



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

MAY 31, 2026



Order of Worship

First 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

The Light of the World is Acknowledged in our Worship

"Jesus said: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). The presence of the light reminds us of Jesus' coming into our world and into our lives. The light is carried into the worship service as a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshiping community. During most of the time of our church year our congregation uses two candles on the altar to point out that Jesus was both a human being and God. The light of the world is among us today.

— adapted from <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-why-do-we-light-and-extinguish-candles-during-worship>

Prelude

This is My Father's World

arr. by Lorie Line

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Architect of the Universe, Your voice called out over the deep and darkness and brought forth light.

All: Your voice called out over the waters and brought forth life.

One: Your voice called out over this earth and brought forth our very beings.

All: Your voice continues to call out in our Universe and bring new hope and new life.

One: Help us to hear Your voice above the hum of the highway and the buzz of the business talk.

All: Help us to hear Your voice in the cries of children, in the

soft tones of the sick, in the pleas of the poor.

One: May we hear, listen, and respond to Your voice in our lives and in our world.

All: Praying in the name of all that is good and holy. Amen.

~adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Mindi, on her Rev-o-lution blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

Hymn

At the Dawn of Your Creation

Hymn to Joy (Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)

Biblical Reference: Genesis 1-2

Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven

Text by: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**At the dawn of Your creation,
God, You spoke, "Let there be light!"
You divided earth from heaven,
You created day and night.
You made sunbeams dance with shadows,
You created energy!
Peaceful evenings, bright tomorrows,
all began with "Let there be..."**

**By Your word, You formed creation:
dry land, water, ocean breeze.
Soon there burst forth vegetation –
plants with fruit, majestic trees.
Rain and snow and changing seasons,
creatures filling land and sea –
God, Your very good creation
all began with "Let there be..."**

**When You made us as Your children,
Sending us throughout Your lands,
You commanded, "Have dominion –
care for earth; it's in Your hands."**

**Yet we hurt this world You've given'
we harm earth and sky and sea.
We forget it's Your creation –
You, who once said "Let there be..."**

**At this joyful celebration,
may we hear Your word anew:*
May we care for Your creation,
knowing it's a trust from You.
Just as daily there's a dawning,
bringing light to all we see,
So we daily hear Your calling –
You, who once said, "Let there be..."**

Welcoming New Members

One: Will the new members please stand. Do you wish to travel spiritually with this Congregation at this time? Do you, strive to follow in Jesus's footsteps as you strive to grow in your spiritual faith?

New Members: We do

One: Will you all please stand and do you promise to travel with them spiritually? Do you, as a family of faith, welcome these new members? Promise to pray for them, encourage them and worship with them? If so, please say we do.

All: We do

Passing of the Peace

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

Gift of Music

Hannah Cho Dougherty, Violin

Rock of Ages and The Solid Rock

by A. M. Toplady, T. Hastings, E. Mote, & W.B. Bradbury
arr. by Sun Ahn

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: We believe in a bold God, Creator of splendor, spinning stars into night skies, warming the planet with life-giving sunshine, filling the earth with all creatures great and small.

All: We believe in a big God, Creator of around 2 trillion galaxies in the observable universe, who is big enough to receive our praise and loving enough to answer our prayers.

One: We believe in the risen Christ, who meets us in the brokenness of life, accompanies us on all our wanderings and forever seeks to welcome us home with open arms.

All: We believe in the Holy Spirit, guide and companion, who fills the church with windy hope and fiery compassion.

One: We believe in the church, where we can taste some of the heavenly banquet and live as a renewed people for the world. Amen.

All: Amen.

~slightly adapted from a Prayer found @homilticsonline.com

Prayer Response

The Love of God

Words and Music by: Frederick Martin Lehman

**O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
the saints' and angels' song!**

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.**

Today's Scripture

Psalm 8

8 LORD, our Lord, how majestic
is Your name throughout the earth!
You made Your glory higher than heaven!

2 From the mouths of nursing babies
You have laid a strong foundation
because of Your foes,
in order to stop vengeful enemies.

3 When I look up at Your skies,
at what Your fingers made—
the moon and the stars
that You set firmly in place—

4 what are human beings
 that You think about them;
 what are human beings
 that You pay attention to them?

5 You've made them only slightly less than divine,
crowning them with glory and grandeur.

6 You've let them rule over Your handiwork,
putting everything under their feet—

7 all sheep and all cattle,
 the wild animals too,

8 the birds in the sky,
 the fish of the ocean,
 everything that travels the pathways of the sea.

