

Repainting the Christian Faith

September 21, 2025 | Community is the key to growth

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE
A CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP GUIDE

Chimes

Prelude:

The Church's One Foundation

Music by Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

Arranged by Duane Funderburk

Josh Nguyen, flute; Christian Gonzalez, oboe;

Deanna Van Besien-Kozacek, clarinet

John Cundiff, horn; Johnny Engelke, bass clarinet

Call to Worship

People of Hope, we come together today as a community—
Called to worship our loving God,
To be united in service of others,
And to join in the work of creating your new realm on earth.
So rise, people of God, in body and spirit. Lift your voices in praise.

****Processional Hymn: O Church of God, United**

O church of God, united to serve one common Lord,
Proclaim to all one message, with hearts in glad accord.
Christ ever goes before us; we follow day by day
With strong and eager footsteps along the upward way.

Though creed and tongues may differ, they speak, O Christ of thee;
And in the loving Spirit we shall one people be.
Lord, may our faithful service and singleness of aim
Proclaim to all the power of the blessed, holy name.

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

May thy great pray'r be answered that we may all be one,
close bound, by love united in thee, God's Chosen One;
to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright
that filled with God's own Spirit, we show the world thy light.

Welcome and Life of the Church

Rev. Dr. Neil G. Thomas
Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor

****Sharing of the Peace**

Modern Lesson

Our Modern Lesson is from our Fall Study book, Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith, by Rob Bell. Hear these words:

The Bible is a communal book. It came from people writing in communities, and it was often written to communities. Remember that the printing press wasn't invented until the 1400's. Prior to that, very few if any people had their own copies of the Bible. In Jesus' day, an entire village could probably afford only one copy of the scriptures, if that. Reading the Bible alone was unheard of, if people could even read. For most of church history, people heard the Bible read aloud in a room full of people. You heard it, discussed it, studied it, argued about it, and made decisions about it as a group, a community. You saw yourself and those around you as taking part in a huge discussion that has gone on for thousands of years.

Contrast this communal way of reading and discussing and learning with our Western, highly individualized culture. In many Christian settings, people are encouraged to read the Bible alone, which is a new idea in church history. A great idea and a life-changing discipline, but a new idea.

In Jesus' world, it was assumed that you had as much to learn from the discussion of the text as did from the text itself. One person could never get too far into a twisted interpretation because the others were right there giving them insight and perspective they didn't have on their own.

May God bless the hearing of these new words. Amen.

**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

Gradual

Speak, O Lord

Choir: *Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your Holy Word,
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in your likeness.*

ALL: That the light of Christ may be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all your purposes for your glory.

***And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built
and the earth is filled with your glory.
Come and fill the earth with your glory.*

****Scripture Lesson: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29** *(The Message, alt.)*

Rich Dudley

One: Our Scripture Lesson is from the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. Hear these words:

It wasn't long before some Jews showed up from Judea insisting that everyone be circumcised: "If you're not circumcised in the Mosaic fashion, you can't be saved." Paul and Barnabas were up on their feet at once in fierce protest. The church decided to resolve the matter by sending Paul, Barnabas, and a few others to put it before the apostles and leaders in Jerusalem. Everyone agreed: apostles, leaders, all the people...and sent a letter to those in Antioch:

Hello! We heard that some men from our church went to you and said things that confused and upset you. Mind you, they had no authority from us; we didn't send them. We have agreed unanimously to pick representatives and send them to you with our good friends Barnabas and Paul. We picked men we knew you could trust, Judas and Silas—they've looked death in the face time and again for the sake of our Master Jesus Christ. We've sent them to confirm in a face-to-face meeting with you what we've written.

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

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers on the chancel are given by Mark Robertson and Bill Justice in honor and celebration of their 35th anniversary (September 13, 2025)

It seemed to the Holy Spirit and to us that you should not be saddled with any crushing burden, but be responsible only for these bare necessities: Be careful not to get involved in activities connected with idols; avoid serving food offensive to Jewish Christians (blood, for instance); and guard the morality of sex and marriage. These guidelines are sufficient to keep relations congenial between us. And God be with you!

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

****Gloria**

Glory to God

Glory to God on high and peace to all on earth.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Glory to Jesus Christ, the Lamb upon the throne.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise to the Holy Spirit,
who comforts us now and forevermore, Alleluia.

Praise the Creator, and Praise to Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen. Amen!

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Neil G. Thomas

Community Is the Key to Growth

Offering Call

Offertory

God Is Here

Words and Music by Martha Munizzi and Israel and Maleesa Houghton

Arranged by Bradley Knight

Voices of Hope

Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra

There is a sweet anointing in this sanctuary. There is a stillness in the atmosphere.

Oh, come lay down the burdens you have carried, for in this sanctuary, God is here.

God is here, God is here to break the yoke, and lift the heavy burdened.

God is here, God is here to heal the hopeless heart and bless the broken.

*Oh, come lay down the burdens you have carried,
for in this sanctuary, God is here.*

SCAN TO GIVE



****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.

Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation

Music during Communion

I Surrender All

All to Jesus I surrender, all to thee I freely give.
I will ever love and trust thee, in thy presence daily live.

I surrender all, I surrender all.

All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, make me, Savior, wholly thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, truly know that thou art mine

I surrender all, I surrender all.

All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to thee.
Fill me with thy love and power, let thy blessings fall on me.

I surrender all, I surrender all.

All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

The Potter's Hand

Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior,
I know for sure all of my days are held in your hand,
crafted into your perfect plan
You gently call me into your presence,
guiding me by your Holy Spirit.
Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through your eyes.

I'm captured by your holy calling.
Set me apart, I know you're calling me to yourself.
Lead me, Lord, I pray.

*Take me, mold me, use me, fill me,
I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me,
I give my life to the Potter's hand. The Potter's hand.*

**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.**

It Is Well with My Soul

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll:
**Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

****Prayer of Thanksgiving**

****Recessional Hymn *We Would Be One***

We would be one as now we join in singing
Our hymn of love, to pledge ourselves anew
To that high cause of greater understanding
of who we are, and what in us is true.
We would be one in living for each other
To show to all a new community.

We would be one in building for tomorrow
A nobler world than we have known today.
We would be one in searching for that meaning
Which binds our hearts and points us on our way.
As one, we pledge ourselves to greater service,
with love and justice, strive to make us free.

****Benediction**

Postlude for Dismissal

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

COMING UP @ CATHEDRAL

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 Folklorico 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!

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 shipped because you don't live in the area, please email Rev. Jeremy at jrose@cathedralofhope.com.

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



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.

SCAN ME



*Scan QR code for more info about our upcoming events

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