THE HIDDEN HAND OF HISTORY

A STUDY IN ESTHER



THE MOODY CHURCH

November 22, 2026

WELCOME

Thanks so much for worshiping with us today!
We believe that Jesus is inviting you on *The Journey of a Lifetime*.

We're here to help you take the next step on your journey with Jesus. If you have questions, stop by the Connection Center after the service or send us an email to info@moodychurch.org.

PASTOR TO PEOPLE

Philip Miller, Senior Pastor



The last time you were at a theater, you probably saw the twin masks on the wall which represent comedy and tragedy. The ancient Greeks sorted all of the great stories into those two dramatic categories, believing both spoke truth about reality because life holds both comedic and tragic elements. But the question is: Which story gets the final word? Is life mainly a comedy where everyone lives happily ever after? Or is life mainly a tragedy where everything falls apart in final ruin? Whose story is closer to reality: the optimists' or the pessimists'?

The Bible gives us a third option beyond the strict categories of comedy and tragedy: the redemptive story. In a redemptive story, the comedic and tragic elements are marbled in with one another. We don't choose between them because they both exist. But there is a deeper storyline running through the good and the bad, bringing redemption. A redemptive story-arc is not nearly as cheery and optimistic as a comedy, nor is it as dispiriting and pessimistic as a tragedy. A redemptive story looks heartache unflinchingly in the eye, while simultaneously raising our eyes to the dawn of hope already peering in over the horizon.

The book of Esther is a prime example of the redemptive story arc, as God works all things together for the good of His people and for the glory of His name. This story is a microcosm of what God is doing in all of history. Our God is the God of the redemptive twist. What the enemy means for evil, God superintends for His good purposes. The ultimate twist took place at the cross, where Jesus' tragic demise became the moment of His triumphant glory! Our God takes crucifixions and turns them into resurrections. He turns sorrow into joy, and mourning into rejoicing. He is in the business of overcoming evil with good.

So today, as we wrap up our series in Esther, may we once again be reminded that our God is the hidden hand of history and that He is working all things together into a redemptive twist. It's a story more sobering than a comedy and more joyous than a tragedy. It is a redemptive story of Gospel hope, a mending which will be all the more beautiful for having once been so sad. It's the story God is writing. It's the story of cosmic history. It's the story we live in.

It really is true: We are loved, more than we know.

THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

KNOW GOD *THROUGH WORSHIP*

FEED YOUR SOUL *THROUGH COMMUNITY*

GROW IN LOVE *THROUGH SERVICE*

CHANGE YOUR WORLD *THROUGH MISSION*

CONNECTION CENTER

Visit us in the lobby to take your next step.

Open before and after the service.



TMC NEWS

Subscribe to stay up-to-date with everything in your church family.

THE MOODY CHURCH APP

Engage with your church family on the go! Fresh content uploaded every week.

moodychurch.org/resources

WAYS TO GIVE

Digital: App or moodychurch.org/give | **In-Person:** Offering boxes at the exits

Text: $Amount to 312.262.3997

ORDER OF SERVICE

New Member Presentation | Pastor Philip Miller

Music | Pastor Tim Stafford

Pastoral Prayer | Pastor Larry McCarthy

Message | Pastor Philip Miller

SERMON NOTES

THE REDEMPTIVE TWIST

Esther 9:1–10:3

Pastor Philip Miller

From Threat to Triumph

- God turns the doom into deliverance.

From Fasting to Feasting

- God turns the grief into gratitude.

From Lament to Legacy

- God turns the end into enduring.

Takeaway: The redemptive twist is God's signature move.

For song titles and more details, visit moodychurch.org/live-stream.

Watch this sermon again at **moodychurch.org/sermons**.

Need prayer? Visit moodychurch.org/prayer to submit a request, receive in-person prayer with our Prayer Team after the service, or call 312.319.1570.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

The Thanksgiving Offering is our opportunity to give above and beyond our regular giving. This year's offering is called *For Such a Time as This*, because we are working with several ministry partners who are sharing the Gospel in dangerous places. Just as in the book of Esther, God is still at work today, doing extraordinary things in the very places where His people face the fiercest opposition.

Our Thanksgiving Offering will be given to **12** of our trusted partners who are proclaiming Christ in some of the most challenging places around the world.

This year, we're praying for an additional **$250,000** beyond our regular giving.

Give today and learn more about our ministry partners we will be supporting at the link below.

moodychurch.org/thanksgiving-offering



Our 55th Annual Christmas Concert is coming up on December 12th!

