land of Canaan and when he arrived in this new land, he built an altar to honor God.

An important part of this lesson is that God said, "...I will bless you" so that "you will be a blessing." To be blessed means that one receives a favor or a gift from God that brings happiness and thankfulness.

Think of all the wonderful favors and gifts you receive from God: beautiful sunrises and sunsets, flowers, forests, mountains, lakes and rivers, people who love you... The list could go on and on. We are blessed each day by the beautiful world God has created.

When we do our best to follow what God wants us to do, whether it is our life work or the kind of person we will be, we become a blessing and are able to bring happiness to others.

God's plan for each one of us is wonderful. God says, "I will bless you" so that, you will be a blessing."

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
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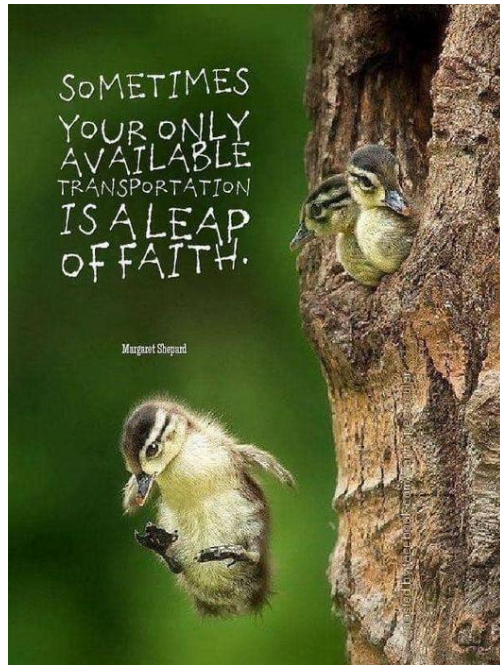
PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Kate Baumann; Roy Shipley; Malcolm Youngquist;
Barry Pierce; Dan Van Riper; Pam Vallozzi; Sharlene Dozier; Annette Brown;
Susan McElligott and family for the passing of her husband; Wayne Daltry.

Friends & Family:

Pat Tangusso (Friend of the Church and Quilter);
Larry Zeigler (Lana's Husband); Duane (Friend of Tom & Sherrie McIntyre);
Shelly (friend of Pastor Anton); Lillian Helling (Sister-in-law of Tom Johns &
Joseph Helling); Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Dave Gaide
(Kim Gaide's husband); Martha Calvert, (Friend of Ian Laughlin);
Jeffrey Lloyd (Son of Liz Lloyd); John Schmidt (Gail Courtwright's brother);
Carmella Colitti (great niece of Rosemary Priore).



***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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Office Hours:	Monday-Thursday 9 AM – 12PM
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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 – Dr. Tony Contino

Pianist - Barry Pierce

*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.*

