

# Dear Gentle Church...

More than a Welcome Mat  
August 17, 2025

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE  
A CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## WORSHIP GUIDE

### Prelude:

### Meditation on *All Are Welcome*

Words and Music by Marty Haugen

Arranged by Charles L. Lenz

David Moldenhauer, organ

### Call to Worship

People of Hope, we come today to worship our God:

The God who guides us on the journey of life,

Who calls us to walk a path of humility, justice, and peace  
and who invites all to meet at the table of grace.

So let us rise in body and spirit as we sing to our welcoming God!

### \*\*Processional Hymn:

### *As We Gather at Your Table*

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence, let our hearts and minds be stirred.

Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.

Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

\*\*Please rise as you are able, in body or spirit

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy bind us, nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy!

## **Welcome and Life of the Church**

Rev. Dr. Neil G. Thomas

Rev. Dr. Andria Davis

## **\*\*Sharing of the Peace**

## **Modern Lesson**

Adrian White

*Our August sermon series, Dear Gentle Church, explores what it means to be a community that doesn't just exist, but rather grows, transforms, and becomes even more inclusive, kind, and faithful. The Modern lessons this month are letters to the church written in the style of an advice columnist. Hear these words:*

Dear gentle Church,  
You've gotten really good at the word "welcome." It's on your banners, your website, your bulletins, your lips. And I believe you mean it. I really do.

But here's the thing: saying "you are welcome here" is only the first step. What people are really asking is, "Will I be seen here?" "Will I be safe here?" "Will I belong when I bring my whole self—not just the Sunday morning version of me?"

Church, radical hospitality isn't about politeness or smiles at the door. It's about rearranging the furniture—sometimes literally—to make space for people you haven't met yet. It's about learning a new song so someone else feels at home. It's about asking, "Whose voice hasn't been heard?" and meaning it.

You don't have to be perfect. But you do have to be open. Not just to people's presence, but to their story, their perspective, their leadership. Because "welcome" without belonging is just a mat—something people wipe their feet on before moving on. Let's do better than that.

With love,  
Someone longing to stay

\*\*Please rise as you are able, in body or spirit

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## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

If you find yourself experiencing illness, hospitalization, grief, or other critical challenges, the Congregational Care Ministry (CCM) at Cathedral of Hope will connect you with the appropriate resources that best correspond to your needs.

The CCM can be reached at  
Phone (214) 351-1901 Ext. 124  
Email at [CCM@cathedralofhope.com](mailto:CCM@cathedralofhope.com)

**Chorus**

***The Power of Your Love***

Lord, I come to you. Let my heart be changed, renewed,  
flowing from the grace that I found in you.

Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me  
will be stripped away by the pow'r of your love.

*\*\*Hold me close, let your love surround me.*

*Bring me near, draw me to your side.*

*And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle.*

*And I will soar with you,*

*your Spirit leads me on in the pow'r of your love.*

**\*\*Scripture Lesson:** Romans 15:4-9

One: Our Scripture Lesson is from the fifteenth chapter of Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome. Hear these words:

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the chosen people to live out the truth of God's promise to them, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for showing mercy.

One: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*\*Please rise as you are able, in body or spirit**

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**CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The flowers on the chancel are given by Chuck and Jim Norcross in celebration of 10 years of marriage and 15 years being together.

**\*\*Response**

***The Power of Your Love***

*Hold me close, let your love surround me.*

*Bring me near, draw me to your side.*

*And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle.*

*And I will soar with you,*

*your Spirit leads me on in the pow'r of your love.*

*And I will soar with you,*

*your Spirit leads me on in the pow'r of your love.*

*And I will soar with you,*

*your Spirit leads me on in the pow'r of your love.*

**Sermon**

***More than a Welcome Mat***

Rev. Dr. Neil G. Thomas

**Offering Call**

**Offertory**

***At This Table***

Words and Music by Jonas Myrin and Idina Menzel

Arranged by Mac Huff

Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra

At this table, everyone is welcome. At this table, everyone is seen.

At this table, everybody matters; no one falls between.

At this table, you can say whatever. At this table, you can speak your mind.

At this table, everything's forgiven. There's enough for everyone.

So come as you are. Remember that the door is always open.

Yes, come as you are. The perfect gift that you can bring is your heart.

So come, come as you are.

At this table, there will be no judgment. At this table, mercy has a seat.

At this table, we're all sons and daughters. There's no place I'd rather be.

So come as you are. Remember that the door is always open.

Yes, come as you are. The perfect gift that you can bring is your heart.

