



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

FEBRUARY 25, 2024



Order of Worship

Second Sunday in Lent

(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

Star of the County Down

Arr. By: Lorie Line

Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: God calls us away from the tumult of the world, that we may focus our thoughts on things that are lasting.

All: In God's presence we see our lives more clearly; the broken pieces are put back together.

One: God calls us out of loneliness into a life of community.

All: Worshiping together, caring about one another, we find out what it means to be truly human.

One: But God will send us back into the world's confusion and busyness, its brokenness and isolation.

All: We will go with serenity and joy, strengthened to be God's servants, the bearers of peace.

~adapted by: Bread for the Journey by Ruth C. Duck

Opening Hymn # 53

Fairest Lord Jesus

Passing of the Peace

May Christ be with you and Your Journey!
And also, with you!

On the Road to Glory

By: Kelly Garner and Christina Degazio
Arr. By: Marty Hamby

As sure as there's a crown to wear
there will be a cross to bear
On the road to glory

As sure as there'll be songs to sing
There'll be tears of suffering
On the road to glory

When your way is not the way that I would choose
When I feel like giving up and turning back
Lord, I pray each step would make me more like you
Giving me the will to walk this path
As you go before me
On the road to glory

They mocked you and they cursed your name
Tried to cover with you shame
On the road to glory

The journey that you took for me
Led you straight through calvary
On the road to glory

When your way is not the way that I would choose
When I feel like giving up and turning back
Lord, I pray each step would make me more like you
Giving me the will to walk this path
As you go before me
On the road to glory

When your way is not the way that I would choose

When I feel like giving up and turning back
Lord, I pray each step would make me more like you
Giving me the will to walk this path
As you go before me
On the road to glory

Prayer of Discipleship (Responsively)

One: Amazing Creator of ourselves and of our world,

All: We thank You that You reveal Yourself in the events of human history.

One: We thank You that You have shown Yourself in Christ, who shared our human life, walking the path of obedience all the way to the cross.

All: May we also die to ourselves and live for the world, through the empowerment of your Spirit. Amen.

~adapted by: Bread for the Journey by Ruth C. Duck

Prayers of the People and Concerns of the Heart

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.**

Scripture (Responsively)

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus predicts his death

One: Jesus and His disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way He asked His disciples,

All: “Who do people say that I am?”

One: They told Him, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets.” He asked them,

All: “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

One: Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”³⁰ Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about Him. Then Jesus began to teach his disciples:

All: “The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead.”

One: He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding Him, began to correct Him. Jesus turned and looked at His disciples, then sternly corrected Peter:

All: “Get behind Me, Satan. You are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

One: After calling the crowd together with His disciples, Jesus said to them,

All: All who want to come after Me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow Me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of Me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."

~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 # 362

Blessed Assurance

Invitation of 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

Debbie Marino, Soprano

Canticle of the Turning

Tune: Star of the County Down, Irish Traditional,
Arr. By: Rory Cooney

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the
God of my heart is great, And, my spirit sings of the
wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my
weakness you did not spurn, So, from east to west shall my
name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!*

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you
work great things in me, And, your mercy will last from the
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those
who would for you yearn, You, will show Your, might put the strong to flight, for
the world is about to turn.*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!*

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a
stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your
justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.**

**The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the
food they can never earn; There are tables spread, ev'ry
mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the***

dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Though the nations rage from age to age, we
remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver
us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard is the
promise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be
crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!*

**** 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.**

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

Words By: G. W. Dub Shepherd
Music: Attr. To Louis Bourgeois

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**

FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR LENT 2024

In Witness at the Cross, Amy-Jill Levine shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play in the Gospels. For each, Jesus has a particular meaning and message, and from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

WEEK TWO: The two thieves who are crucified alongside Jesus.

WEEK THREE: The centurion and soldiers who represent the state at the execution.

WEEK FOUR: The Beloved Disciple, whom Jesus names as the son of The mother of Jesus in a new kind of family.

