



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

November 10, 2024



Order of Worship

Twenty-Fourth 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

The Prayer

By: Carol Bayer Sager and David Foster

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives. We need not look up to find God; we need only to look around:

All: within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.

One: We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God; we need only listen to:

All: the music of life, the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.

One: We worship the God who inhabits our world and who indwells our lives.

**All: Come Thou fount of every blessing tune our hearts to sing
Thy grace, streams of mercy never ceasing; Call for songs
of loudest praise, teach us some melodious sonnet, sung
by flaming tongues above; Praise the mount, we are fixed
upon it; Mount of Thy redeeming love.**

—Adapted from a Posted on the Presbyterian Church USA website, pcusa.org. &
https://hymnary.org/text/come_thou_fount_of_every_blessing

Hymn #13

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Verses 1, and 3

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music

Red Hansen, Baritone

Hymn of Promise

By: Natalie Sleeth

Prayer of Discipleship

One: We believe in God — who brings sunshine after rain and works healing in the midst of pain; who looks into each soul with love, touches each memory with blessing and longs for us to know we are beloved; who splashes the world with springtime color and fills the air with the singing of birds and the roar of the ocean;

All: We believe in God — who meets us at the tomb of our fears and sends us out with hope and joy.

One: We believe in Jesus — the risen Christ, the Friend of the forgotten, Savior of the world; who loves us without judgment, yet persuades us to change; who joins us as we walk and work with the poor and oppressed; who befriends us when we feel lonely, surprises us when we feel bored, prods us when we get complacent;

All: We believe in Jesus — who loves all children, dances with the elderly, shows compassion to the dying and blesses the breaking of bread.

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit — who weaves us into communities of faith of all ages, nations and races;

All: We believe in the Holy Spirit — who is the stillness in every silence, the breath in every deep sigh, the love in every tender embrace.

One: We believe we are called to be people of great promise and strong faith — challenging despair with glowing hope,

All: We believe we are called to be people of great promise and strong faith — acting peacefully in the midst of painful Good Fridays and living joyfully even in the midst of harsh realities.

One: We believe in the church — the handholding, heartily singing and passionate, caring fellowship of seekers and finders.

All: This we believe because we love God, follow in Jesus' footsteps, listen to the Holy Spirit, and travel together in this church which is a part of the Church Universal. This is what we believe. Amen.

— adapted from a Affirmation of Faith found @ homiletics online

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

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Words and Music By: Henry Smith

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks**

because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

**And now let the weak say "I am strong",
let the poor say "I am rich" because of what
the Lord has done for us.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks
because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say "I am strong",
let the poor say "I am rich" because of what
the Lord has done for us.**

Give thanks.

Scripture

Isaiah 65:17-25

New creation and new Jerusalem

¹⁷ Look! I'm creating a new heaven and a new earth:
past events won't be remembered;
they won't come to mind.

¹⁸ Be glad and rejoice forever
in what I'm creating,
because I'm creating Jerusalem as a joy
and her people as a source of gladness.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad about my people.
No one will ever hear the sound of weeping or crying in it again.

²⁰ No more will babies live only a few days,
or the old fail to live out their days.

The one who dies at a hundred will be like a young person,
and the one falling short of a hundred will seem cursed.

²¹ They will build houses and live in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² They won't build for others to live in,
nor plant for others to eat.

Like the days of a tree will be the days of my people;
my chosen will make full use of their handiwork.

²³ They won't labor in vain,
nor bear children to a world of horrors,
because they will be people blessed by the Lord,
they along with their descendants.

²⁴ Before they call, I will answer;
while they are still speaking, I will hear.

²⁵ Wolf and lamb will graze together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
but the snake—its food will be dust.

They won't hurt or destroy at any place on My holy mountain,
says the Lord.

