

A Service of Worship
Celebrating the Ordination and Installation of
Greg Smith

Sunday, November 5, 2023

4:00 p.m.



GATHERING, HEARING, and RESPONDING

PRELUDE

David Moldenhauer

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jeremy Rose

Associate Pastor of Discipleship, Cathedral of Hope UCC

We gather to worship recognizing that we are different people leading differing lives, yet all children of the same Parent and all followers of the same Way. With joyful hearts we acknowledge and respond to God's presence.

*OPENING HYMN

God is Here! As We Your People Meet

v1: God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of your Spirit
Into open minds and hearts.

v2: Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit,
here the Word has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence as in speech,
here in newness and renewal
God the Spirit comes to each.

v3: Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

v4: Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's celebration,
all we have to give, receive;
we who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

WELCOME & PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Neil Thomas, Senior Pastor, Cathedral of Hope UCC

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 3:5-12

Rev. Betsy Swetenburg

Pastor, Northridge Presbyterian Church &

Vice Chair, Board of Directors, White Rock Center of Hope

Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against those who put nothing into their mouths. Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without revelation. The sun shall go down upon the prophets, and the day shall be black over them; the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God.

But as for me, I am filled with power, with the spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin. Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob and chiefs of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with wrong!

Its rulers give judgment for a bribe, its priests teach for a price, its prophets give oracles for money; yet they lean upon the Lord and say, "Surely the Lord is with us! No harm shall come upon us." Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

SERMON & CHARGE

Where Are the Prophets?

Rev. Ray Jordan
Pastor, First Community UCC

OFFERING

Rev. Veronika Czutor, Pastor, Central Lutheran Church

This offering will be given to White Rock Center of Hope

OFFERTORY MUSIC

ORDAINING

GREETING

Rev. Dr. Andria Davis, Executive Pastor, Cathedral of Hope UCC
& Chair, North Texas Association (NTA) Committee on Ministry

Grace to you and peace from God, who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness and the sovereign of the rulers of the earth. The North Texas Association and the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

All: To God who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Jan Nunn, Local Church Representative
Rev. Betsy Stirbens, NTA Association Minister

ACCLAMATION

Will all clergy and delegates of the North Texas Association, please stand, if you are able. People of God, you have heard the promises Greg has made. What is your will?

North Texas Association Members: By the grace of God, Greg Smith is worthy! Let us ordain Greg. Come, Holy Spirit.

Will Greg's family and friends please stand, if you are able and join with the Association members in response to the next question. Will you support Greg in the ministry of Christ?

Association Members, Family, and Friends: We will.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Rev. Dr. Neil Thomas, Senior Minister, Cathedral of Hope

All clergy and representatives of White Rock Center of Hope are invited to come forward for the laying on of hands. All others are invited to participate by lifting their hands in a palms up blessing.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

HYMN

Sing a New Church

v.1: Summoned by the God who made us
rich in our diversity
Gathered in the name of Jesus,
richer still in unity.

Refrain: Let us bring the gifts that differ
and, in splendid, varied ways,
sing a new Church into being,
one in faith and love and praise.

v.3: Trust the goodness of creation;
trust the Spirit strong within.
Dare to dream the vision promised,
sprung from seed of what has been.

v.4: Bring the hopes of every nation;
bring the art of every race.
Weave a song of peace and justice;
let it sound through time and space.

v.5 : Draw together at one table,
all the human family;
shape a circle ever wider
and a people ever free

INSTALLING and RECOGNIZING A FOUR-WAY COVENANT

PRESENTATION

RESPONSE

EXHORTATION

INSTALLATION

Members of Cathedral of Hope, will you rise in body or in spirit and affirm your covenant with Greg, as a pastor, and a faith leader called to unite people to care for neighbors in need in service to God?

Church members: We affirm Greg's membership in our church and we recognize his gifts as a CEO of White Rock Center of Hope. We promise to labor with him in the ministry of the gospel and to support him in his ministry as best as we are able. We gather with him and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in God's world.

Other members of the North Texas Association, will you rise in body or spirit and affirm your covenant with the White Rock Center of Hope and with Cathedral of Hope as they affirm Greg's ministry as ordained by God?

North Texas Association Members: We gather with you all, with White Rock Center of Hope, with the people of Cathedral of Hope, and with Greg, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in God's name.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

DECLARATION

In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the North Texas Association of the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ I declare you, Greg Smith, duly installed as CEO of White Rock Center of Hope.

All: Thanks be to God!

CELEBRATING THE HOLY EUCHARIST

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & INVITATION

Rev. Dr. Greg Smith

HOLY EUCHARIST

An usher will invite you forward via the center aisle. To receive Communion, extend an open hand to receive the bread, which you may then dip in the cup.

To receive a Blessing, cross your arms across your chest.

Return to your seat via the side aisle.

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Greg Smith

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN

The Summons

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Greg Smith

*POSTLUDE

You are invited to a reception following worship



Greg Smith was born, raised, and now resides in Arlington. As a teen, he was confirmed, received a call to ministry, and preached his first sermon at First Presbyterian Church in Arlington.

He earned an undergraduate degree in Ministry from Dallas Christian College. After working in refugee resettlement, he moved into management roles with Texas Health and Human Services before resigning to attend seminary full-time.

Greg earned a Master of Divinity degree from Hardin-Simmons University. As a seminarian, he served First Presbyterian Church in Duncanville. Upon graduation, he was licensed to ministry for the position of Associate Pastor at Central Christian Church in Dallas (Disciples of Christ) and then for a similar role at First Christian Church in Garland (Disciples of Christ).

Next, Greg served in multiple roles at King of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Dallas and earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Amridge University. Then, he returned to the Presbyterian Church to serve First Presbyterian Church in Naples, FL.

Greg then transitioned into higher education, serving in multiple roles at Hodges University, including eight years as an adjunct professor. During this time, he discovered the United Church of Christ and served in an adult discipleship position at Naples United Church of Christ. Greg was then licensed to ministry for roles as Interim Senior Pastor at United Church of Marco Island and Fort Myers Congregational UCC.

Next, Greg shifted to healthcare. He led training and development for Evolution Health and educational products for the American College of Emergency Physicians. During this season, he also earned a Master of Business Administration from Texas Woman's University.

Finally, Greg moved into the faith-based non-profit arena. He served Mansfield Mission Center in multiple roles, including overseeing the expansion of its Thrift Store and the integration of healthcare services into its program model. He also completed the Adese Fellowship in Social Enterprise and served as Supply Pastor at West Fork Presbyterian Church in Grand Prairie.

Greg currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of White Rock Center of Hope – an ecumenical East Dallas ministry that provides hope to more than 6,000 neighbors in need each year in the form of food, clothing, and empowerment.

Greg has been a member of Cathedral of Hope UCC since 2017. Currently, he volunteers in the Life Group Ministry as the leader of a group and as the leader of a group of group leaders. Additionally, Greg volunteers as the Board Chair for the Texas Association of Charitable Clinics.

In December, Greg will celebrate 25 years of marriage to Dr. Susan Smith. He writes about matters of faith that matter on his blog: www.sowhatfaith.com.

Today, Greg is being ordained to ministry in the United Church of Christ and installed into his role as CEO of White Rock Center of Hope.