



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

APRIL 12, 2026



Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Easter

** 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

Pastorale

by Charles Wesley

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: We believe in You, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to Your deeds we testify.

All: You call the worlds into being, create persons in Your own image and set before each one the ways of life and death.

One: You seek in, holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by Your righteous will, declared through prophets and apostles.

All: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You, have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to Yourself.

One: You bestow upon us Your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

All: In You we believe. In Your presence we gather for worship today.

Hymn of Faith

Lord Of the Dance

19th Century Shaker Tune

Arr. By: Sydney Carter

I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth,
At Beth-le-hem I Had My Birth.

Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.
And I'll lead you all wher-ev-er you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

I danced for the scribe and the Phar-i-see,
but they would not dance and they would not fol-low Me;
I danced for the fish-er-men, for James and John;
they came to Me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.
And I'll lead you all wher-ev-er you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

I danced on the sab-bath when I cured the lame,
the ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung Me high;
and they left Me there on a cross to die.

Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.
And I'll lead you all wher-ev-er you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music

Molly Phillips, Soprano & Guitar

Give Me Faith

by Chris Brown, Wade Joye, & Mack Brock

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: Thank You God for calling us into Your church: To accept the cost and joy of discipleship; to be Your servants in the service of others. Remind each of us God that You call us: To proclaim the Gospel to all the world, and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism, Eat at His Table; And to join Christ in His passion and victory.

All: God, remind us during this time of worship together that You promise to all who trust You: Forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace; courage in the struggle for justice and peace; Your presence in trial and rejoicing; and eternal life in Your realm which has no end.

One: And, so God, as we gather today in worship and as we seek Your presence in the daily minutes of real life: Bless our time together.

All: May we bring honor to Your Kingdom. May we understand where the origin and destination of glory resides. And may Your unexplainable resurrection-al power be with us all. Amen.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Discipleship ~ Prayer slightly adapted from United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology-http://www.ucc.org/beliefs_statement-of-faith#DOX ~Prayer adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online.

Prayer of Response

Music: Leonard Cohen

Songwriters: One Voice Children's Choir

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

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.

Prayer of Response

Music: Leonard Cohen
Songwriters: One Voice Children's Choir

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

Today's Scripture

John 20:19-31

Jesus appears to the disciples

¹⁹ It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." ²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

Jesus appears to Thomas and the disciples

²⁴ Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!" But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

²⁶ After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!" ²⁸ Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe." ³⁰ Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. ³¹ But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

~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 #182

Christ Arose!

Verses 1 & 3

Pastoral Words

Hymn of Faith

Lord Of the Dance

19th Century Shaker Tune
Arr. By: Sydney Carter

**Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wher-ev-er you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he**

**I danced on a Fri-day when the sky turned black
It's hard to dance with the dev-il on your back.
They bur-ied my bod-y, and they thought I'd gone,**

**But I am the Dance, and I still go on.
Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wher-ev-er you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he**

**They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that-'ll nev-er, nev-er die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord Of the Dance, said he.
Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wher-ev-er you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he**

Invitation to the Table / Blessing and Sharing of the Gifts

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at this table.*

**Today's breads: Garlic Tuscan, Brioche bread, English Breakfast bread with
fruit and nuts, Brown Wheat Dinner Rolls,
and on a clear plate Gluten Free bread.**

Communion

Sarabande from French Suite 4 in E Major

by J. S. Bach

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

Molly Phillips, Trumpet

My Faith looks Up to Thee

by Lowell Mason

**** 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**

**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.**

**Next Sunday, April 19th Lunch and Learn
Immediately following the service,**

“Ask the Doctor”. Dr LaMotta will give some info on healthy living and then we will have a Q&A session, questions could be about disease processes, medications, referrals

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or you can RSVP to the office by April 16th so we will know how much food we will need.

**For next week’s God’s word:
Luke 24:13-35**

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.

The Blessing of Love (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.

Postlude

Layla Morell, Piano

Wedding Day at Troidhaugen

by Edvard Grieg

Time with our Children

The Things We Can't See

John 20:19-31

By [Dr. Dan Wuori](#)

I bought something special at the store. It's a can of air.

Air seems like kind of a funny thing to buy, doesn't it? But sometimes you need to make sure that certain things are very clean – like the parts inside your computer. This can blow clean air to help move dust and dirt off of things you don't want to touch with your fingers or scratch with a cloth. Watch, I'm going to let some of the air out.

Did you see it? Hmm. I didn't either. If we can't see the air, how do we know it's there? You don't think they sold me an empty can, do you? Let's try again.

Wait. Something happened that time! I still couldn't see the air. But I could feel it! It blew on my hand!

Who would like to feel this for themselves?

Some things we just can't see. But we know they're there anyway. Like the air.

In this week's Gospel story, Jesus comes back to visit His disciples after His death. But when this happens, Thomas – one of the disciples – isn't there. When the others tell him what happened, he doesn't believe them. He wants to see Jesus with his very own eyes! Eventually Jesus comes back again – and Thomas does believe. But Jesus reminds him of something very important.

Sometimes we just have to believe in things that we can't see. We have a special name for that. We call it **“faith.”**

God's love is sort of like the air, isn't it? It fills us up – and even though we can't see it – we can feel it in our hearts.

Will you pray with me?

Dear God,

Sometimes it's hard to believe in things that we can't see. But like the air, we know that you surround us with your presence and your love. Help us to live faithful lives, now and forever.

Amen

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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



I pray that you find someone and then you are that someone for someone else...

@PeacefulMindPeacefulLife

Everyone needs a
person to whom you
can actually tell
the truth when they
ask, "How are you?"

—TINKU RAZORIA



THOMAS A EDISON
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ONE NIGHT ONLY

DAZZLING DRAMA QUEENS: BATTLES OF THE SOPRANOS

STEPHANIE LORENZ
SOPRANO
“DIVINE SOUND”



ANGELA MARIA BLASI
SOPRANO
“HOLY AWE”



JANET CARTER
PIANIST
“PIANO POET”



FREE ADMISSION
7 PM APRIL 17TH, 2026

EDISONCHURCH.COM (239) 334-4978
1619 LLEWELLYN DR., FORT MYERS, FL 33901

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.

