

living hope

COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 8, 2024

God of the
BACKGROUND
THE BOOK OF ESTHER



Christmas
AT LIVING HOPE

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WORSHIP & LUNCH ON DEC. 22

8AM | 9:30AM | 11:30AM

LHCC KIDS PERFORMANCE @ 9:30AM SERVICE

TACOS FOR CHRISTMAS AFTER THE 9:30AM & 11:30AM SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP ON DEC. 24 | 7PM

LHCC TOTS PERFORMANCE

LIVING HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 AM | 9:30AM | 11:30AM

December 8, 2024

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jin Ahn

SONGS OF PRAISE

Abigail Won

SCRIPTURE READING

Jamie Kim

MESSAGE

God of the Background, Part 3

“God's Dilemma, or How to Survive in an Empire”

Esther 5-7

Pastor Albert Kae

TESTIMONY

Airi Fukushima

COMMUNION

SONGS OF REFLECTION AND OFFERING

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor James Lee

CONGREGATIONAL VOTE



DEACON & ELDER NOMINATIONS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Advent Devotional

Starting December 1st, Living Hope will begin the advent season by providing a daily devotional. We are excited to share the 'Everyday Gospel Christmas Devotional' to help prepare our hearts for Christmas. It's perfect for individuals or families to reflect on the gospel together. Use [this link](#) to download the free e-book version. Please join us in making this Advent season meaningful. For instructions and more information check out the, [Advent Devotional Page](#).

2. Prime Christmas | Today

Calling all single adults to celebrate the baby Jesus together! Sunday, December 8 at 5pm to 7pm at the Porch. Register TODAY! [REGISTER FOR PRIME CHRISTMAS 2024](#)

3. Congregational Vote (Members Only) | Today

We believe the church is not only a gathering of believers but a family of believers who feel ownership of the church. At the end of each year, we go through the process of nominating servant leaders for the next term. We have now announced the nominees for Deacons and Elders for the new terms starting 2025 and the in-person Congregational Vote for the nominees will take place for Members of Living Hope after each service on Sunday, December 8.

4. Neighbor's Pantry | Dec 14

Every second Saturday of the month, our church hosts a no-cost food pantry for anyone in our area. Neighbor's Pantry is an opportunity for us as a church family to share the love of Christ with our neighbors. If you're looking to get involved or have any questions, please contact Pastor Albert Kae (albert.kae@livinghopecc.org).

5. Parent and Me Playdate | Dec 14

The last Parent and Me (ages 0-24 months) for this year will be on Saturday December 14 from 9am-11am in the nursery room. Please stop by the nursery room or email lhcc.babies@livinghopecc.org to receive an evite and more information.

6. Christmas Sunday & Christmas Eve | Dec 22 & 24

Join us in worshipping our Lord and Savior during this season of celebrating the Greatest Gift, the birth of Jesus Christ!

Our Christmas Sunday on Dec. 22:

- The LHCC Choir and String Quartet & Trumpet: "Worthy is the Lamb" (Handel)
- LH Kids Christmas Performance (at the 9:30 Service)
- All Church Lunch: Tacos at Christmas

Our Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 @ 7PM:

- LH Tots Christmas Performance
- Candlelight Worship





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SERMON NOTES

God of the Background, Part 3

“God's Dilemma, or How to Survive in an Empire”

Esther 5-7

Pastor Albert Kae

I. Emperor’s Dilemma

II. Enemy’s Dilemma

III. Hero’s Dilemma

IV. God’s Dilemma



NO-COST FOOD PANTRY

Come and receive free groceries.
No residency requirement.



JULY 13, AUG. 10, SEPT. 14,
OCT. 12, NOV. 9, DEC. 14



LEARN MORE ON SOCIAL   @THENEIGHBORSPANTRY



PARENT & ME

Living Hope Community Church

WHAT: PARENT & ME PLAY DATE
WHO: MOMS&DADS AND BABIES OF NURSERY-AGED CHILDREN (0-23 MONTHS)
WHEN: 9AM-11AM, 2ND SATURDAYS OF EVERY EVEN MONTH
WHERE: LHCC NURSERY ROOM

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Cell Group Discussion Questions

GET-TO-KNOW

- Ice Breaker – Ice Breaker – What are your initial reactions to the following song?
https://youtu.be/ewCu3F_Nkbs

FROM-THE-SERMON

- 1) Read Esther 5-7 together (all three chapters). What are your initial reactions to the story?
- 2) How does your reading of this story change within the complicated context of empire? In other words, what are other examples of God (or God’s people) vs empires in the Scriptures and do these other examples affect your reading of this story?
- 3) How does the way God responds to these dilemmas (in Christ) fulfill or subvert the ways these characters in Esther’s story respond to their dilemmas?

BEYOND-THE-SERMON

- 4) What are examples in your own life where your allegiance to Christ conflicts with your allegiance to (or perhaps desires and aspirations within) present-day empires, like America?