WEEK FIVE: The women who are present at the cross: the Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, the mother of the son of Zebedee, and the Daughters of Jerusalem. Also, the characters of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus and their roles in caring for the body of Jesus after his death.

**Reading for Wednesday:
Matthew 27**

Today's flowers are gifted to the church by Jackie Sellers. We would like to thank her for this beautiful gift.

**INASMUCH 2023 – March 2nd.
Bring your quarters to feed the machines.**

We will have:

Small House Repairs

Foster Child Bags

***If interested in purchasing clothing for
Foster Children for Court Appearance,
please see shopping list on bulletin board
in Fellowship Hall. Due at church by February 25th***

No Sew Throws

Midwest Food Bank

Sunday March 3rd

right after Sunday's Service,

Beth Moss 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.**

**We are 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:
Well, That Escalated Quickly
John 2:13-22**

**Tony and Phyllis Contino new address:
61 Merriville Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312**

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, 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

Postlude

Fantasy in A minor

By: J.S.Bach
Arr. By: Max Reger

Time with our Children

Beyond Ourselves

By Lois Parker Edstrom

Mark 8:27-38

Have you ever been so involved in something that you weren't aware of time passing? It is as if you forget about yourself. You may have experienced that when you were playing and having so much fun you forgot about everything except what you were doing. Artists, writers, surgeons, and other people experience this when they are doing important work. They care so much about what they are doing and find so much joy in what they are doing that they forget about themselves.

Then there are firefighters who go into burning buildings to save people without thinking about themselves. Some volunteer firefighters don't get paid for this

dangerous work, yet they put their own needs aside in order to save people's lives.

When Jesus lived on earth he spoke to his disciples and a crowd of people who were gathered around him and said, **“Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me”**.

I think Jesus was telling us to find what it is that God wants us to do, not necessarily what we want to do. When we look for God's work, we find work that fits our talents and abilities. God's work gives us the kind of joy that makes us forget about ourselves. As we honor God, believing deeply and being involved in his work, we learn to concentrate in a way that causes us to go beyond ourselves. You can do more than you ever imagined.

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





*Remember, you are a
BLESSING!*

Lord, we are all made in the image and
likeness of YOU.

You have made every one of us perfectly,
with great detail and intention.

May these blankets, made by my hands,
remind their receiver of YOUR abundant
love.

And their unique beauty, and worth as YOUR
child!

Amen.

<https://blessingofblankets.com>

INTERFAITH Study & Discussion

HOW IS GOD ACTIVE IN THE WORLD TODAY?

Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 PM

Temple Judea, 14486 A & W Bulb Road

Refreshments to follow

Sponsored by:

- Cypress Lake United Methodist Church
- Iona Hope Episcopal Church
- Temple Beth El
- Temple Judea
- Thomas A. Edison Congregational Church



FOR MORE INFO VISIT: WWW.TJSWFL.ORG OR CALL: 239 433 0201

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Kate Baumann; Roy Shipley; Barry Pierce; Liz Lloyd;
Dan Van Riper; Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Joe Helling;
Greg Haston.

Friends & Family:

Pat Tanguoso (Friend of the Church and Quilter);
Duane (Friend of Tom & Sherrie McIntyre); Shelly (friend of Pastor Anton);
Prayers for the family (Sister-in-law of Tom Johns & Joseph Helling); Betty
Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Kim Gaide (for the passing of her
husband Dave); 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); Shannon Randall (daughter of co-worker of Pastor
Anton); Jim Marc-Aurele (Lou & Carol's son); Darlene Gonzales (Flo
Newbrough's sister); Bob and Darlene Kulesza (Bob is Carol Marc-Aurele's
brother); Rhonda and Hunter (friends of Martha Long); Howard Youngquist
(brother of Malcolm Youngquist); Clay (homeless gentleman); Elvis, Pamela,
Franciso & other son (homeless family); Cheryl Abraham (friend of Sandy Cole &
John & Patti Seebock); Roy Waldhauer (friend of Sandy Cole).

***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

Director of Sacred Arts – Alena Michel

Pianist - Barry Pierce

Beth Moss – RN, MA Faith Community Nurse

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.