9 LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name throughout the earth!

~Common English Bible

Psalm 8

8 God, brilliant Lord,

Yours is a household name.
2 Nursing infants gurgle choruses about You;
toddlers shout the songs
That drown out enemy talk,
and silence atheist babble.
3-4 I look up at Your macro-skies, dark and enormous,
Your handmade sky-jewelry,
Moon and stars mounted in their settings.
Then I look at my micro-self and wonder,
Why do You bother with us?
Why take a second look our way?
5-8 Yet we've so narrowly missed being gods,
bright with Eden's dawn light.
You put us in charge of Your handcrafted world,
repeated to us Your Genesis-charge,
Made us stewards of sheep and cattle,
even animals out in the wild,
Birds flying and fish swimming,
whales singing in the ocean deeps.
9 God, brilliant Lord,
Your name echoes around the world.

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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 Praise #237

This Is My Father's World

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

**Hannah Cho Dougherty, Violin
Saenu Dougherty, Violin**

**Morning Has Broken,
Traditional Gaelic Melody**

arr. by Catherine McMichael

** 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

Quilting on Wednesday at noon

Faith Development

**JOIN US WEDNESDAY @ CHURCH @ 11 AM & 6:30 PM;
AS WELL AS ONLINE THURSDAY 11 AM**

The Book of James

**Learn the Bible, Grow Closer to God,
And Grow as a Person.**

**A Bible study from the book written
by: Mark David Albertson**

Readings:

James 4:13 – 5:6

Today's flowers are gifted to the church
Dave and Jan Cornell, in honor of their parents.
We would like to thank them for this beautiful gift.

For next week's God's
word:
Genesis 12:1-9

This Sunday, May 31st, right after the
service, we will be celebrating May's
birthdays and new members. Please join us to celebrate:

Jean Long

Joseph Helling

Jim O'Brien

Kathy Bolen

Lori Main

Gail Courtwright

Steve Anderson

David Angert

Pam Noland

New Members –

Susie Niemela & Tommy Wood

Birthday Celebration – Sunday, July 26th

If you are interested in helping with setting out the
food and drinks for the Birthday Celebration, a sign-up
sheet is on the bulletin board. You will be responsible for
setting up, serving and
cleaning up after the Birthday Celebration.

The Women's Fellowship – will meet for lunch at
KJ's Steakhouse on June 17th at 12:30. ALL Women
are welcome. Reservations MUST be made by Sunday,
June 14th. RSVP: Gail at gailcourtwright26@gmail.com

**Parking for Sunday Service or
Faith Development**

**Please Park on church side on Llewellyn and Menlo.
This is to make room for emergency vehicles
if needed to come into the neighborhood.**

**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.**

**Free magazines are available behind the kitchen door
next to the library shelves. Donations are welcome.**

Benediction (responsively)

“The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love. May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone. Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor. May your hands be so blessed that everything you touch is a sacrament. Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love. May your feet be so blessed you run to those who need you. And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love, your love, changes everything”. **AMEN**

— Black Rock Prayer Book, often attributed to Episcopal priest Brian Baker; Used at Burning Man Festival as a blessing.

**The Light of the World is Shared with the World at the end of our
Worship**

At the end of the service, the light is carried out into the world to show that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere; This symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are to serve.”

— adapted from <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-why-do-we-light-and-extinguish-candles-during-worship>

Postlude

Tyler Feichthaler, Piano

Prelude in C sharp Minor op. 3 #2

by Sergei Rachmaninoff

Time with our Children

Consider the Heavens

Psalm 8

By Lois Parker Edstrom

When you are outside after dark, perhaps camping, or just taking a walk with your parents, do you look up and see what is happening in the sky? On a dark, cloudless night the stars seem so close and more beautiful than you can imagine.

It is impossible to count how many stars are in the universe and did you know that the light from a star takes millions of years to reach the earth?

Then there is the moon that always fascinates us. The light from a full moon is especially beautiful.

When you look at a night sky, how big and wonderful it is, perhaps you've felt quite small. In the Bible we learn that David felt this way too. Listen to what he wrote: "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained;" (8:3) "what is man, that you think of him?" (8:4)

We are surrounded by beauty and that beauty makes us want to sing and dance and thank God. Our world, the universe, is big and wonderful and also mysterious. We cannot begin to understand it, but we must remember that we are also one of God's beautiful creations.

God created us, loves us, and has placed us in a world full of many wonders – animals and forests, fish and seas, birds in the sky, stars and Moon.

Look for something beautiful each day and you will find it, and when you do, give thanks to God.

