



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*January 12, 2025*



# **Order of Worship**

## ***Baptismal Remembrance Sunday***

\*\* 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**

**To Shepherds as they Watched by Night**

**Op 7, No 5**

By: Paul Manz

#### **Opening of Worship (responsively)**

One: Wade into the waters of love;

**All: Step into the rivers of blessing.**

One: Here, find the renewing streams of mercy.

**All: Here, splash in the wonder of God's goodness.**

One: Feel the waters of life;

**All: Know the joy of baptism;**

One: See the springs of eternal life;

**All: Sing of the triumph of God's blessing.**

#### **Opening Hymn #559**

#### **Shall We Gather at the River**

Verses 1, 2 and 4

#### **Passing of the Peace**

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

**And also, with you!**

# Prayers of the People and Concerns of the Heart

**Gift of Music**

**Katy Sumrow, Alto**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

By: Albert Hay Malotte

### **Today's Scripture**

**Luke 3:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. <sup>16</sup> John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> The shovel He uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in His hands. He will clean out His threshing area and bring the wheat into His barn. But He will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out."

**Luke 3:21-22**

### **Jesus' baptism**

<sup>21</sup> When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While He was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit came down on Him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are My Son, whom I dearly love; in You I find happiness."

~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**

### **Baptismal Renewal**

*If you desire to remember your baptism today, please*

*come forward by the center aisle and experience the water,  
and recall you are loved by God. Return by the outer aisle.  
While this is happening, you are all invited to sing.*

## **Gift of Music**

### **Down by the River**

By: Alison Krauss  
Tune & text African American Spiritual

## **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**

**Katy Sumrow, Alto**

### **God Has Spoken, Bread Is Broken**

By: Jeremy Young

## **\*\*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**

**No Quilting on Wednesday**

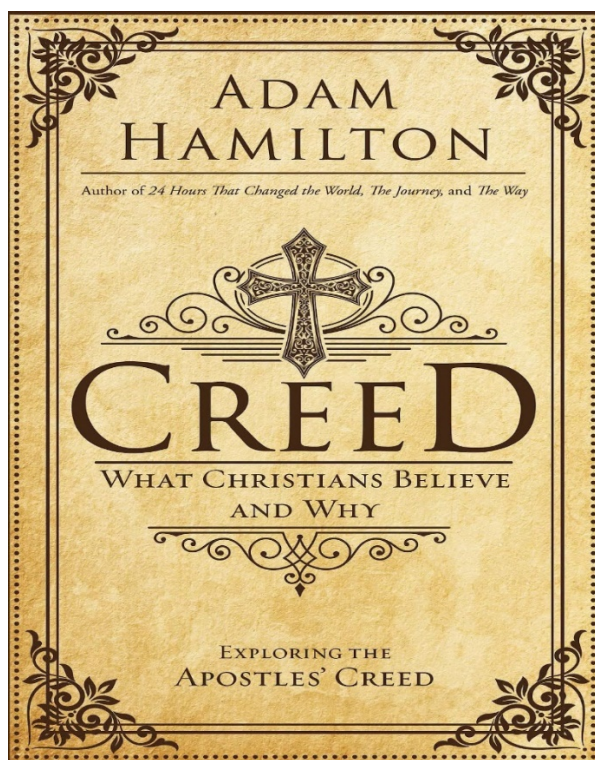
### **Faith Development**

**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.



**The flowers today are gifted to the Council and  
Congregation from the staff to say Thank You  
for your generous gifts at Christmas.  
Pastor Jim, Cindy, Alena, Lori McMullen, Anton and Stephen**

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

**Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Right after service today, Lori McMullen, RN, will be  
offering Blood Pressure checks. Blood Pressure  
Screening is an important part of health  
maintenance. All are encouraged to do this.**

**Women's Fellowship -- January 15<sup>th</sup>, will be a workday  
to prepare for the Jewelry Sale on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of  
this month. We will meet at 12:00 PM at the church.  
Please bring your own lunch and coffee will be provided.**

**We will be welcoming new members on  
Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. If anyone would like to become  
a member of the church, please see either  
Pastor Jim, Pastor Anton or call Cindy at the  
office Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Concert Series**

**January 17, 2025, 7:30 p.m.  
Fred Moyer Jazz Trio  
January 31, 2025, 7:30 p.m.  
Gabriel Martines, Cello**

Love is in the Air ♥

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4:30-6:00 PM

Begin celebrating the month of Love with a concert on the church lawn featuring Debbie Marino. Assemble heart decorations to adorn our Valentine trees on the portico and enjoy a Valentine treat or two. Dress in Red. Sponsored by TAECC church council.

For next week's God's word:  
Significant Sign  
John 2:1-12

**OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
IS PLANNED FOR  
FEBRUARY 2<sup>nd</sup> AFTER WORSHIP.**

### **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**

**O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright**

Arr. By: Michael Burkhardt

## Time with our Children

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### Jesus baptism

By Dr. Carol J Miller

John the Baptizer was the one who was telling the grownups what they needed to do to be ready for Jesus' coming. Does anyone remember one of the things John said? [Feed poor, share coat, don't cheat anyone, etc. Respect all answers]. John was Jesus' cousin. John knew that Jesus had been sent by God. John also knew that by listening to what Jesus said and by watching how Jesus treated people, that we could see what God was like and how God feels about us. John had told the people that Jesus was a much better person and a much more important person than John was.