So come, come as you are. Come as you are.

At this table, everyone is welcome. At this table, everybody cares.

At this table, everybody matters.

So come, pull up a chair.

**\*\*Please rise as you are able, in body or spirit**

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**ONLINE GIVING**

At [www.cathedralofhope.com/give](http://www.cathedralofhope.com/give) you can make a one-time donation or even set up a recurring electronic gift (by automated checking account withdrawal or credit card). One of the best things you can do to support your church is to make arrangements to give electronically.

## Communion

### Words of Institution

### Prayer of Consecration

### Invitation

### Music during Communion

#### ***Take Me as I Am***

Lord, my heart is open, needing you again,  
humbled now and broken, take me as I am.  
All my fears and failures, Lord, you understand,  
here I am surrendered, take me as I am.

Take me as I am, take me as I am,  
here I am surrendered, Lord, take me as I am.

#### ***Just as I Am***

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy love was shown to me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

*I come broken to be mended, I come wounded to be healed.*

*I come desperate to be rescued, I come empty to be filled.*

*I come guilty to be pardoned through the love of Christ, the Lamb.*

*And I'm welcomed with open arms, praise God, just as I am.*

Just as I am, I would be lost, but mercy and grace my freedom bought.

And now, to glory in the cross, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

*I come broken to be mended, I come wounded to be healed.*

*I come desperate to be rescued, I come empty to be filled.*

*I come guilty to be pardoned through the love of Christ, the Lamb.*

*And I'm welcomed with open arms, praise God, just as I am.*

\*\*Please rise as you are able, in body or spirit

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## TEXT TO GIVE

Simply send a text message to (855) 717-1039 with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount. Example: \$20. **The minimum text-to-give contribution is \$3.**

### ***How Great Is Our God***

Age to age you stand, and time is in your hands,  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.  
The God-head, three in one, Maker, Spirit, Son,  
the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

*\*\*How great is our God! Sing with me, how great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!  
How great is our God! Sing with me, how great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!*

### **\*\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

#### **\*\*Recessional**

#### ***All Are Welcome***

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

#### **\*\*Benediction**

#### **Postlude for Dismissal**

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*\*\*Please rise as you are able, in body or spirit*



## COMING UP @ CATHEDRAL

### CoH Membership Class

**Saturday, August 23 | 10:30am-1:30pm**

Do you know anyone who is interested in becoming a member of CoH? Have they or you found your church home at Cathedral of Hope?

CoH Membership Class provides information about our church vision, mission and ministries. Visitors will learn about our church and how to take the next level of commitment and become an active member of our community of faith.

Please join us in our next membership class that is coming up on August 23, 2025. Official cathedral members not only celebrate God's love and connect with others for spiritual encouragement, they also are committed to serving and being financially responsible for the mission and ministry of the church.

Spread the word about our next membership class

### Pride In Oaklawn & Cedar Springs

**Sunday September 21, 2025**

Get ready to celebrate Pride in Dallas like never before! Join us in the heart of Oak Lawn as the vibrant Pride Parade returns to Cedar Springs on Sunday, September 21.

The streets will come alive with color, music, and community as we march with pride, love, and unity! The parade steps off at 2pm from Douglas and Cedar Springs, so be sure to arrive early, grab your spot, and soak in the electric energy.

Whether you're walking in the parade or cheering from the sidelines, this is a celebration you won't want to miss. Come show your pride and let your true colors shine!

SCAN ME



**\*Scan QR code for more info about our upcoming events**

## LIFE GROUPS

Sign Up

SCAN ME



Don't miss out on the opportunity to be in a life group that follows the sermon series so that we can grow spiritually together! We have groups that meet each day of the week both in person and virtually. Scan the QR code to check out our groups or email, Rev. Jeremy, for more information at [jrose@cathedralofhope.com](mailto:jrose@cathedralofhope.com)!

### Fall Book Study

Our fall book study and sermon series will be based on Rob Bell's book Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith (starting the week of September 7th). These sermon series and book studies are a great way to go more in depth with the sermons we hear on Sundays, and the best place to do that is in a life group! If you aren't currently in one of our life groups, you are absolutely missing out on an important part of our church and our collective spiritual growth. Not only do our life groups allow us to grow spiritually but they are invaluable in building relationships. The Christ-following life was never meant to be a solo event--we are meant to be in community with one another! Visit our groups page or email Rev. Jeremy for more information.

