



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*AUGUST 1, 2021*





## Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ Be with You!  
**And also with You!**

## Song of Prayer

### *When You Are Praying*

New Britain 8.6.8.6 ("Amazing Grace")

***God, give us grace to follow you;  
Protect us on your Way.  
When evil tempts us from your path,  
Deliver us, we pray.***

***O Lord, we turn in trust to you;  
You know the things we need —  
And like a parent, you so love:  
The ones who ask, receive.***

Biblical References: Luke 11:1-13, 18:9-14; Matthew 6:4-14, 7:7-11

Tune: Traditional American melody ("Amazing Grace") (MIDI); Alternate tune: CRIMOND, Jessie Seymour Irvine, 1872 ("The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want") (MIDI). Text: Copyright © 1998 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

## Prayer of Discipleship

**One:** Good Morning Again God: We are told that we are not alone, you are with us. You are as close as a prayer, as close as our heart.

**All:** **Yet why do you feel so far away, God? Teach us to pray!**

**One:** For those among us who have not prayed this week; forgive us for not turning to you, for prioritizing many things, while missing what is essential.

**All:** **Help us as we have failed to find the comfort and wisdom you offered.**

One: For those among us who wanted to pray, but didn't know how to pray this week:

**All: show us that we can long for you, even when there are no words.**

One: For those among us who prayed, but prayed selfishly or for only our own benefit;

**All: enlarge our horizon to see your big picture, to see the needs of others and not just our own.**

One: For those among us who prayed, but felt that you were not listening, or did not answer the way we wanted;

**All: give us patience, and trust in your timing.**

One: For those among us who are not sure you are even there to pray to;

**All: may the prayers of our community lead us into your presence, drawing us into your love and deepest care.**

One: Hear the concerns of our hearts in this time of silence;

**All: we pray, confident that you hear us, Amen.**

— adapted from a prayer found @ <https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadi.../prayers-confession/>

## Today's 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

**Exodus 16:2-4; 9-15**

<sup>2</sup> The whole Israelite community complained against Moses and Aaron in the desert. <sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, "Oh, how we wish that the Lord had just put us to death while we were still in the land of Egypt. There we could sit by the pots cooking meat and eat our fill of bread. Instead, you've brought us out into this desert to starve this whole assembly to death."

<sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “I’m going to make bread rain down from the sky for you. The people will go out each day and gather just enough for that day. In this way, I’ll test them to see whether or not they follow my Instruction.

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole Israelite community, ‘Come near to the Lord, because he’s heard your complaints.’” <sup>10</sup> As Aaron spoke to the whole Israelite community, they turned to look toward the desert, and just then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses, <sup>12</sup> “I’ve heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat. And in the morning, you will have your fill of bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

<sup>13</sup> In the evening a flock of quail flew down and covered the camp. And in the morning, there was a layer of dew all around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the layer of dew lifted, there on the desert surface were thin flakes, as thin as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” They didn’t know what it was. Moses said to them, “This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

- Common English Bible

## **Gift of Music**

Christian Miller

### *How Can I Keep from Singing*

By: Robert Lowry

## **Today’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

**Psalm 78:23-29**

<sup>23</sup> God gave orders to the skies above,

opened heaven's doors,  
24 and rained manna on them so they could eat.  
He gave them the very grain of heaven!

25 Each person ate the bread of the powerful ones;  
God sent provisions to satisfy them.

26 God set the east wind moving across the skies  
and drove the south wind by his strength.

27 He rained meat on them as if it were dust in the air;  
he rained as many birds as the sand on the seashore!

28 God brought the birds down in the center of their camp,  
all around their dwellings.

29 So they ate and were completely satisfied;  
God gave them exactly what they had craved.

— Common English Version

## **Response to the Sharing of God's Story**

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

### **Meditation**

Pastor Jim

"You Don't Always Get What You Want, But Sometimes You Do"

### **Communion Hymn**

*O Bread of Life*

Christian Miller

By: Camille Saint-Saens

*O Bread of life, for all things breaking,  
The bitter cup on Calvary draining;  
Redeemed by grace, we join in feasting,*

*At your command the past remembering.*

*We come this day in the humble worshiping;  
Our land is scarred, earth's people suffering;  
O sacred face, blood and tears mingling,  
All human pain you are still bearing.*

*Stand in our midst, eyes and hearts opening;  
Your mystic self to us revealing;  
Unite us in life everlasting,  
Immanuel, blessing unending.*

## **Invitation to God's Table/Blessing and Sharing of the Gifts**

*No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey,  
You are welcome at this table.*

## **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.*

**One:** Lord, let our congregation be a witness to you: immersed in scripture, constant in prayer, joyful in worship, generous in giving.

