



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

NOVEMBER 30, 2025



Order of Worship

First Sunday of Advent-Hope

** 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

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Arr. by Paul Manz

***Call to Worship (responsively)**

One: O Come, O Come, Immanuel,

All: And be the Light for our darkness.

One: Be the Comfort in our grief,

All: Bring us all Hope and be a Guide for our path.

One: Be a Friend for our loneliness,

All: An Oasis for our searching.

One: O Come, O Come, Immanuel,

All: Restore our joy, heal our wounds and bring us peace.

One: O Come, O Come Immanuel,

All: We the people wait for Your arrival.

— adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online

*Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Words by: John Mason Neale

Music by: Thomas Helmore

**O come, O come, Em-man-u-el,
and ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el
that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here,**

**un-til the Son of God ap-pear.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el!**

**O come, Thou Wis-dom from on high,
Who or-d'rest all things might-i-ly;
to us the path of knowl-edge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.**

**Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el!**

***Passing of the Peace**

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

Gift of Music

Katy Sumrow, Alto

**A Voice Cries Out,
“ Prepare the Way of the Lord”**

By Lloyd Larson

*A voice cries out, “Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
And every mountain made low.”*

Advent Candle Liturgy 2025



Advent Candle One, The Candle of Hope

God of hope, we light this candle as we prepare for the coming of Jesus. Awaken our hearts to You this Advent season, so that when Jesus arrives, we are ready to receive Him with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our strength. Amen.

~ Slightly adapted from prayers found @ <https://www.littlewaychapel.com/blog/advent-wreath-prayers>

Advent Carol

Hope, Hope, Hope

Tune: Still, Still, Still

Words By: Ken Bible

Music: Traditional Austrian Melody

Arr. By: Ken Bible

Hope, hope, hope The light of Christ is hope.

In all our dark-ness Christ is shin-ing.

Lead-ing up-ward, faith re-fin-ing.

Hope, hope, hope The light of Christ is hope.

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 Response

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

By Bob McGee

**Em-man-u-el, Em-man-u-el,
His name is called Em-man-u-el.
God with us, re-vealed in us,
His name is called Em-man-u-el.**

Today's Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-5

The Message Isaiah got regarding Judah and Jerusalem:

There's a day coming
when the mountain of God's House
Will be The Mountain—
solid, towering over all mountains.
All nations will river toward it,
people from all over set out for it.
They'll say, "Come,
let's climb God's Mountain,
go to the House of the God of Jacob.
He'll show us the way He works
so we can live the way we're made."
Zion's the source of the revelation.
God's Message comes from Jerusalem.
He'll settle things fairly between nations.

He'll make things right between many peoples.
They'll turn their swords into shovels,
their spears into hoes.
No more will nation fight nation;
they won't play war anymore.
Come, family of Jacob,
let's live in the light of God.

~The Message

Response to the Sharing of God's Story

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

Gift of Music

Katy Sumrow, Alto

I Believe

By Eric Levisalles

Pastoral Words

A Poem of Hope for Advent

One: In the quiet hush of winter's night, where shadows lengthen, dimming light,

All: A single star, a gentle sign, begins to glow, a hope divine.

One: The heart, once burdened, starts to lift, receiving heaven's promised gift.

**All: A new day dawns for all mankind, leaving the past's
despair behind.**

One: Through Mary's faith and Joseph's care, a child is born, a love to share.

**All: He comes to conquer sin and woe, a Prince of Peace, in
whom we grow.**

One: Though storms may rage and shadows fall, a quiet voice hears hope's soft
call.

**All: It whispers, "Hold fast, see the dawn," a new beginning, for
the soul reborn.**

One: So, wait and watch, with spirits free, for Advent's hope, for all to see.

All: For in the dark, a light will shine, the coming of a Love divine.

~An Advent Poem written by Pastor Jim and AI generative. J. L. Harper III Files; Fort Myers, FL; 2025

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

My Soul Rejoices based on Magnificat

By Sarah Hart

Doxology

Doxology

For Advent

Words by: Thomas Ken
Music: 15th Century French

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here – below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee. O Israel.**

Life of the 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 *Infancy Gospel of James*, also known as the *Protoevangelium of James*,

is an apocryphal text from the second century that provides legendary accounts of the early lives of Mary, Jesus's mother, and Joseph . Attributed to James the Just, the text is not considered canonical by most Christian traditions because of its late date and fictional narrative, though it was highly influential in shaping traditions about Mary, particularly her perpetual virginity and miraculous birth. It was condemned by early church leaders like Pope Gelasius and Origen, though it gained wide influence through art and devotional literature.

Chapters 1-5 are available to read for this next week's session.

For next week's God's
word:
Isaiah 11:1-10

CALENDAR OF

EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

UPCOMING

Sunday November 30th
First Sunday of Advent



This Sunday, November 30th, right after the

service, we will be celebrating November's birthdays. Please join us to celebrate:

Preston Perry
Beverly Becton
James Vergin
Rowen Delaney
Carol Marc-Aurele

Andrea Perisho
Tom Smoot III
Karen Doyle
Carol Krohse
Buddy Conyers

Tommy McIntyre
Fred Kizer
John Seebock
Shirley Keller
Ned Downing

Friday December 5th

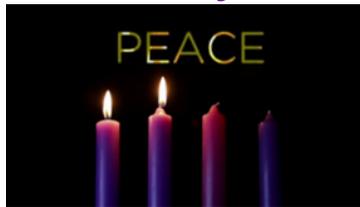
Alena Michel presents

“Keys to Christmas Magic”

**Student's Piano Recital starting
at 6:00 PM here at the church.**

Sunday, December 7th

Second Sunday of Advent



December 10th – Women's Fellowship Christmas Party.