As always, this book is available for purchase from our Sources of Hope bookstore, your favorite bookstore, or there is an audiobook version. This year, you will need to pre-order the book and then pick it up from our bookstore. The cost from Sources of Hope is \$13 which is lower than other stores and you can order it here. Choose the "Pick Up" option; we will not be shipping books. This is the final weekend to pre-order your book from Sources of Hope, please act quickly. Cost is not a barrier, so if you need a complimentary copy or have a need for it to be shipped because you don't live in the area, please email Rev. Jeremy at [jrose@cathedralofhope.com](mailto:jrose@cathedralofhope.com).



Scan QR code to pre-order your book

## WORSHIP

Services

### Sunday English Services

8:30am Traditional  
In-Person Worship (Live-streamed)

10am Traditional  
In-Person Worship (Live-streamed)

11:45am Contemporary  
In-Person Worship (Live-streamed)

### Sunday Spanish Service

1:30pm (Spanish)  
In-Person Worship (Live-streamed)

### Mid-Week Pick Me Up

Our Hope@11:45 Contemporary Sunday service is broadcast the following Wednesday evening at 7:15pm on Facebook, YouTube, and our Website as your mid-week pick me up.

# IMPORTANT

## Information

### NATIONAL MAKE A WILL MONTH

Did you know that nearly two-thirds of adults don't have a will?

This August — during **National Make-A-Will Month** — we invite you to take one of the most important steps in securing your future and protecting the people and causes you care about most.

Creating a will is simple, empowering, and an act of love. Whether you're just starting out or updating an existing plan, Make-A-Will Month is the perfect time to:

*Ensure your loved ones are taken care of*

*Make important decisions about your assets*

*Leave a legacy gift to the organizations and causes you value*

We've partnered with FreeWill to offer you a free and secure online tool to help you get started.

#### Start your will today:

[www.freewill.com/cathedralofhope](http://www.freewill.com/cathedralofhope)  
(Takes less than 20 minutes to complete!)

If you've already made a will, this is a great time to review and update it — and consider including a bequest to Cathedral of Hope as part of your legacy.

Your values can live on far into the future.

### Incense Use in Worship

Christmas Eve (11pm)  
Epiphany Sunday (10am)  
Good Friday, Easter Sunday (10am)  
Pentecost (10am)  
and All Saints Sunday (10am)

Incense Use in Worship At Cathedral of Hope, incense is used as part of our worship experience on select holy days, including Christmas Eve (11pm), Epiphany Sunday (10am), Good Friday, Easter Sunday (10am), Pentecost (10am), and All Saints Sunday (10am).

We use a hypoallergenic incense designed to minimize irritation, but we recognize that sensitivities vary from person to person. If you have concerns, we invite you to speak with an usher or clergy member so we can support your worship experience in a way that feels safe and comfortable.

### First Time Guests

If you are joining us for the first time, stop by the Connect Center to meet and greet with volunteers and staff, and to pick up a special gift from us to you.

### Children and Families

We offer Children's Church for children between infancy and 5th grade. We meet in person on Sundays during all four services for faith-filled and fun programming. Childcare for the littlest ones is available on Sundays.

### Youth

Our youth group is for those between 6th and 12th grades. It is a safe space to share struggles and joys. We meet Sundays at 10am in Rm. 102 for Youth Group.

### Restrooms

You're invited to use the restroom that corresponds with your gender identity or the restroom that feels the safest and most comfortable to you. Gendered, multiple occupancy restrooms are located near the double glass doors behind the Sanctuary. All-gender, single occupancy restrooms are available off the hall to the right of the Hall of Heroes area.

### Congregational Care

If you find yourself experiencing illness, hospitalization, death, grief, or other critical challenges, the Congregational Care Ministry (CCM) at Cathedral of Hope will connect you with the appropriate resources that best correspond to your needs.

The CCM can be reached by:

- Phone (214) 351-1901 Ext. 124
- Email at [CCM@cathedralofhope.com](mailto:CCM@cathedralofhope.com)

*\*Children and youth are always welcome in worship! Children and youth programming is available during all four worship services for infants through 12th grade. Please ask an usher for directions or more information.*

### A friendly reminder...

As you may know, we have security presence at all worship services and other major events. We have a security team and a security plan in place in case of need. We ask you to partner with us and ensure that you are aware of your surroundings and the main exits in the building. And, if you see something, say something. Speak to a member of staff or a member of our security team. Thank you for your assistance.

**Assisted listening systems are available in the bookstore**

Please note that by sitting in the sanctuary, you may be filmed or photographed. If you do not wish to be filmed or photographed, please feel free to worship in the Fellowship Hall