



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*February 9, 2025*



# Order of Worship

## *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*

\*\* 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

#### Nocturne in B Flat Major, H. 37

By: John Field

### Opening of Worship (responsively)

One: You call us, Wanderer of seashores and sidewalks, inviting us to sail out of our smug harbors into the uncharted waters of faith to wander off from our predictable paths to follow You into the unpredictable footsteps of the kingdom;

**All: You call us to leave the comfort of our homes and accompany You into the uncomfortable neighborhoods we usually avoid.**

One: As we wait, in our simple, sometimes crazy, constantly uncertain lives, speak to us, Spirit of Grace:

**All: Speak of that hope which is our anchor; of that peace which is our rock; of that grace which is our refuge.**

One: Speak to us today God;

**All: And help us respond by saying, "Here I am, send me!"  
Amen.**

~Adapted from a worship order prepared by Rev. Bob Gibson for the London Conference of the United Church of Canada. <http://www.londonconference.ca/>

## Hymn of Faith

### Morning Has Broken

Tune: Buessan

**Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from Heaven  
Like the first dew fall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass**

**Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the One Light Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day**

## Passing of the Peace

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

## Gift of Music

**Dan Davis, Baritone**

### **O Light of Life!**

By: Mack Wilberg and David Warner

## Prayer of Discipleship (Responsively)

One: We are called to be the Church...to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope...

**All: We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

One: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in

Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

**All: We trust in God.**

One: We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

**All: In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

A New Creed is a brief and well-loved affirmation of faith used widely in our worship (1968; rev. 1980, 1995).  
United Church of Canada

## **Prayers of the People and Concerns of the Heart**

### **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 Response**

#### **Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**

Words and Music: Ken Medema

**Lord, listen to Your children praying,  
Lord, send Your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to Your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

## Today's Scripture

**Luke 5:1-11**

### Jesus calls disciples

**5** One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around Him to hear God's word. **2** Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. **3** Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. **4** When He finished speaking to the crowds, He said to Simon, "Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch."

**5** Simon replied, "Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because You say so, I'll drop the nets." **6** So they dropped the nets, and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. **7** They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. **8** When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I'm a sinner!" **9** Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. **10** James and John, Zebedee's sons, were Simon's partners and they were amazed too. Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people." **11** As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

~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

**Here I Am, Lord**

By: Dan Schutte

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people's cry.**

**All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lean me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

## **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**

**Dan Davis, Saxophone**

## **Morning Has Broken**

Arr. By: Brant Adams

## **\*\*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.**

## **Life of Our Church**

**Quilting on Wednesday at 12:00 pm.**

### **Faith Development**

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

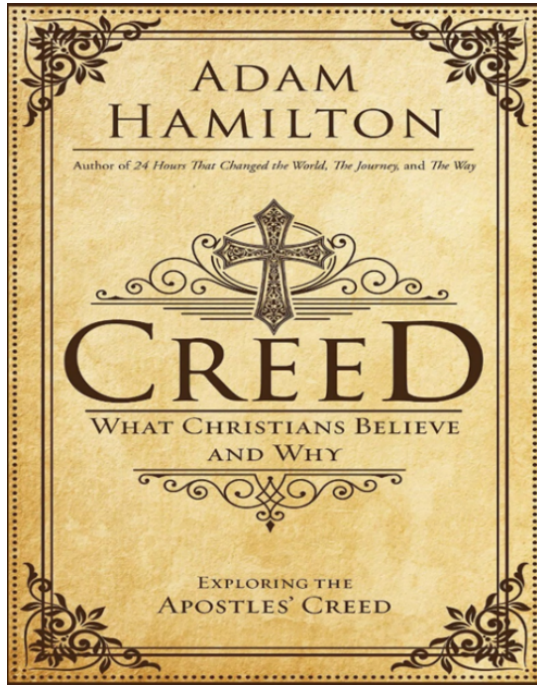
### **FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR JANUARY AND FEBURARY 2025**

**The book, Creed, explores what Christians believe, why they believe, and why it matters. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? Pastor Adam Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs.**

**Join us as we dialogue about: God; Jesus; Holy Spirit; The Universal Church and the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of Sins and the Resurrection-al Life. Our challenge is to memorize the Creed that is almost 2,000 years old.**

**Reading:**

**Romans 3:23  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**



**There is a wish list for clothes in the Fellowship Hall for the Foster Children to appear in court. Clothes need to be brought back to the church by Sunday, February 23rd.**

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

**Wednesday - February 19, 2025  
Women's Fellowship – "Winter Auction"  
at the church. This is to help support the  
Children's Ministry. Accepting donations.  
Bring your own lunch at noon and Auction will  
start right after lunch around 1:00pm.**



**For next week's God's word:  
Happy People and Doomed  
People  
Luke 6:17-26**

## **Benediction/Blessing for Our Journey of Faith (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**

### **The Emperor's Fanfare from Sixth Double Concerto**

By: Antonio Soler  
Arr. By: E. Power Biggs

## **Time with our Children**

### **Peter's Boat**

By Dell Smith Klein

**Luke 5:1-11**

Do you like fishing? (Allow the children to respond.) Kyle and Kelly like going out fishing on their grandfather's boat. One time, they were disappointed because even though they fished all morning, they hadn't caught any fish. Their grandfather told them a story from the Holy Bible about Jesus and Simon Peter's boat.