All are welcome. The gathering will be at the church at noon and there will be a fun gift exchange. It will be a pot-luck luncheon. Please RSVP to Gail Courtwright - gailcourtwright26@gmail.com for more details.

Women's Fellowship

**Are collecting toys for the farmworker's kids.
The last day of collecting will be December 10th.
Please leave them in the office.**

**Donate new, unwrapped toys for children
Ages 0-12 years old.**

Gift ideas:

0-3 years – Fisher price, Leapfrog & V-teach.

4-7 years – Cars, Dolls & Doll Sets

**8-12 years – Collectible Surprise Toys, Stem Toys
Or Legos & Science Projects**

**Sunday, December 14th
Third Sunday of Advent**



**Edison Church Luncheon for 8 will meet on
December 14th 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.**

**Sunday, December 21st
Fourth Sunday of Advent**



Wednesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve – Music starts at 4:30 PM



Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship is collecting gently used jewelry and accessories (loose or broken pieces are okay).

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)

May the Creator who gives birth in the heart of a servant birth hope within you.
May the Christ who comes to live with us walk beside you.
May the Spirit who sang within Mary's heart also sing within your own.
May you and I be filled with God this Advent, and may the world find God's hope in our hands and hearts. **Amen.**

~Slightly adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come

Arr. by Michael Burkhardt

Time with our Children

Making a Better World

By Dr. Carol J Miller

Isaiah 2:1-5

Did you ever wonder what the world would be like if everything was the way God wants it to be? Let's try this: think of something that would make the world better? What if there were no bullies? Would that be better? [Let the children briefly explain their answers. You might ask the congregation for ideas. List out loud all their ideas and yours].

In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah tells us some of God's ideas for a better world. Because they're God's ideas they WILL happen. This is not God's "Wish List". This is God's "It's Gonna Happen List!" I'll read part of God's ideas—see if God mentions your idea:

Isaiah begins by saying that on some future day, God's house will be on the tallest mountain of all. Listen to what happens then: "all the nations shall stream to it. Many people shall come..." all nations are going to come to God's house, God's temple. The whole world, every color and country of people, coming, walking together. Wow! That would be something to see!

Why will the nations come to God? The people walking up the mountain talk to each other. Listen: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD., ...that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths." On that day, says God, the world will come to listen to God and happily learn to do things God's way. Everyone will be kind, fair and filled with God's love! How about that for a better world?

Finally on God's list is that God is going stop wars— to get people to stop fighting! Those people, the ones fighting a war, will "beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. They are going to make a big fire and throw all their weapons into it.

When metal gets hot in the fire, people can twist it and turn it into something else. Isaiah says they will turn their weapons of war into plows to dig up the ground so they can plant food and flowers. Other weapons will be made into the tools people use to take care of fruit trees.

Now listen to God's idea one more time: Isaiah says, "...nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." No more wars ever.

They won't even think about war!! Would that make the world better? [Accept all answers]. That promise from God is chiseled into the doorway of the United Nations in New York City.

Jesus is the one coming to teach us God's ways and to help us follow God. The world waited a long time for God's special person. Now we celebrate the coming of the one who will teach us peace and show us how to have no more war!

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
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December Faith and Wellness Newsletter

*For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah
when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'*
Matthew 3:3

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

December is a time to raise awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence and to encourage the public to make safe choices. The month serves as a reminder, especially during the holiday season, which sees a significant spike in impaired driving fatalities, to prevent drunk and drugged driving. Tips to stay safe:

- Make a plan before the festivities start
- Have a designated driver
- Use a ride share company

There are many, free, "safe ride home" companies to choose from. For more information, contact Lori McMullen RN-FCN.



Faith Formation

December Upcoming events:

December 14 & 28th – Faith Formation for Kids at Cathy’s Place
from 10:00 – 11:00

December 28th – Blood Pressure Clinic 

Dear Worshipers,

We invite your child to join us for Faith Formation learning in Cathy’s Place at Thomas Edison Congregational Church. December classes will be on December 14th & 28th from 10:00 – 11:00. Your children will learn about Jesus through age-appropriate faith activities, songs, prayers, Bible stories, games and arts & crafts.

December class curriculum:

December 14th – The third week of Advent, celebrating Joy. Luke 1:46b-55. Wear something pink!

December 28th – Isaiah 63:7-9. Continuing to share and show God’s Love.

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**

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

**Ms. Sharon Nelson
258 Caravan Circle
N. Fort Myers, Fl 33903**

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier;
Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Bill Persons;
Sharon Nelson; Martha Jean Long.
Kay Van Riper and family with the passing of Dan Van Riper.

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).

***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.*

