

Dear Gentle Church...

Tell the Truth About Power
August 24, 2025

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE
A CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



WORSHIP GUIDE

Prelude:

Fantasia in C

Music by Johann L. Krebs (1713-1780)

Joshua Nguyen, flute; David Moldenhauer, organ

Call to Worship

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

The God who welcomes us wherever we are on our spiritual journey;

The One who sent Jesus to show us true servant leadership;
And who teaches us that faithfully following Christ is not always easy, but is always worthwhile.

So let us rise in body and spirit, as we praise our loving God!

****Processional Hymn: *Make Us True Servants***

Make us true servants to all those in need,
filled with compassion in thought, word, and deed;
loving our neighbor, whatever the cost,
feeding the hungry and finding the lost.

God, make us prophets to cry out the way,
telling the nations of mercy's new day.
Let us break barriers of hatred and scorn,
speaking of hope to all people forlorn.

God, make us healers of body and mind;
give us your pow'r to bring sight to the blind;
love to the loveless and gladness for pain,
filling all hearts with the joy of your name.

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

Welcome and Life of the Church

Rev. Dr. Neil G. Thomas

Rev. Dr. Andria Davis

****Sharing of the Peace**

Modern Lesson

Arthur Gomez

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 are powerful. Whether you realize it or not. You have the power to heal—and the power to harm. The power to lift up—and the power to shut down. And that means you have a responsibility, too.

It's easy to pretend the power isn't there. To tuck it behind committees and titles and nice-sounding phrases. But Church, if we can't tell the truth about power, we can't tell the truth about justice, or community, or love.

Jesus didn't run from power—he redefined it. He took off the robe and washed feet. He spoke hard truths with humility. He gave away authority to others, even when they were still learning.

What if you did the same? What if leadership meant lifting others up, not holding tight to control? What if transparency was a spiritual practice?

Church, people are watching—not just what you say, but how you lead. Let your greatness be measured by your willingness to serve.

In truth and trust,

A fellow servant

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

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

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.

****Gospel Lesson: Mark 10:42-45**

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

One: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O God.

Jesus called the disciples together and said, "You know that the rulers of this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be servant of all. For the Chosen One came not to be served but to serve, and to give one life in ransom for the many."

One: This is the Gospel of Hope.

All: Praise to you, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

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

****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

Tell the Truth About Power

Rev. Dr. Neil G. Thomas

Offering Call

Offertory

But by Love

Words based on Philippians 2:2-3, 5 and Galatians 5:13

Music by Dan Forrest

Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

That ye be like-minded, having the same love.

Of one accord, of one mind:

Let nothing be done through strife, but by love serve one another.

But by love, serve one another.

SCAN TO GIVE



Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation

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

ONLINE GIVING

At 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.

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.

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!

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

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.**

****Prayer of Thanksgiving**

****Recessional**

Make Me a Captive, Lord

Make me a captive, Lord, and then I shall be free.

Force me to render up my sword, and I shall conqueror be.

I sink in life's alarms when by myself I stand;
imprison me within thine arms, and strong shall be my hand.

My pow'r is faint and low till I have learned to serve;
it lacks the needed fire to glow, it lacks the breeze to nerve.

It cannot drive the world until itself be driv'n;
its flag can only be unfurled when thou shalt breathe from heav'n.

My will is not my own till thou hast made it thine;
if it would reach a monarch's throne, it must its crown resign.

It only stands unbent amid the clashing strife,
when on thy bosom it has leant, and found in thee its life.

****Benediction**

Postlude for Dismissal

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

COMING UP @ CATHEDRAL

Christians Against Christian Nationalism Thursday, August 28, 2025 | 7pm-9pm Interfaith Peace Chapel

You are invited to a gathering of the monthly coalition meeting for our North Texas Coalition of Christians Against Christian Nationalism. As a coalition, we are focused on the impact of Christian nationalism on public schools and among the immigrant community.

This month, we will be building off the work we did this summer to explore how to address funding for local schools, public schools as a medium for religious indoctrination, lack of safety for migrants, lack of accountability with due process, and inhumane treatment within detention centers.

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!

Hispanic Heritage Celebration Sunday, September 28, 2025 | 1:30pm-5pm

Join us as we honor the richness and beauty of Hispanic Heritage at Cathedral of Hope! This special afternoon will be filled with love, joy, and community as we come together to celebrate our diverse cultures and traditions.

Our celebration will include:

- A joyful worship service
- A community meal to share with friends and family
- A lively performance by a Mariachi ensemble
- A colorful Folkloric Ballet presentation

Whether you are already part of our faith community or seeking a welcoming space to worship, this is the perfect opportunity to reconnect or get to know our hispanic community. Don't miss this chance to celebrate the love of God together!

SCAN ME



*Scan QR code for more info
about our upcoming events

LIFE GROUPS

SignUp

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!

SCAN ME



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 at jrose@cathedralofhope.com

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

The Bell Wall Society

Since its founding, Cathedral of Hope has stood as a beacon of faith, love, and justice — offering radical inclusion and extravagant grace in a world that too often withholds both. Rooted in the Oak Lawn neighborhood of Dallas and now reaching hearts across the globe, we have become a spiritual home for those once pushed to the margins — and we continue to grow, serve, and inspire.

As a historic and predominantly LGBTQ congregation of the United Church of Christ, Cathedral of Hope is the world's largest inclusive progressive Christian church with a primary outreach to LGBTQ individuals, their families, and allies. What began as a sanctuary for a few has become a lifeline for thousands — both locally and online.

Honoring Legacy, Inspiring Hope

To ensure this legacy endures for generations to come, we invite you to become a member of the Cathedral of Hope Bell Wall Society — a community of faithful visionaries who have included Cathedral of Hope in their wills or estate plans.

Joining is simple. By naming Cathedral of Hope in your will — in any amount — you create a ripple of hope that will bless lives well into the future. This act of faith ensures that we can continue to proclaim God's inclusive love, minister through times of crisis, feed the hungry, and be a prophetic voice of justice and peace.

Why Your Legacy Matters

Through the decades, we've overcome adversity, expanded our campus and ministries, and led with courage. Today, our reach includes weekly worship for over 1,000 people, a thriving food pantry feeding 500+ individuals weekly, a food rescue ministry that collects and distributes over one million pounds of food per year, and online ministries that span the nation.

Legacy gifts helped make this possible. They ensure we can continue to minister boldly and inclusively — from our sanctuary to the screens of those who seek hope far beyond our Dallas home.

Your Name. Your Faith. Your Legacy.

When you include Cathedral of Hope in your estate plans, you are not only securing the future of a church that has changed lives — you are becoming part of a story of courage, compassion, and commitment to Christ's love that lives on through every act of kindness, every note of music, and every voice lifted in prayer.

We hope you'll consider joining the Bell Wall Society. Your gift, no matter the size, helps build a future filled with faith, hope, and love.

Assisted listening systems are available in the bookstore

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

**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.*

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.

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