Each year, our Music Ministry fills the sanctuary with joy through a powerful Christmas concert, one of the highlights of the season! This year, join us at either the 2:30 or 6:00pm concert times.

Pick up Christmas Concert invitations in the lobby or at the exits to make inviting easy!

RSVP today through the link or scan the QR code below:
moodychurch.org/christmas

Thousands of visitors will be joining us, and we'd love your help welcoming and serving them. We're looking for volunteers for ushering, hospitality, and clean-up. Would you consider serving? Sign up today and help make it all possible!

To sign up to serve, visit **moodychurch.org/opportunity-finder**



TODAY AT A GLANCE

8:30AM COMMUNITIES
Fourth Watch: Room 103
Impact: Room 307
Light & Life: Room 107
Next Chapter: Room 108
Sisters In Christ: Room 303

9:45AM
TMC Kids (Infant–PreK): 2nd floor

10:00AM
Sunday Morning Service: Sanctuary
ASL Translation: Facebook
Transmisión en Español: Facebook (online)
Traducción en Español: WaveCast (live)

10:30AM
TMC Kids (K–Grade 2): 2nd Floor

11:15AM
Connection Center: Main Lobby
Prayer Partners: Front of the sanctuary

11:30AM COMMUNITIES
Apply The Message (ATM): Room 304
Co-Laborers/Deaf Bible Study: Room 301
Crossroads: Room 303
Fusion: Room 103
InFocus: Room 107
International Friends: Room 112D
Moody en Español: Kappeler Hall
Mosaic: Room 307
Veritas: Sankey Hall
YourMarriage YourFamily: Room 108

TMC Kids (Grades 3-5): 2nd Floor
Junior High Sunday School: Room 308
Senior High Sunday School: Room 309

1:00PM
Mental Health Support Group: Room 301
Prayer for the City of Chicago: Room 303

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY
Women's Prayer Meeting: 7:00am, Zoom

TUESDAY
Women's Prayer Meeting: 7:00am, Zoom

WEDNESDAY
Women's Prayer Meeting: 7:00am, Zoom
Thanksgiving Eve Service: 6:30pm, Clarkview
Beth Sar Shalom Bible Study: 7:00pm, Zoom
Reunión de Oración: 7:00pm, Zoom
International Friends Bible Study: 8:00pm, Zoom

THURSDAY
CHURCH CLOSED - Thanksgiving Holiday
Women's Prayer Meeting: 7:00am, Zoom

FRIDAY
CHURCH CLOSED - Thanksgiving Holiday
Women's Prayer Meeting: 7:00am, Zoom
Cafecito con Dios: 10:00am, Zoom

SATURDAY
Men's Prayer and Praise: 7:30am, Room 103
International Friends Prayer Meeting: 9:00am, Zoom

Links to Ministries and Communities at **moodychurch.org/calendar**

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS


Simon Biswas, Bangladesh


Adrian Delgado, USA


Veronica Delgado, USA


Raphael Errampalli, India


Sarah Ledford, USA


Sara Lee, South Korea


Rebeca Narro, Mexico


Claire Rittenhouse, USA


Eric Targe, USA


Rebecca Targe, USA


Hudson Tikoo, USA


Allison Woodward, USA


Jonah Woodward, USA

GIVING UPDATE

Church General Fund

	October	*Fiscal Year*
Income	$ 495,548	$ 966,721
Expense	622,127	1,273,568
Net	-$ 126,579	-$ 306,847

The General Fund supports the church's day-to-day operations, including ongoing ministries, support for active and retired missionaries, and our local and global outreach initiatives. The church's fiscal year began September 1, 2026.

Fellowship Fund: This fund assists our church family with emergency housing, food, clothing, and medical needs. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please **contact Pastor Larry McCarthy at larry.mccarthy@moodychurch.org** in the church office. You can also donate by simply designating "Fellowship Fund" on your offering.

Estate Planning: If you have questions about estate planning, giving, or stewardship, we invite you to **email Pastor Bill Van Tuinen at bill.vantuinen@moodychurch.org.**

Info: moodychurch.org/give

The Moody Church
1635 North LaSalle
Chicago, IL 60614
312.327.8600
moodychurch.org

Moody Church media
moodymedia.org
312.642.4417
or 800.215.5001

LIVING HOPE
A daily program with
Pastor Philip Miller
Monday–Friday
moodymedia.org

Founded in 1864 by evangelist D.L. Moody. Celebrating the joy of changed lives for over 150 years.

New content is posted daily on our social media channels.