



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

FEBRUARY 28, 2021



Order of Worship

2nd Sunday in Lent

** 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

Holy, Holy, Holy
Arr: Mark Hayes

Tony Contino

Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: Blessed are You, Lord God, King of the universe. Your word brings on the dusk of evening. Your wisdom creates both night and day. You determine the cycles of time. You arrange the succession of seasons and establish the stars in their heavenly courses. The Lord of hosts is Your name. Living and Eternal God, rule over us always.

All: Creator of the Cosmos, of Eternity and Time: Be with us in this time — Saviour of the world, Healer of the nations, Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature.

One: Be with us in this place today Breath of all that lives, DNA of people near and far; stir within our lives Maker—Spirit—Son.

All: God of here and now — Be present in our worship today, that we may find new ways to be present in Your world and better ways to be caretakers of Your Creation. Amen.

— Adapted from a prayer found in the Iona Abbey Worship Book ISBN 1-901557-50-2

Prayers of Discipleship (Responsively)

One: We believe in God the Creator, who reminds us, in the drawing of every new day, that new life is possible. We believe in the wonder and grandeur of a universe where the whole of life is called to live in harmony of care.

All: This we believe.

One: We believe in Jesus Christ, who prayed in mountains of peace, and brought us the Word in mustard seeds of faith and fig trees of blessing, whose footsteps touched the earth in love and who invites us to follow.

All: This we believe.

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit, whose wisdom often lies embedded in ancient peoples. They trod lightly across deserts and lived gently among plants and creatures. They reached respectfully for the mystery, which is God-with-us, the One who never leaves us nor forsakes us.

All: This we believe.

One: We believe in the everlasting hope, the great calling of the people of God, the church, for the transforming of all things, which is possible in God.

All: This we believe. Amen.

— Adapted from a prayer written by Dorothy McRae-McMahan, Uniting Church in Australia.

By: Laura Story & Jesse Reeves

*From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea
Creation's revealing Your majesty
From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring
Every creature unique in the song that it sings, all exclaiming*

*Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God*

*All powerful, untamable
Awestruck we fall to our knees
And we humbly proclaim
That You are amazing God*

*Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night, none can fathom*

*Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God*

*All powerful, untamable
Awestruck we fall to our knees
And we humbly proclaim
That You are amazing God, You are amazing God
You are amazing God*

*Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God*

*All powerful, untamable
Awestruck we fall to our knees
And we humbly proclaim
That You are amazing God*

*You are indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God*

*Incomparable, unchangeable
You see the depths of my heart
And You love me the same
You are amazing God, You are amazing God
You are amazing God*

Passing of the Peace

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

Today's Scripture

Psalm 22:23-31

²³ All of you who revere the Lord—praise him!

All of you who are Jacob's descendants—honor him!

All of you who are all Israel's offspring—stand in awe of him!

²⁴ Because he didn't despise or detest the suffering of the one who suffered—he didn't hide his face from me. No, he listened when I cried out to him for help.

²⁵ I offer praise in the great congregation because of you; I will fulfill my promises in the presence of those who honor God.

²⁶ Let all those who are suffering eat and be full! Let all who seek the Lord praise him! I pray your hearts live forever!

²⁷ Every part of the earth will remember and come back to the Lord; every family among all the nations will worship you.

²⁸ Because the right to rule belongs to the Lord, he rules all nations.

²⁹ Indeed, all the earth's powerful will worship him; all who are descending to the dust will kneel before him; my being also lives for him.

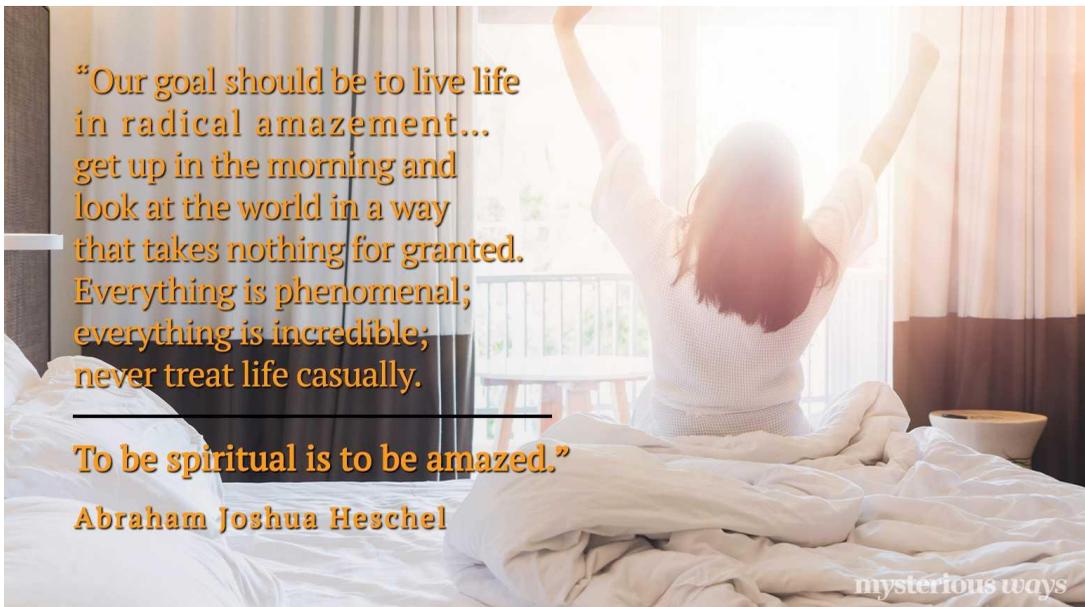
³⁰ Future descendants will serve him; generations to come will be told about my Lord.