~ 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 Praise

We Come to the Table

KREMSER 12. 11. 12. 12. ("We Gather Together")

**We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving.
We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray.
We hear Jesus' welcome – inviting, forgiving;
We know Your Spirit's peace as we feast here today.**

**We dine at Your table as sisters and brothers,
Diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one.
The bread and the cup that we share here with others**

Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by Your Son.

We grieve for Your world here; we cry, “How much longer?”

We pray for the cycles of violence to cease.

Yet here, in Christ broken, we’re fed and made stronger

To labor in His name for a world filled with peace.

We rise from this table with new dedication

To feed the world’s children, to free the oppressed,

To clear out the minefields, to care for creation;

We pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.

Tune: Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626 (“We Gather Together”) (MIDI)

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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 clear Gluten Free bread.

Gift of Music during Communion

Largo in G

By: George F. Handel

Arr. By: Diane Bish

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

Red Hansen, Baritone

We Are One, Lord

By: Stan Pethel

**** 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 at Noon
on Wednesday**

Faith Development

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

**Being Thankful for Humor.
The theology behind laughter.**

Readings:

**Proverbs 15:13; Proverbs 15:15; Isaiah 55:12;
Psalm 126:2; Psalm 30:11; John 3:1-17**

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

**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.**

**For next week's God's word:
Mark 12:28-34**

Women's Fellowship – Events

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

****New: Join us for game day in Cathy's Place the first Tuesday of every month at 12:30 PM.
If interested, contact Gail Courtwright at:
gailcourtwright26@gmail.com**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

Guardian ad Litem works with ANA's Friends and will be coordinating the Wishing Tree Project at Christmas again this year. TAECC will be collecting children's books for the 3rd year for this project. The Wishing Tree Project will serve 765 children who are under court supervision appointed to the Guardian ad Litem office here in Lee County. The collected children's books will be distributed at Christmas to the foster parents and relatives to give to the children. If you would like to participate in the book drive this year, books can be brought to the church anytime and the drive will end on November 30.

Quilting Ministry

Help the Quilting Ministry earn money for materials to make Quilts for In As Much.

There will be 2 options:

6 Holiday Placements or A Small Wall Hanging/Quilt.

Both will be on display in the Fellowship Hall as of November 3rd.

Raffle ticket Sale: 6 for \$5.00 begins Sunday November 3rd thru

December 8th. Drawing will take place following the service on December 8th.

Grief Support Group

There will be a 13-week group meeting starting on November 18th – February 10th from 5:30 – 7:00 PM here at the church. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet Wednesday, November 20th at noon at the church and the speaker will be Amy Eldridge will speak about foster children. Please bring your own lunch – coffee and dessert will be provided.

Thanksgiving Sunday – November 24th

Monday November 25th

**Decorate church for Advent – starting at 10:00 AM
– lunch provided – sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. We need to know by November 20th who is planning to help.**

November 28th – Thanksgiving Luncheon

Don't Be Alone.

Anton will be hosting a Thanksgiving luncheon On Thanksgiving Day here at the church at 1:00 PM. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin-board In the Fellowship Hall.

**Anton will be providing the meat. When you sign up,
Please also write down what side dish you would
Like to bring. Let's make it an assortment of
different side dishes to make it festive.**

**Sunday December 1st
First Sunday of Advent**

**Friday December 6th – Edison Park Expressive
Arts School – Presentation of: *Sights and sounds
of the season*, on the Church lawn at 10:15.
Bring a Chair, and your Neighbors.**

**Friday December 6th
Alena Michel presents Student's Piano Recital
"Keys to Christmas Magic"
starting at 6:00 PM here at the church.**

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

Laudation
By: Gilbert M. Martin

Time with our Children

Be Happy

By Lois Parker Edstrom

Isaiah 65:17-25

Images of Eeyore suitable for coloring found at: <http://bit.ly/1qWnNNy>

What makes you happy? Let's hear some of your ideas. (Encourage children to participate in this portion of the lesson.)