May's Faith and Wellness Newsletter

“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest”

Matthew 11:28

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Your mental health matters just as much as your physical well-being. If you've been feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, or just “off,” it might be a sign that prioritizing mental health needs to be at the top of your to-do list.

Taking care of your mind is essential for a happy, balanced life.

Prioritizing mental health means recognizing when stress, anxiety, or burnout is taking over and then making intentional changes to support your well-being.

Using the 5 C's of mental health can help you maintain a healthy mindset and emotional well-being.

The 5 C's of Mental Health

1. **Clarity** – When you prioritize mental health, you gain clarity on your thoughts, emotions, and goals, making it easier to navigate life.
2. **Connection** – Reach out to friends, family, or professionals for support rather than withdrawing.
3. **Coping** – If you find yourself relying on unhealthy habits (like overeating, overspending, or excessive scrolling), it's a sign to prioritize mental health and develop healthier ways to manage stress.
4. **Control** – Taking small, intentional steps—like setting boundaries, practicing mindfulness, or seeking professional help—can help you regain a sense of control over your emotions and decisions.
5. **Compassion** – Be kind to yourself. If you're constantly criticizing yourself or setting unrealistic expectations, it's time to practice self-compassion and treat yourself with the same kindness you'd offer a friend.
1. **Better Emotional Resilience** – When you prioritize mental health, you build resilience, meaning you can handle challenges and setbacks more effectively without feeling completely overwhelmed.

Improving mental health involves a combination of self-care, physical health, and social connection. Key strategies include practicing mindfulness, maintaining a regular sleep schedule, exercising regularly, nurturing relationships, and setting boundaries with social media. Engaging in hobbies and seeking professional help when needed are also crucial.

See the checklist posted on the bulletin board for more tips on protecting your mental health.

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 activities, songs, prayers, Bible stories, games, and arts & crafts.

May class curriculum Faith Formation

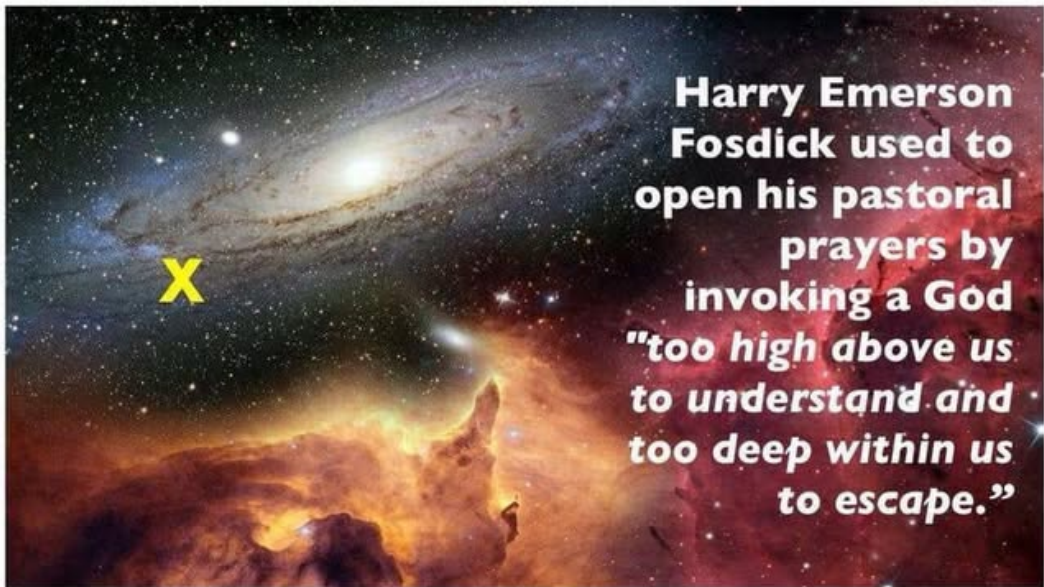
May 31st – The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20

Lori McMullen RN-FCN



X marks the spot where you and I are right now — knowing this bit of information, makes me what to say, *“God’s greatness can’t be grasped. One generation will praise God’s works to the next one, proclaiming all of God’s mighty acts. We will talk all about the glorious splendor of God’s majesty; we will contemplate God’s wondrous works.”*

- adapted from Psalm 145:1-5 Common English



Cards can be sent to the following:

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

**Mr. Bill Persons
Calusa Harbour Assisted
Living – 2525 First St
Ft. Myers, Fl. 33901
Room 233**

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier; 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
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