



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

DECEMBER 21, 2025



Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent Love

** 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

Puer Nobis Nascitur

Arr. by Paul Manz

***Call to Worship (responsively)**

One: O come, O come, Immanuel.

All: Emmanuel, fill each heart with carols of joy and songs of gladness.

One: O come, O come, Immanuel.

All: Emmanuel, make conflicts cease, fill each table with sufficient food, shelter all from winter cold.

One: O come, O come, Immanuel.

All: Emmanuel, bring healing to bodies and souls hurt by abuse, by addictions or by bitter words.

One: O come, O come, Immanuel.

All: Emmanuel, shower us with blessing, hope and laughter.

One: O come, O come, Immanuel.

All: Emmanuel, make us crazy enough to sing in the midst of troubles, to hope in the midst of doubts, and to light candles in the midst of darkness.

~Slightly adapted by the Source Book of Worship Resources, Vol. 2 (Canton, Ohio: Communication, Resources, Inc., 1996), 2.

***Hymn**

We Lift the Light of Hope

Words: Ken Bible

Music: Oliver Holden

**We lift the light of hope, O God,
Your pres-ence burn-ing bright.
In praise we sing the gift You bring:
Our hope com-plete in Christ.
In praise we sing the gift You bring:
Our hope com-plete in Christ.**

**We lift the light of peace, O God,
The Lord of truth and right.
In Your do-main let jus-tice reign
And bring us peace in Christ
In Your do-main let jus-tice reign
And bring us peace in Christ.**

**We lift the light of joy, O God.
Your praise is our de-light!
Your bless-ings flow that all may know
Un-bound-ed joy in Christ.
Your bless-ings flow that all may know
Un-bound-ed joy in Christ.**

**We lift the light of love, O God,
Your can-dle in our night.
You come to give and help us live
The might-y love of Christ.
You come to give and help us live
The might-y love of Christ.**

***Passing of the Peace**

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

Gift of Music

Hayden Gallo, Piano

Carol of the Bells

By M. Leontovych

Advent Candle Liturgy 2025

God of Love, You sent Jesus, to shine bright like the sun, lighting the way for all who walk in darkness. May the light of Christ's Hope, Peace, Joy and Love shine bright in us as we approach the birth of the Christ Child among us. May we be ready to welcome Him on Christmas and on every day. **Amen.**

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

Advent Candle Four, The Candle of Love



Advent Carol

Love, Love, Love
Tune: Still, Still, Still Words

By: Ken Bible Music: Traditional Austrian Melody
Arr. By: Ken Bible

Love, love, love
The heart of Christ is love.
On all who wel-come, He pours His pre-sence,
Life and love in ho-ly es-sence.
Love, love, love
The heart of Christ is love.

Prayers for 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 7:10-16

The sign of Immanuel

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign from the LORD your God. Make it as deep as the grave or as high as heaven.”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I won’t ask; I won’t test the LORD.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Listen, house of David! Isn’t it enough for you to be tiresome for people that you are also tiresome before my God? ¹⁴ Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will eat butter and honey, and learn to reject evil and choose good. ¹⁶ Before the boy learns to reject evil and choose good, the land of the two kings you dread will be abandoned.

Birth of Jesus

Matthew 1:18-24

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary, His mother, was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn’t want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. ²⁰ As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you will call Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” ²² Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

²³ *Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And they will call him, Emmanuel.*

(*Emmanuel* means “God with us.”)

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife.

~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

A Poem of Love for Advent

One: In the hush of the waiting, a light begins to bloom, Love, the great gift,
dispelling the world's gloom.

**All: It is hope for the weary, a balm for the soul, a silent, steady
presence making us whole.**

One: Love is the strength in the heart that is weak, the gentle reassurance when
we can barely speak.

**All: It is in the stranger we choose to embrace, finding our
shared humanity in every face.**

One: It's the peace that descends when the noise fades away, a promise that
shadows will yield to the day.

**All: It is more than a feeling, it's a tangible act, a living,
breathing, all-encompassing fact.**

One: Love is the token, the sign and the plea, for God, and for all, for you and
for me.

