



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

December 29, 2024



Order of Worship

First Sunday after Christmas

** 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

What Child Is This

Arr. By: Lorie Line

Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: This is the day that God has made!

All: Let us all rejoice and be glad!

One: Today, may we pause a moment and just rejoice because of God's amazing love in human form, the infant Jesus!

All: May we spread the Good News of Jesus' birth!

One: Today, may we say a prayer of thanks for all those who labor and birth new life into this old world - teachers and therapists, mothers and doulas, nurses and doctors and visionaries - and all who dream new dreams and encourage new life.

All: May we be bringers of new life to this old world!

One: Today, may we say a prayer of love and comfort for those for whom Christmas is a difficult time, for whom the New Year brings no real hope – those who have lost loved ones, who are ill, and who are grieving.

All: May we be bringers of quiet comfort in this holiday season.

One: Today, may we not be too eager to jump into the next phase of life, into the post-Christmas rush, back to the grind, boxing up the Christmas story til next year.

All: May we treat every single day like Christmas Day!

One: This is the day that God has made!

All: Let us all rejoice and be glad! Merry Christmas!

Slightly adapted from a prayer found @ https://ntcumc.org/Advent_2021_Worship_Resources_-_English.pdf

Carol of Faith #93

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And also, with you!

Carol of Faith #126

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: Gracious and loving God, as we prepare to begin a new year, help us to discern what it is that moves us.

All: Open our eyes to see the needs of our community, open our ears to hear Your call, and open our hearts to be filled by the Holy Spirit.

One: Grant us the courage to use the gifts and talents You have blessed us with to do the work You have called us to.

All: Build this community of faith, strengthening our bonds with one another and with You. Help us to support and encourage one another in our journeys of faith and faithfulness.

One: In the name of all that is good and holy. Amen.

All: Amen.

Slightly adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online

Prayers for the People

Prayer Response

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Bob McGee

Bob McGee

Em-man-u - el, Em-man-u - el, his name is called Em-man-u - el. God with us,

11 re - vealed in us, his name is called Em - man - u - el.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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 #105

Away in a Manger

Today's Scripture

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus in the temple at Passover

⁴¹ Each year His parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴² When He was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their

custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't know it. ⁴⁴ Supposing that He was among their band of travelers, they journeyed on for a full day while looking for Him among their family and friends. ⁴⁵ When they didn't find Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem to look for Him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found Him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard Him was amazed by His understanding and His answers. ⁴⁸ When His parents saw Him, they were shocked. His mother said, "Child, why have You treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We've been looking for You!" ⁴⁹ Jesus replied, "Why were You looking for Me? Didn't You know that it was necessary for Me to be in My Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they didn't understand what He said to them. ⁵¹ Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. ⁵² Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.

~Common English Bible

Response to the Sharing of God's Story

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

Gift of Music

Debbie Marino, Soprano

Do You Have Room?

By: Shawna Belt Edwards

Pastoral Words

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

Debbie Marino, Soprano

Gesu Bambino

By: Pietro Yon and Frederick H. Martens

**Doxology

Doxology

For Advent or Christmas

D Bm A A⁷ D/F[#] G D A⁷ D A⁷

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all

7 D G A⁷ D A⁷ D A⁷ Bm A A⁷

crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye

12 D/F[#] G D A⁷ D A⁷ D G A⁷ D A⁷ D

heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

18 A⁷ D Bm F^{#m} D G A⁷ D A

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

22 Bm D/A G D A⁷/E D/F[#] D/A A⁷ D

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: Trad. English Carol

THE FIRST NOEL
Irr. with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

No Quilting on Wednesday

Faith Development
No Faith Development this week

Cathy's Place - December 29th

**There will be a New Year's Eve party for the children during today's Sunday service.
More information to follow.**

SUNDAY MORNING PARKING

We will be putting out cones closer to the church for people to park that need assistance (wheelchair, walker, on oxygen). If you would be so kind as to either park in the parking lot or further away so that we can accommodate these parishioners.

Thank you

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board to donate flowers to enhance our Sunday Service.

**For next week's God's word:
Matthew 2:1-12**

Monday - January 6th 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.**

Celebrating Birthday's

Right after today's service, we will be celebrating
December's birthdays. Please join us to celebrate:

Gary Kebbekus	Sharon Carlson	Camryn Harper
Wayne Daltry	Denise Hagge	Wren Palmer
Lana Zeigler	Cheryl Ellis	Lou Marc-Aurele
Sally Hiller	Chris Pare	Anton Pierce
Tee Newbrough	Flo Newbrough	Tom Sherman
Don Walsh	Ronni Haston	Tracy Wagaman
Janet Lammers	Sharlene Dozier	

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Concert Series**

January 3, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Southwest Florida Historical Brass Ensemble

January 17, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Fred Moyer Jazz Trio

January 31, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Gabriel Martines, Cello

**OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
IS PLANNED FOR
FEBRUARY 2nd AFTER WORSHIP.**

Benediction/Blessing for Our Journey of Faith (Responsively)

One: Cradle Christ in your hearts, bow in the presence of the Holy, and return to your homes with praise on your lips and joy in your soul. Amen.

All: Amen.

Slightly adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online

Postlude

Joy to the World

By: Gordon Young

Time with our Children

Jesus and His Parents

By Dr. Carol J Miller

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus must have been having a great time with his friends! His family and a lot of other families were doing something special! The whole group was walking all the way to Jerusalem—the biggest city most of them had ever seen. Have you been to a big city? [Accept all answers]. Cities are exciting. Even more exciting was the fact that they were going to Jerusalem to celebrate their favorite holiday: Passover! At Passover they remembered how God saved their ancestors from being slaves in Egypt. There was always lots of food and games and special prayers.

Since Jesus was 12, He didn't have to walk with His parents; He could walk with His friends, and they could fool around and tease each other and have fun. Well, on the way home, after Passover, Jesus' parents didn't see Him, but they figured He was walking with His friends. They walked a whole day before they discovered that Jesus had been left in Jerusalem! His mom and dad had to go all the way back to Jerusalem and it took them three days to find Him! How do you think your mom and dad would feel if you weren't where you were supposed to be, and it took them three days to find you? What ONE WORD would you use to tell how they would feel? [Respect all answers—keeping to one word keeps the leader from getting too much information]! Well, Jesus' mom was glad He was safe, but she was irritated at Him too. Here is what she said: "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I were anxiously looking for You." She's upset with Him. One of the good things about this story is that Jesus knows what it's like to mess up and get your parents upset. He did it Himself! Jesus understands what it means to be a kid.

So, He apologized. He said He thought she would know that He would be in the Temple asking the religious leaders questions about God. Jesus and His parents went home, and Jesus did a better job of doing what His parents asked. The Bible says that as the years went by, Jesus grew taller and wiser, and that people liked Him; and so, did God.

Jesus knows what it's like to be young and small. He knows how you feel!

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible, Copyright 2012, [Richard Niell Donovan](#)



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; Sharlene Dozier;
Barbara Buch; Bill Persons; Ian Laughlin; Jack Walmsley;
Duane Gardner (Hospice Care); Erleene Sanders; Ronni Haston.

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); 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 and Malcolm Youngquist); Linda Pekkarinen (Friend of Tee & Flo Newbrough); Jeannie Martin (Friend of Erleene Sanders) Hunter and Family (Friend of 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-Thursday 9 AM – 12PM
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

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