



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*NOVEMBER 21, 2021*



# Order of Worship

## *Thanksgiving 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

The Southwest Florida Dulcimer Club

#### *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Words & Music: J. Scriven/Converse

#### *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Words & Music: Gesangbuch/Crusader's Hymn

### Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: Show us the promise of your presence in each sunrise, in the warmth of the noontime sun, in the glowing of each sunset,

**All: and our thanksgiving will be lasting, O God.**

One: Show us the smile on a baby's face, the fun of two children playing, an old person cracking a joke,

**All: and our thanksgiving will be joyful, O God.**

One: Show us one neighbor helping another, one family member sacrificing for another, a grateful nation going to work,

**All: and our thanksgiving will be thoughtful, O God.**

One: Show us the church caring for the vulnerable, worshipping whole-heartedly, learning enthusiastically,

**All: and our thanksgiving will be faithful, O God.**

-Adapted from a prayer found in Prayers to Share, edited by David Sparks

## Hymn of Faith #33

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

### Passing of the Peace

May Christ be with You on Your Journey!  
**And also with you!**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsively)

One: For a good meal after a long day, a star-filled sky, a hug from a loved one, an unexpected smile,

**All: thanksgiving flows naturally to you, O God.**

One: Thanks for the things we need: food, clothes, warmth, and shelter.

**All: Thanks for the people we love: parents and grandparents, friends near and far.**

One: Thanks for a time to play: for football and tennis, card and board games.

**All: Thanks for a time to dream: of faraway places, of luscious desserts, of family reunited, of freedom from worry.**

One: Thanks for the harvest gathered in and for useful work at the office, factory, and at home.

**All: Thanks for our Christian faith: for prayers offered and answered, and for the Good News Jesus brings.**

One: May we offer thanksgiving in all things:

**All: when life is testing, in times of celebration, in times of sorrow, in the middle of a pandemic and when normality returns.**

One: We offer thanksgiving to you, gracious God:

**All: You were faithful yesterday, You are faithful today, You are faithful all the days of our lives. Amen.**

-Adapted from a prayer found in Prayers to Share, edited by David Sparks

## **Prayers of 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.**

### **Prayer Response**

***For yourself, best gift divine,  
to the world so freely given,  
agent of God's grand design:  
peace on earth and joy in heaven.***

***Christ, our Lord, to you we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.***

For the Beauty of the Earth

Author: Follitt Sandford Pierpoint (1864); Tune: DIX (Kocher)

## **Today's Scripture**

## **Philippians 4:4-9**

**4-5** Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with

them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

<sup>6-7</sup> Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

<sup>8-9</sup> Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

-- The Message

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

The Story of God for the People of God!

**Thanks Be to God!**

gratitude

# Hymn of Faith

## Simple Gifts

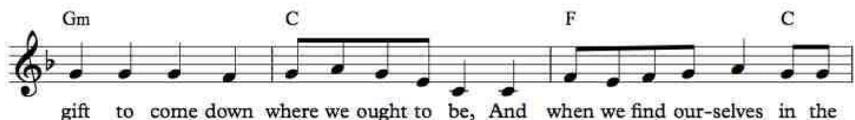
Lawrence Henry

F Am Dm



'Tis the gift to be sim-ple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the

Gm C F C



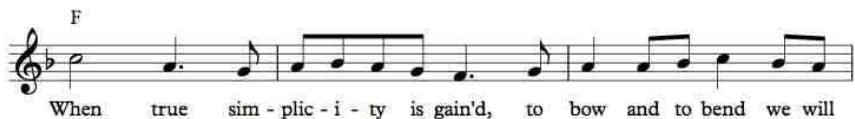
gift to come down where we ought to be, And when we find our-selves in the

F Bb Am Gm C F



place just right, 'Twill be in the val - ley of love and de-light.

F



When true sim - plic - i - ty is gain'd, to bow and to bend we will

C F



not be a-sham'd, to turn, turn will be our de-light, 'Till by

C F



turn - ing, turn - ing we come 'round right.

