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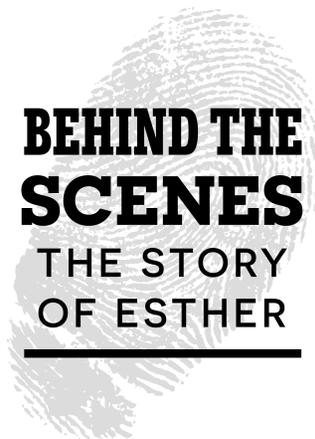


ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 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
WWW.EASTCHARLOTTEPRES.ORG

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**BEHIND THE
SCENES**
THE STORY
OF ESTHER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEATHER HARWOOD

- ANNOUNCEMENTS -

CALL TO WORSHIP

REV. TYLER DIRKS

SONGS OF PRAISE

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL
H.S.Coffin, T. Helmore, J.M. Neale

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

COME THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS
R.H. Prichard, C. Wesley

Come, thou long-expected Jesus Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation Joy of every longing heart

Joy to those who long to see Thee Dayspring from on high appear
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse Of Thy birth, we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing News, glad tidings of a birth
Go to Him, your praises bringing Christ the Lord has come to earth

Come to earth to taste our sadness He whose glories knew no end
By His life He brings us gladness Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend
Leaving riches without number Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder Christ was born the Lord of all

Born Thy people to deliver Born a child, and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne

HOMELESS MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY - Room In The Inn, our partnership with Albemarle Road Pres that provides food and lodging to the homeless, kicked off this week. They are still in need of a few volunteers this month, so please check out the signups in the weekly email. See Jim Saunders for more information - 704-361-0973.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 2nd, for a Sunday school interest meeting following the service. If you are interested in teaching children/youth Sunday school or you're just curious about what Sunday school will be like here in our new building, join us for the meeting. Reach out to Kristen Parman with any questions.

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE NEW YEAR

There are a lot of moving parts that make up the ministries of ECPC and we'd love to help you get plugged in if you aren't already (or just want to be plugged in more!). See Bailey Wagner if you'd like to get involved in our youth program on Wednesday nights this spring, or Michael or Kim Domras if you'd like to take a turn serving refreshments for our fellowship time after the service on Sundays.

LESSONS & CAROLS - Mark your calendars for this years' Lessons and Carols service. Please join us at 6pm on December 24th @ 10101 for a time of worship as we prepare Him room. This is a beautiful opportunity for our church body to fellowship and reflect on how our God took on flesh to come rescue us. Feel free to invite friends, family, and neighbors.

- UPCOMING EVENTS -

- DEC 12 SUNDAY WORSHIP
- DEC 15 YOUTH GROUP
- DEC 17 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
- DEC 19 SUNDAY WORSHIP
- DEC 24 LESSONS & CAROLS
- DEC 26 SUNDAY WORSHIP
- DEC 31 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
- JAN 02 SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

SONG OF RESPONSE

JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

H. Van Dyke, L. von Beethoven, T. Austin, C. Hall

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day

All Thy works with joy surround Thee Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise
Field and forest, vale and mountain; Flowery meadow flashing sea
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, All who live in love are Thine
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine

Mortals join the mighty chorus, Which the Morning Stars began
Father love is reigning o'er us, Brother love binds man to man
Ever singing march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music lifts us sunward, In the triumph song of life

BENEDICTION

REV. TYLER DIRKS

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING, WE ARE SO HAPPY THAT YOU ARE HERE AND WOULD LOVE TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER! PLEASE CONSIDER FILLING OUT A VISITOR'S CARD FOUND ON THE TABLE IN THE VESTIBULE AND PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR GIVE TO TYLER OR ONE OF OUR OTHER OFFICERS. THANK YOU!

ADVENT READING

BLACKMAN FAMILY

JOHN 1:9-18

CONFESSION OF SIN

TIM BLUMENSTEIN

LORD, we believe; help our unbelief. Our week has been filled with many instances of both doing the very things You have told us not to do and leaving the things You have told us to do undone. We have succumbed to pride, disobedience, fear, anxiety, hatred, quarreling, impatience, self-dependency, indulgence, lusts for the world, idolatry, a love for control, and more. We have also neglected evangelism, prayer, the joyful reading of Your word, generosity, hope, and much more. We have frivolously tried to hide from You in the wake of these and many other sins. Indeed, we have given You every reason to hide Your face from us. We are prone to wander and leave the God we love! LORD, we boldly ask for Your forgiveness. Yet again we pray – We believe; help our unbelief!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HOSEA 2:23

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

HIS MERCY IS MORE

M. Boswell | M. Papa

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

chorus

Praise the Lord

His mercy is more

Stronger than darkness, new every morn

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

What riches of kindness he lavished on us
His blood was the payment, his life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

BAPTISM

BEN RISMA

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION

BEN & MARIOTTI RISMA
BOB & KELLY STEVENS
CHUCK & KIM MACURDA
ALLY, EVERETT MACURDA

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SONG OF PREPARATION

SILENT NIGHT
G. Grier, F.X. Gruber, J. Mohr

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin, mother and Child Holy infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born Christ the Savior is born

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at thy birth Jesus, Lord at thy birth

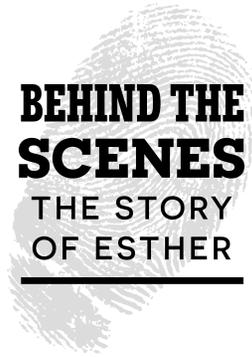
Silent Night! Holy Night! Wondrous star, lend thy light
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King
Christ the Savior, is born! Christ the Savior, is born!

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

TIM BLUMENSTEIN



**BEHIND THE
SCENES**
THE STORY
OF ESTHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

REV. TYLER DIRKS

“EUCATASTROPHE”
ESTHER 8:9-17

I. REVERSAL

II. REJOICE

III. RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

– REFLECTION QUESTIONS –

- 1) When was a time you experienced an improbable, and delightful, turn of events?
- 2) What is an example of coerced hatred that you have been personally influenced by and participated in? How have you felt your own dignity eroding because of the contempt you feel toward others?
- 3) When have you experienced the enhanced health and nourishment of God's special concern for sojourners, widows, and orphans?
- 4) Read Esther 8:17, and answer the following question: In what healthy way(s) is the world supposed to experience the fear of God's people in 2021 & 2022?
- 5) How do you need to embrace the confidence that comes with having a relationship with an all-powerful being who prefers to traffic in eucatastrophe?