³¹ They will proclaim God's righteousness to those not yet born, telling them what God has done.

-Common English Bible

Today's Message:

“Welcome My Attempts to Worship You, Oh God”



Gift of Music

Change My Heart, O God

Eddie Espinoza and the Praise Song Advisory Team

Eddie Espinoza

Musical score for the song "Change My Heart, O God". The score is written in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Stir our minds O God, move them to be - lieve. Stir our minds O God, help us to per - ceive. You are the Pot - ter, we are the clay. Mold us and make - us this is what we pray. Change our hearts, O God, make them ev - er true. Change our hearts, O God, may we be like you. You are the Pot - ter, we are the clay. Mold us and make us, this is what we pray. Change our hearts, O God, make them ev - er true. Change our hearts, O God, may we be like you." The score includes a chorus section starting at measure 7, marked with a "3" and a bracket, indicating a triplet. The score ends at measure 38.

Stir our minds O God, move them to be - lieve. Stir our minds O God,
7 help us to per - ceive. You are the Pot - ter, we are the clay. Mold us and
14 make - us this is what we pray. Change our hearts, O God, make them ev - er true.
20 Change our hearts, O God, may we be like you. You are the Pot - ter,
27 we are the clay. Mold us and make us, this is what we pray.
33 Change our hearts, O God, make them ev - er true. Change our hearts, O God,
38 may we be like you.

1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing

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.

****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

Faith Development's upcoming series "Five Girls of Matthew One ... Spirituality, Scripture, Societal Issues, and Social Justice" begins Wednesday, February 24th. In-person at 10:00 am, on-line at 11:00 am and 6:30 pm.

INASMUCH day is Saturday, March 6th. If you would like to sign-up, information sheets can be found in the Fellowship Hall or you can go directly to their website at www.inasmuchfortmyers.com.

Volunteers needed for a "work day" at the church. We are ordering 2 pallets of mulch that will need to be spread. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Benediction (Responsively)

May God the Father, who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air, provide us with all we need for life in its fullness.

May God the Son, who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine, feed us with his life and transform us in his love.

May God the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos, form us in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth.

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Be with you and remain with you always.

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in the peace of Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen. **Amen.**

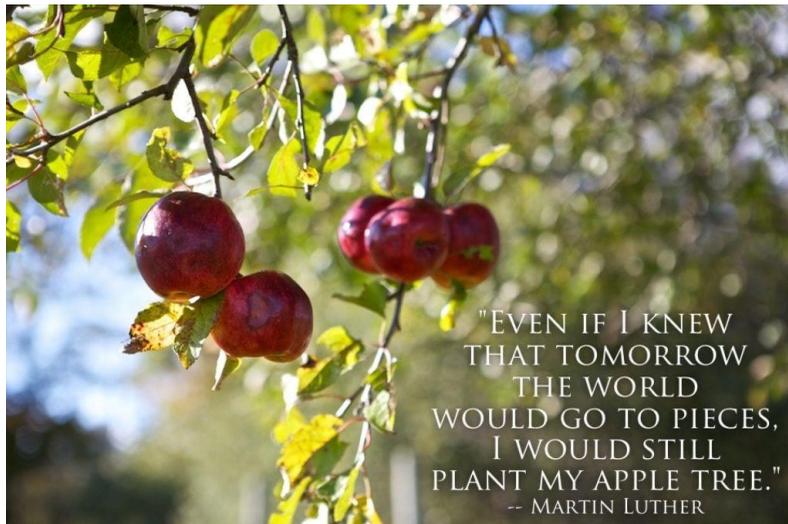
— adapted from a prayer found @ <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/9-prayers-leeds-diocese.pdf>

Musical Lenten Reflection

Tony Contino

Improvisation on Gethsemane

By: Elizabeth Krause



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:

Sharon S., Ronnie C. (Cindi K.'s brother) and our shut-ins.

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

***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 – 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.





If you have a chance, please visit this award-winning quilt as it hangs in our Fellowship Hall. It is on loan to us from Tom Johns, a gifted artist, quilter and member of our church family.