**All: So, this Advent, let Love be the guide, a powerful force,
with us, deep inside.**

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

Hymn of Praise

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Words: James Montgomery
Music: Henry Walford Davies

**Hail to the Lord's A-noint-ed,
great Da-vid's great-er Son!
Hail, in the time ap-point-ed,
His reign on earth be-gun!
He comes to break op-pres-sion,
to set the cap-tive free;
to take a-way trans-gres-sion,
and rule in eq-ui-ty.**

**He comes with suc-cor speed-y
to those who suf-fer wrong,
to help the poor and need-y,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sigh-ing,
their dark-ness turn to light,
whose souls, con-demned and dy-ing,
were pre-cious in His sight.**

**O'er ev-'re foe vic-to-rious,
He on His throne shall rest;
from age to age more glo-rious,
all – bless-ing and all - blest:
The tide of time shall nev-er
His cov-e-nant re-move;
His name shall stand for-ev-er,
His change-less name of love.**

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

Layla Morell, Piano

The First Noel

Arr. by Lorie Line

Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow.
Praise God, all crea-tures here – be-low.
Praise God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host.
Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el
Shall come to thee. O Is-ra-el.

Life of the Church

No Quilting on Wednesday

**NO Faith Development
This week.**

**Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve – Music starts at 4:30 PM**



**For next week's God's word:
Matthew 2:13-23, Psalms 148,
Hebrew 2:10-18**

Monday - January 5th at 10:00 AM –

**Volunteers are needed to “pack away Christmas”.
Coffee and donuts will be provided. Please RSVP on
the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.**

**OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
IS PLANNED FOR
FEBRUARY 1st AFTER WORSHIP.**

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 you be blessed
With the spirit of the season, which is peace,
The gladness of the season, which is hope,
And the heart of the season, which is love."

~Slightly adapted from a prayer found @ IRISH CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Postlude

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

By Wilbur Held

Time with our Children

What’s In a Name

Matthew 1:18-25

By Lois Parker Edstrom

Meanings of names

What would we do if we didn't have names? How would your mother call you in to dinner? How would you get mail? What would you call your friends?

Names are important. Some children are named after their father or another family member. Some are named after a favorite friend or a famous person whom the parents admire.

Girls are named after flowers: Rose, Lily, or Jasmine. Other girls are named after the months of the year: April, May, or June and even the seasons such as Autumn.

Some boys are given Biblical names like Jacob, Matthew, or Daniel and girls have Biblical names such as Mary, Elizabeth, or Ruth.

Children may be given a name because they just look like the name fits them or they are given a name that goes well with their last name.

Many names have a special meaning. Let's look at a few:

Grace: a blessing

Emily: industrious

Jennifer: fair one

David: beloved

Michael: resembles God

William: determined

(Meanings of names may be customized to children in the group. Meanings of names can be found online.)

Before Jesus was born an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him that Mary was to give birth to a baby boy, and He would be called Immanuel which means "God is with us."

In the Bible Jesus is given many names such as the Messiah, the Word, and the Son of God. Even before He was born, He was given a name, Immanuel, and this name was a sign that this was a special child. This was God coming to be with us in the form of a child. "God is with us."

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



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



Edison Church and Our Ministry Partnerships.

Ministry Partnerships 2024

Edison Park Elementary School (total value \$2,750.00)
Operation INASMUCH Fort Myers (\$3,800.00)
South Fort Myers Food Pantry
Mision Peniel
Nations Association Charities
ACT – Abuse, Counseling & Treatment
National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
One Great Hour of Sharing
Builders without Borders
Campolo Center for Ministry
Local outreach with Food, Power Bill's and Prescriptions
Center for Sight, a US Eye Company, Ahuachapan, El Salvador
Eye and Medical Care
Guardian ad Litem – 316 books collected
1,020 Egg Cartons for Mision Peniel
230 Toys for the farm workers kids for Christmas

Cards can be sent to the following:

General Dozier
Barrington Terrace, of Ft. Myers

Ms. Marth Jean Long
7133 Almendro Terr #2

**9731 Commerce Center Ct., Room #326
Fort Myers, FL. 33908**

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.

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 Pay Jessie).

***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.



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