



Thomas A. Edison  
**Congregational Church**

*JANUARY 16, 2022*



# Order of Worship

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After 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**

*Jerusalem, My Happy Home*

Tony Contino

*Tune: Land of Rest with Trumpet Concerto in E-Flat by Haydn  
Arr: Robert Lau*

### Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: Jesus has invited us to a wedding. Who will come?

**All: We will come!**

One: Jesus has invited us to dance, to sing, to celebrate. Who will come?

**All: We will come!**

One: Jesus has invited us to a great feast with good food and great wine. Who will come?

**All: We will come!**

One: Jesus has invited us to receive life, abundant life! Who will come?

**All: We will come!**

One: People of faith; come, let us worship today and celebrate our faith and God's faithfulness!

**All: We have come to worship, now let the reception begin!**

**Passing of the Peace**

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

**Call to Prayer**

***Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!***

***Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!***  
***Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!***  
***Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!***  
***O Lord, kum ba yah!***

-Traditional African Spiritual

**Prayer of Discipleship (Responsively)**

One: Celebration, joy, hope! These are the gifts you give to us,  
Jesus. You turn our mourning into dancing, you take our ashes  
and transform them into beauty.

**All: Thank you, Jesus.**

One: Help us to come to you, not only when we are sorrowful, but  
also when we are celebrating. You desire to rejoice with us; for  
you are the reason we can celebrate.

**All: Thank you, Jesus.**

One: For the sunshine, the rain, the mountains, the seas; for our  
children, our friends, our homes and the air we breathe -- these  
are only the beginnings of things we have to be so grateful for.

**All: Thank you, Jesus!**

## Prayers of the People / Concerns 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.**

### Song of Illumination

#### ***Open Our Eyes, Lord, We Want to See Jesus***

*By: Robert Cull; Tune: Open Our Eyes*

***Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him,  
and say that we love him.***

***Open our ears, Lord,  
and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus.***

### Today's Scripture

**John 2:1-22**

#### Wedding at Cana

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They don't have any wine." <sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, "Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn't come yet."

<sup>5</sup> His mother told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” <sup>6</sup> Nearby were six stone water jars used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water,” and they filled them to the brim. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, “Now draw some from them and take it to the headwaiter,” and they did. <sup>9</sup> The headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine. He didn’t know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

The headwaiter called the groom <sup>10</sup> and said, “Everyone serves the good wine first. They bring out the second-rate wine only when the guests are drinking freely. You kept the good wine until now.” <sup>11</sup> This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Common English Bible

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

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

**Gift of Music**

*In Cana at a Wedding Feast*

David Lindsay

ELLACOMBE 8.6.8.6 D

("I Sing the Mighty Power of God"; "Hail To the Lord's Anointed")

In Cana at a wedding feast, Christ worked his first great sign.  
There Jesus' mother told her son, "They don't have any wine!"  
He called for six stone water jars; they filled them to the brim;  
Through water changed to wine that day, his friends believed in him.

O Lord, we see your wondrous signs and know through faith-filled eyes:  
You are new wine that brings us joy, true bread that satisfies.  
You give clear vision to your church; you make the wounded whole.  
You give us hope, when seas are rough; for you are in control!

Biblical References: John 2:1-12; Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15; Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21; Mark 10:46-52;  
Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzoglich Württembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784 ("I Sing the Mighty Power of God"; "Hail To the Lord's Anointed") (MIDI); Text:  
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## Today's Message: "Finding God in the Water & the Wine"

### Gift of Music

### *When Hands Reach Out*

David Lindsay

O WALY WALY 8.8.8.8 ("Though I May Speak")

When hands reach out and fingers trace  
The beauty of a loved one's face,  
We thank you, God, that love relies  
On gifts of grace not seen with eyes.

When fingers spell and signs express  
Our prayer and praise and thankfulness,  
We thank you, God, that hands can sing;  
You bless the silent songs we bring.

When broken bodies will not mend,  
We thank you, God, for Christ our Friend.  
In him, our healing can begin:  
He welcomes all the wounded in.

And when the ways we learn and grow  
Are not the ways that others know,  
We thank you, God, that we have learned  
Your love's a gift, and never earned.

Your Spirit gives us differing ways  
To serve you well and offer praise.  
When all are joined as one, we'll be  
Your able, strong community.

Biblical References: John 15:15; 1 Corinthians 12. Tune: Traditional English melody ("Though I May Speak") (MIDI)

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Copied from Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books, 2009).