## Today's Message

**“Grateful We Have Been Here Before ...”**

**Gift of Music**

*It is Well With My Soul*  
Words & Music: Spafford/Villa Du Havre

Dulcimer Club

## 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.*

**Call to Give**

**Tune: Old Hundredth**

***Praise God who gives us life to live;  
Praise God who calls us all to give.  
Praise God whose image we all bear;  
Praise God whose love we now can share. Amen***

## Life of Our Church

**Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> - We will decorate the church for Advent at 10:00 am. Lunch will be provided – plan to eat outside.**

**\*\*Please RSVP for lunch.**

**Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – Happy Thanksgiving! Office will be closed.**

**Faith Development will return for December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow.**

**\*\*Doxology (voices only)**

**Tune: Old Hundredth**

**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.**

## **\*\*Benediction (Responsively)**

Our worship has ended, but now our service begins!  
Go from this place for you and I are the body of Christ  
and the whole world awaits us.

So, live passionately and love faithfully,  
and celebrate every moment of your life from now until the Finale.  
Our God of relentless grace goes with us!  
Amen. **Amen.**

~ Adapted from a prayer written by The Rev. Michael S. Piazza

**Postlude**

*Blessed Assurance*  
Words & Music: Crosby/Assurance

Dulcimer Club

*Today we are pleased to welcome the Southwest Florida Dulcimer Club  
The members are: Ruth Paces, Cathy Morse, Wes Sims,  
Janet Keller, David McGrath, and Vicki Maggard*

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## **Ministry Partnerships 2021**

Below are the organizations that we partner with locally & globally:

Edison Park Elementary School  
Operation INASMUCH Fort Myers  
South Fort Myers Food Pantry  
Mission Peniel  
Nations Association Charities  
Lee County Military Support  
ACT – Abuse, Counseling & Treatment  
National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

One Great Hour of Sharing  
Church World Services  
Builders Without Borders  
Campolo Center for Ministry

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

Play part of the song "Don't Worry, Be Happy" by Bobby McFerrin. Ask the children to share their answers to the question, "What makes you happy?" (You might also share what makes you happy.)

Talk about the different things the children have listed. You might want to ask them to raise their hands if the ideas listed make them happy. For example, "How many of you are happy like Lisa is when playing with your pet?" Include yourself in the voting. Then ask, "What makes you worry?" (Again, you might want to share what makes you worry.) Ask them if worrying about something is going to make it better or make it go away? Again, see if the children worry about the things listed. This is a good way to realize we all have similar concerns.

Suggest that it is a lot more fun to think about the things that delight us rather than think about the things that give us concern. What is something we can do to help us when we worry? Pray is the answer you are looking for. Tell them the Bible says, "Have no anxiety about anything but in prayer ... let your request be made known to God ... and the peace of God which passes all understanding ... will keep your hearts and minds in Jesus." This is a good thing to remember! Play McFerrin's song again as the children return to their seats.

-- adapted from homiletics online

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**No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're  
welcome here at our 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 – 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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# ADVENT AT EDISON

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**11/28 - FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT (10AM)**  
Violin and Vocals by Debbie Marino

**12/5 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (10AM)**  
Flute by Libby O'Connor

**12/5 — Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers Chamber Chorus Concert FREE CONCERT (3 PM)**

**12/12 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (10AM)**  
Trumpet by Yarielis Deleon

**12/19 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (10AM)**  
Piano and Vocals by David C. Johnson

**12/24 - CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ON THE LAWN (4:45 MUSIC BEGINS) - Oboe, Violin, Piano and Stephanie Lorenz as Vocalist — Carols, Creche Stories & Candlelight**

# THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYERS

## Prayer for The Hand that Made the Hands

For the hands that tilled, for the hands that harvested, for the hands that processed, for the hands that transported, for the hands that stocked, for the hands that sold, for the hands that bought, for the hands that prepared, for the hands that will hold, for the hand that made the hands, our hearts are forever grateful. Amen.

(Ewan Aitken, printed in Blessed be our Table, Wild Goose 2003)

## Prayer For the Laughter of Children

For the laughter of the children, for my own life breath, for the abundance of food on this table, for the ones who prepared this sumptuous feast, for the roof over our heads, the clothes on our backs, for our health, and our wealth of blessings, for this opportunity to celebrate with family and friends, for the freedom to pray these words without fear, in any language, in any faith, in this great country, whose landscape is as vast and beautiful as her inhabitants. Thank you, God, for giving us all these. Amen.

(Rabbi Naomi Levy)