Now John had been preaching at the Jordan River, which is a very big river in Israel. How many of you have ever been in a river? [Acknowledge all answers. If you have been in a river, say something about it]. John was baptizing grownups. They wanted to be baptized to show that they were sorry for the wrong things they had done, and they were now ready to do things that made God happy. Baptizing people was a new thing then. John was one of the first people to be baptized.

How many of you have been baptized [Have you been baptized]? If you're not sure, look now at your mom or dad. If they are nodding, you have been. If they are shaking their heads, then you have not yet. Our baptism is not the same as what John was doing. When we are baptized, one thing we are doing is joining the Church that Jesus started. John's baptism was just for grownups who were sorry for some of the things they had done.

So, John was probably shocked and very surprised when he saw Jesus coming to be baptized. Jesus had not done wrong things! Jesus was the one who showed us the right way to live! Then why would Jesus want to be baptized? [When I count to three, everyone show me what John's face might have looked like when he saw Jesus coming: one, two, three.]

Jesus never said why He came to be baptized. But something very important and very amazing happened when Jesus was baptized. Listen to this! God—did you hear that?—God came to Jesus—like a dove, a beautiful white bird—and God's



voice said to Jesus, “You are My Son, the beloved; My favor rests on You.” Wow and wow! Jesus was extra special to God, extra specially loved, and God said so! And, when God called Jesus God’s “Son”, it meant that Jesus was like God. Now that is a special baptism!

So, if we watch how Jesus acts, how Jesus treats people; and if we listen carefully to what Jesus says and ask God to help us do what Jesus says, why, it’s the same as hearing and doing what God wants. This is one thing the people in the Church know—that Jesus shows us God. And now you know it too!

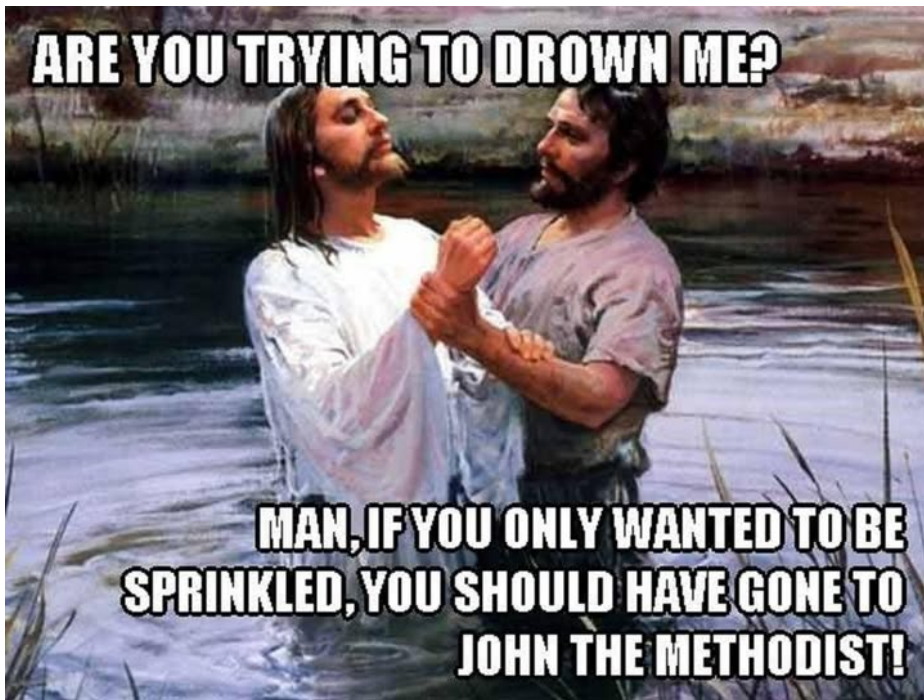
~Scripture quotations from the World English Bible, Copyright 2012, [Richard Niell Donovan](#)

## Video used in Pastoral Words

### Randy Travis - Pray for The Fish

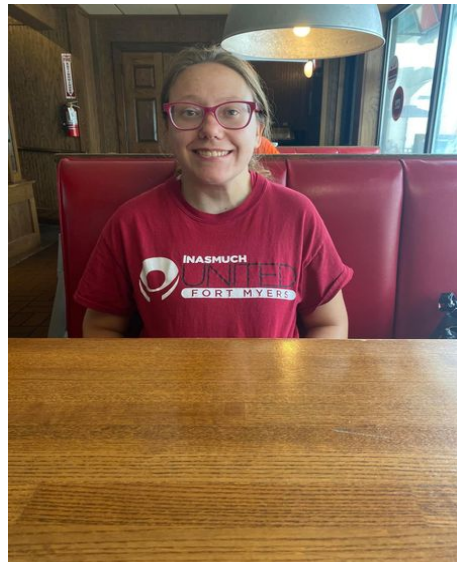
(Live At Calvary Assemble Of God, Orlando, FL/2003)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/342056579672490>



**7 Saturdays till INASMUCH, Fort Myers, 2025  
Save the Date — March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**We will be collecting quarters for feed the machine  
Stay tuned to sign up for volunteering opportunities.**



**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).

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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 – 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*

*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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