### 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**

**A free concert performed by The Chamber Chorus of the  
Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers is today  
at 3 pm - "The 20s"**

**During our upcoming Faith Development series  
(January 5 - February 23), our topic will be  
"Conversations Found in Genesis"  
For this week, read Genesis Chapters 6 thru 9.**

**The Women's Fellowship Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, January  
19<sup>th</sup>. This is a work day to prepare for the upcoming  
jewelry/accessory sale.**

**The Annual Meeting will be held on  
Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, after the service.**

**The Women's Fellowship Jewelry Sale is  
Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until 2 pm.**

**Sharon Surfus' Celebration of Life Memorial Service will  
be January 29<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM in the Sanctuary.**

## **\*\*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

*Postlude on "Ellacombe"*

Tony Contino

*Tune: Ellacombe; Arr: Jason D. Payne*

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## **Time With Our Children**

Hold up a champagne glass, and ask the children if they have ever been to a wedding reception. See if they can tell you what people do with the glass you are holding. Say that they fill it with champagne or sparkling cider, and they make a toast to the bride and the groom.

Then turn the glass upside down, and ask how people would feel if there was no drink to put in the glass. Agree that everyone would be very sad, which is exactly what happened when Jesus and his mother and his disciples went to a wedding -- the Bible tells us that "the wine gave out" (John 2:3).

Have the children guess what Jesus did, and then explain that he ordered six large jars to be filled with water, and then he turned the water into wine (vv. 6-11). Ask them how the bride, groom and guests must have felt about that. Explain that Jesus did this as his very first miracle because he wants us to have enough of what we need, he wants us to celebrate the love that we have for each other, and he wants us to trust in him every day.

Tell the children that they cannot expect Jesus to come into their lives and turn water into soft drinks, but they can trust him to give them

what they need for life and help them to be loving and faithful people every day.

— adapted from homiletics online

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## **Ministry Partnerships 2021**

### **Edison Park Elementary School**

Right here in our own neighborhood we make it possible for the teachers to help needy students and their families throughout the school year. It's amazing!

### **Operation InAsMuch Fort Myers**

This is the sixth year for this effort. Four churches in our area plan and carry out a day of service to the many needy in our community. Our church gathers goods, provides volunteers and we are by far the largest financial supporter of the project. You've made a real difference.

### **South Fort Myers Food Pantry**

We are a supporting member of this coalition of churches. The pantry is hosted on the campus of Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church and is part of the Harry Chapin Food Bank System here in Lee County. It is a first-class operation.

### **Mission Peniel**

We are joint partners with the Peace River Presbytery, Presbyterian Church USA, in their ministry of service, providing food, clothing and support to the farmworkers in Immokalee, FL. We also send volunteers to work at the mission. This work is really growing.

### **Nations Association Charities**

This ministry has served the needy of our area since 1978 and their current focus is in on ministry to disadvantaged and at-risk youth in our community.

### **Lee County Military Support Program**

Our gifts assist local troops and their families while deployed and all veterans returning home to Lee County. A major focus is placed on our homeless vets.

### **ACT – ABUSE, COUNSELING & TREATMENT**

Offers our 24-hour hotline, 3 safe shelters, children's program, counseling (both

individual and group), economic empowerment program which includes financial and health literacy, life skills education, job skills evaluation and training along with GED assistance and ESOL.

## **Kentucky Tornado Response**

Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ is continuing cleanup in tornado ravaged areas and in 3 months they will switch to helping rebuild homes and churches.

### **Below are the organizations that we partner with globally:**

#### **National Association of Congregational Christian Churches**

Through our denomination we share in the support of our collective ministries, help retired ministers who live below the poverty line, \*One Great Hour of Sharing and \*NACC (Philippines).

#### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

Funds directed through the NACCC is our key way of responding to needs arising from natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. When a disaster comes, your church responds.

#### **Church World Services**

We help send love through the purchase of blankets. CWS distributes these blankets in the wake of disasters.

#### **Builders Without Borders**

This Fort Myers based effort provides structures and support for missionaries in the third world. In 2016 and 2017 we had a member of our church as part of the construction team in Rwanda.

#### **Campolo Center for Ministry**

The Campolo Center helps launch young leaders into significant roles of church and ministry leadership right after graduation – for the benefit of the Church and God’s Kingdom.

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## **Gifts Received For our Ministry Partnerships**

**2021: \$29,520.00**

**2022: \$20,020.00**

**Thank you for your continued generosity!**

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### **PRAYER LIST**

#### **Our Church Members:**

Kate Baumann; Larry Newcomer, Sr.; Roy Shipley

#### **Friends & Family:**

Jim Gilbert (Lynn Todes' Brother);

Judy Fulton (Friend of Larry & Patty Newcomer, Sr.);

Pat Tanguol (Friend of the Church and Quilter);

Rhonda & KC (Friends of Lori Main);

Ruth Mackechnie (Extended Family of Caroleah Mackechnie);

Larry Ziegler; Don Cole's brother

**OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
IS PLANNED FOR  
JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> AFTER WORSHIP.**

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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 – 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.*