That was kind of a trick question. Yes, certain things make us happy, but when you think about it, you make yourself happy. You have a choice to live your life as a happy person or a grumpy person. You can choose to look on the bright side of your experiences or the dark side.

For sure certain things will happen that cause sadness and it's okay to feel that sadness, but we don't want to be like Winnie-the-Pooh's friend, Eeyore who always feels something bad is about to happen. (Show image of Eeyore or distribute pages to color.)

We all have a responsibility to be kind and fair, but we also have a responsibility to be happy. Why do you think this is true?

When we are happy, we encourage those around us to feel happy. Don't you love to spend time with a happy person? Such fun!

The Bible teaches us to be "glad and rejoice forever" in what God has created (65:18). The word "rejoice" means to celebrate. Do you think we can find, within ourselves, a way to celebrate each and every day?

God has given us a world filled with beauty and love. Do something good for your friends, family, and others you may meet. Choose to be happy!

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
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Some of the things that have been collected during this Year.

Edison Park School Supplies – (numbers are total packages of each)

Pencils - 361	Scissors – 12	Headphones – 50
Post It Notes – 116	Crayons – 124	Gel Pens – 4
Markers – 9	Backpacks – 29	Pencil Boxes – 9
Tissue Cubes – 34	Bandages – 3	Glue Sticks – 20
Glue Bottle – 6	Pink Erasers – 6	Plastic Binders – 4
Pencil Topper Erasers – 4	Tab Dividers – 3	
Composition Books – 2	Manuscript Tablets – 2	
Filler Paper - 13	Permanent Markers - 2	
Spiral Notebooks – 91	Dry Erase Markers - 12	
Colored Pencils – 43		

Donations for Hurricane Relief: \$1,990.00

Food Collected for Lehigh: over 400 pounds

Items for Homeless Women: (number of each item)

Money \$125.00	Bandanas – 25	Deodorant – 39
Face Wipes – 26	Body Wipes – 36	Tissues – 47
Brushes – 32	Combs – 11	Wet Wipes – 126
Chap Sticks – 76	Socks – 82	Hair Ties – 25
Feminine Hygiene – 669		

Items for Homeless Men: (number of each item)

Money - \$25.00	Bandanas – 26	Body Wipes – 34
Wet Wipes – 12	Chap Sticks – 46	Deodorant – 40
Socks – 95	Tissues – 15	Combs – 94
Razors – 16	Hats – 2	Toothbrush – 3
Depends – 40	Underwear – 3	Bar of Soap – 2
Shaving Cream – 1	Alcohol Pads – 34	Hand Wipes – 4

continued on next page

Thanksgiving Turkeys for Nations Charity - \$1,000.00

Women's Fellowship donated money and items to ARC (Animal Rescue)

Guardian ad Litem – Books for children which is still growing.

Egg Cartons Collected – 339

Photo Credit:

<https://www.facebook.com/welslutherans/photos/a-veterans-day-prayerwe-thank-you-lord-for-our-military-veterans-through-those-w/731561639009204>



Cards can be sent to the following:

**Duane Gardner
50 La Fonda Lane
North Fort Myers, Fl. 33903**

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd;
Pastor Anton after the passing of Barry Pierce;
Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Bill Persons; Tom Johns;
Greg Haston; Ian Laughlin; Duane Gardner (Hospice Care);
Malcolm Youngquist after the passing of his brother Howard.

Friends & Family:

Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Jim Marc-Aurele (Lou & Carol's son); Darlene Gonzalez (Flo Newbrough's sister); Bob and Darlene Kulesza (Bob is Carol Marc-Aurele's brother); Howard Youngquist (brother of Malcolm Youngquist); Tom Jenkins (friend of Flo & Tee Newbrough); Michele Baron (friends of Rod Schaffter and Carol Skaza); Jim and Mary Pat Willis (friends of Carol & Ned Downing & Malcolm Youngquist).

***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
Faith Community Nurse – Lori McMullen, RN
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.*