Jesus was trying to teach the people on the shore, but it must have been very crowded, because when Jesus saw two boats nearby, He recognized that one of them belonged to Simon Peter. Jesus asked to come aboard. Then He and His disciples moved out from the shore where Jesus could speak to the people who were crowding along the shore to hear Him.

After Jesus finished speaking, He told Simon Peter, “Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch.” (vs. 4) Simon Peter responded a bit halfheartedly. He and the others had been fishing all night and hadn’t caught anything. Peter really didn’t want to go fishing again, but because Jesus asked him, Peter went farther out on the lake. What do you think happened then? Did they catch any fish? (Allow the children to respond.) Yes! The nets in both of the boats were so full that when the disciples pulled in the nets, the huge load of fish threatened to sink both boats.

When they got back to the shore, Peter fell on his knees in front of Jesus. Peter didn’t feel worthy even to stand up near Jesus. He—and also James and John, who were Peter’s partners on the fishing boats—were very surprised at the large catch.

But Jesus had a different kind of work for these men to do—and so He said, “From now on you will be catching people” (vs. 10). Doesn’t that sound strange? Jesus was telling His disciples that they would be fishing for people. They would do that by sharing God’s love with people and helping them to understand how much Jesus loved them. Just as these fishermen had once brought fish into their boats, they would now focus on bringing people in the kingdom of God.

The Bible tells us that Peter, James and John left their boats and followed Jesus. They were ready to go fishing for people.

Kelly and Kyle were ready to go fishing for people, too—not with a fishing pole, or a net. Instead, they decided to be loving and kind, and help people understand more about God. Instead of trying to bring fish into their boat, they would focus on bringing people into the kingdom of God.

PRAYER: God, thank You that Simon Peter, James and John learned to fish for people. Help us to share your love with people around us, too. Thank You that You care for us and because of Jesus, we can show others Your love.

Scripture are quotations from the World English Bible.  
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**3 Saturdays till INASMUCH, Fort Myers, 2025**

**Save the Date — March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**INASMUCH 2025**

**Bring your loose change to feed the machines.**

**We will have:**

**Midwest Food Bank**

**Make Kindness Cards**

**Landscaping at the Dr. Ella Piper Center**

**Small House Repairs**

**Foster Children Bags**

**\*If interested in purchasing clothing for**

**Foster Children for Court Appearance,**

**Please see shopping list on bulletin board**

**in Fellowship Hall. Due at church by February 24th\***

**[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054FACAF2EA7FB6-54666407-inasmuch)**

**904054FACAF2EA7FB6-54666407-inasmuch**

**INASMUCH Fort Myers 2025**

**Free Pancake Breakfast for Volunteers**

**At 8:00 AM on March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Love for  
God is  
demonstrated  
by love for  
others.**

**-Andy Stanley**



The Church is the  
Church only when  
it exists for others...  
not dominating,  
but helping and  
serving.



— DIETRICH BONHOEFFER,  
LETTERS AND PAPERS FROM  
PRISON



[www.dietrichbonhoeffer.org](http://www.dietrichbonhoeffer.org)



**Thomas A. Edison  
Congregational Church**  
*1619 Llewellyn Dr.  
Fort Myers, FL 33901*

**9 am to 12 pm  
Sunday, February 23rd**

Please Help Us Make Our Goal of  
10+ Units of Blood

Spend a few minutes of your time and save the life of another person. Your donation through the Lee Health Blood Center will stay in Lee County and benefit local residents and visitors in need.

All donors will receive **this limited-edition long sleeve t-shirt and wellness checkup** including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

**For more information call (239) 343-2333.**



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); Stanley Helling (Brother of Joe Helling).

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***No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you're welcome here at Edison Congregational Church.  
Welcome home!***

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Website:	<a href="http://www.edisonchurch.com">www.edisonchurch.com</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/EdisonChurch">Facebook.com/EdisonChurch</a>
Email Pastor:	<a href="mailto:Pastorjim@taecc.com">Pastorjim@taecc.com</a>
Email Office:	<a href="mailto:Admin@taecc.com">Admin@taecc.com</a>
Office Phone:	239-334-4978
Office Hours:	Monday-Thursday 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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