**All: A loving, supportive community reaching out to those in need.**

**One:** Accept these gifts we offer, in the name of all that is good and holy,

**All: Amen.**

— adapted from the Mennonite Offering Prayer

## **\*\*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**

**We have new artwork in the Fellowship Hall – a new quilt by Kathy Bolen, a painting by Faith Gaillot, and a devotional coloring book by Marti Daltry. Please stop by and enjoy!**

**August 8, 2021: Pastor Jim will be reading from 1 King 19:4-8. His message is titled “What You Need is a Cot and 120 Hots ...”. We are pleased to have Emi Shannon as our guest musician.**

**Our August/September collection drive is for our ministry partner, Edison Park Elementary School. Items needed are:**

**CRAYOLA COLORED PENCILS – 12 COUNT  
CRAYOLA CRAYONS – 24 COUNT  
ELMER’S GLUE STICKS – .77 OZ  
BULK COPY PAPER – 500 COUNT  
#2 PENCILS – SHARPENED  
ERASERS – PINK LARGE  
KLEENEX FACIAL TISSUE**

### **ALSO NEEDED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:**

**BACKPACKS  
BOYS / GIRLS NEW UNDERWEAR  
OR GYM SHORTS (ANY COLOR)  
SELECT A SIZE, SELECT A GENDER AND DONATE**

**These items are also posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Jim or contact the office.**

Our summer schedule is in place from Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, through Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be one service at 10:00 am.

**\*\*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**

Tony Contino

*Finale From the Organ Symphony #3*

By: Camille Saint-Saens

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## LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING

Communities of faith in Fort Myers who meet for worship, prayer and find ways to engage in social justice in Lee County and throughout the world.

God's creation and the small acts of creation care that we engage in daily.

Those who are unemployed or under employed.

Those who are homeless, hungry or striving to stay ahead of being homeless and hungry.

Those struggling but engaged in the process of recovery from substance abuse.

Our men and women in uniform across the globe and here at home.

All the branches of our government – locally and nationally.

Those battling chronic illness and going through treatment regimes. Those who are grieving the loss of a significant love.

### Our church family members in need of prayer:

Brandee Newcomer, Roy Shipley

E. Mac MacDonald (Sharon Carlson's Father); John Schmidt (Gail Courtwright's Brother); James Harper, Jr. (Pastor Jim's Father); Milton Kornegay (Robert Kornegay's Brother); Jim Gilbert (Lynn Todes' Brother); David Norris (Guest Singer)

\*\*If you would like to add a name to our list, please contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Anton, or the church office.

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## **Time With Our Children and the Bible This Week!**

Exodus 16:2-15

Patience

-By Lois Parker Edstrom

Have you ever gone on a road trip with your family? Riding in a car with your parents and brothers and sisters can be a lot of fun. You get to see new and interesting things, eat different kinds of food, have time together to play games and sing songs.

Sometimes, however, you can get bored riding in a car for long periods of time. You may say, "I'm tired." "I'm hungry." "How much

longer?” “Are we there yet?” “Mom, sister has her foot on my side of the car.” Does this sound familiar?

In the Bible we find a story about the Israelites, a group of people who were on a long journey. They had been slaves in Egypt and Moses was chosen by God to lead these people to a better land. It was a very, very long journey. They were tired and did not have enough to eat. They began to grumble and said to Moses, “Why did you bring us out here in the wilderness? We are going to die of hunger.”

“Then Yahweh (the Lord) said to Moses, ‘... I will rain bread from the sky for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day...’” (16:4).

The story tells us that is exactly what happened. Each morning the Israelites found “a small round thing, small as the frost on the ground” (16:14). They said, “What is it?” (16:15).

“Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread which Yahweh (the Lord) has given you to eat’” (16:15).

This miracle taught the Israelites to be patient and have faith that the Lord would help them.

How difficult it is to wait and be patient, especially when we are tired and hungry. We want what we want right now!

Patience is learning how to hold back our complaints even when we are uncomfortable and annoyed. A sure sign that we are growing up and becoming a thoughtful person is when we learn to be more patient. Gather enough patience for each day!

***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>
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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 – Tracy Wagaman*

*Organist – Dr. Tony Contino*

*Pianist - Barry Pierce*

*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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