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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

*East Charlotte Pres is a church that strives to be defined by the Gospel-  
inviting everyone to See, Savor, and Serve Jesus as the Author & Perfecter of our faith.*

10101 ROBINSON CHURCH RD. CHARLOTTE, NC 28215  
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A large, light gray fingerprint graphic is positioned behind the text "BEHIND THE SCENES".

**BEHIND THE  
SCENES**  
THE STORY  
OF ESTHER

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARRIE DIRKS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

REV. TYLER DIRKS

## SONG OF PRAISE

### HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED

*J. Montgomery | S. McCracken*

#### chorus

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
His reign on earth begun!*

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;  
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy to those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

### GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

*T. O. Chisholm | W. M. Runyan*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not  
As Thou hast been, thou forever wilt be

#### chorus

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

Summer and winter, springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

## - ANNOUNCEMENTS -

**LIFE GROUPS** – Life groups at ECPC have begun! Life groups are a core ministry of our church. Our hope is that these small groups would foster a community where they are essentially living life together as brothers and sisters in God's family. We hope that you will consider investing in one of our life groups! For more information about life groups at ECPC please see the Weekly Update email or talk with one of our officers or staff.

**ROOTS CLASS** – If you are a visitor and are interested in church membership or would simply like more information about ECPC, then you are invited to our next Roots class on Friday, October 1st from 6-9 pm (location TBD). This class is required for membership. Please RSVP to Katie (admin@eastcharlottepres.org) so we can prepare for your attendance. We hope to see you there!

**CHURCH WORK DAY** – Mark your calendars for our next church wide work day on October 9th from 8am-12pm. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon!

## - UPCOMING EVENTS -

<b>SEPT 29</b>	YOUTH GROUP
<b>OCT 1</b>	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
<b>OCT 1</b>	ROOTS CLASS
<b>OCT 3</b>	SUNDAY WORSHIP
<b>OCT 6</b>	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
<b>OCT 6</b>	YOUTH GROUP
<b>OCT 8</b>	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
<b>OCT 10</b>	SUNDAY WORSHIP
<b>OCT 13</b>	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
<b>OCT 15</b>	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
<b>OCT 15</b>	TAVERN TALK
<b>OCT 17</b>	SUNDAY WORSHIP
<b>OCT 20</b>	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
<b>OCT 20</b>	YOUTH GROUP

WHILE NURSERY FOR CHILDREN WALKING THROUGH AGE 3 IS NOW AVAILABLE, WE HAVE ALSO MADE A SPACE IN THE MODULE WITH COUCHES AND A LIVESTREAM OF THE SERVICE. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE THIS SPACE AS NEEDED.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

I once was lost in darkest night yet thought I knew the way  
The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave  
I had no hope that You would own; a rebel to Your will  
And if You had not loved me first I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race, indifferent to the cost,  
You looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross  
And I beheld God's love displayed; You suffered in my place  
You bore the wrath reserved for me, now all I know is grace

### chorus

*Hallelujah! All I have is Christ / Hallelujah! Jesus is my life*

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone and live so all might see  
The strength to follow Your commands could never come from me  
Oh Father, use my ransomed life in any way You choose  
And let my song forever be, my only boast is You

## BENEDICTION

## ALL I HAVE IS CHRIST

*J. Kauffman*

REV. TYLER DIRKS

## CONFESSION OF SIN

JON WILKINSON

Father, you tell us that if we are to come after you, we are to forsake all the things of this world that we hold dear. However, we spurn this command and cling to that which gives us pleasure rather than seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. Lord, help us to live within your economy and store up treasure in heaven rather than seek the fleeting riches of this earth.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ISAIAH 55:6-9

"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

HEAL US, EMMANUEL

*K. Twiss | W. Cowper*

(chorus)

Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are  
We long to feel Thy touch  
Deep wounded souls, to Thee we fly  
O Savior hear our cry

Our faith is feeble, we confess  
We faintly trust Thy word;  
But will You pity us the less?  
Be that far from You Lord!

Remember him who once applied  
With trembling for relief;  
"Lord, I believe," with tears he cried;  
"O help my unbelief!"

She, too, who touched you in the press  
And healing virtue stole,  
Was answered, "Daughter, go in peace;  
Thy faith has made thee whole."

Like her, with hopes and fears we come  
To touch You if we may;  
O send us not despairing home;  
Send none unhealed away.

## GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### SONG OF PREPARATION

#### CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH

*J. Kauffman, K. Getty, M. Boswell, M. Merker*

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.  
Who holds our days within His hand? What comes, apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

#### chorus

*O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.*

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.  
Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Unto the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.  
There we will rise to meet the Lord, Then sin and death will be destroyed,  
And we will feast in endless joy, When Christ is ours forevermore.

#### Final chorus

*O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.  
O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death. Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.*

### THE 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.

### PASTORAL PRAYER

JON WILKINSON

## BEHIND THE SCENES THE STORY OF ESTHER

### PREACHING OF THE WORD

REV. TYLER DIRKS

#### "GOD IN THE GRAY" ESTHER 2:12-23

- I. STORY V. SOLUTION
- II. "STAY WITH ME"
- III. SOLUTION

#### - REFLECTION QUESTION -

- 1) Of all the places Jesus went, where would you have been the most uncomfortable? [e.g. Samaria, synagogue, rich people's houses, red light district, parties where folks are overindulging, areas inhabited by demon possessed people, leper communities, areas with lots of poor people, etc.?]
- 2) Is it true that God is more committed to telling stories than He is to "offering solutions"? Give your answer and explain why.
- 3) Malcolm Muggeridge said, "Every happening, great and small, is a parable whereby God speaks to us, and the art of life is to get the message." What's something significant about your story? What role has God given you in the story? What's God teaching you through the story?
- 4) How have you experienced the shift from 'being around' God to being with God? In other words, how have you shifted from 'knowing about God' to knowing God?
- 5) How have you experienced God giving you confidence instead of clarity?
- 6) How will you practice silence, stillness, and smallness this week?