

Order of Worship

September 24, 2017

10:00 am

PRELUDE

Shawn Heller

†GATHERING MUSIC

Every Praise

†OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Leslie Jackson

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Jackson

†EXCHANGE OF PEACE

One: Friends, may the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

†OPENING MUSIC

Friend Of God

Shout To The Lord

HEBREW READING Jonah 3:10-4:11

Rev. Mona Lopez

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them. But Jonah grew indignant and fell into a rage. He prayed to YHWH and said, "Please, YHWH! Isn't this exactly what I said would happen, when I was still in my own country? That's why I left and fled to Tarshish: I knew that you were a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness, relenting from violence. Now, YHWH, please take my life! I'd rather be dead than keep on living!" Then YHWH said, "What gives you the right to be angry?" Jonah then left the city and sat down to the east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat down under the shade to see what would happen to the city. Then YHWH God sent a castor oil plant to grow up over Jonah to shade his head and soothe his indignation. Jonah was delighted with the castor oil plant. But at dawn the next day, God sent a worm to attack the castor oil plant and it withered. And after the sun had risen, God sent a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he was overcome and begging for death, and said, "I'd rather be dead than keep on living!" God said to Jonah, "What gave you the right to be upset about the castor plant?" He replied, "I have every right to be angry, to the point of death!" God replied, "You feel sorrow because of a castor plant that cost you no labor, that you did not make grow, that sprouted in a night, and that perished in a night. Is it not right, then, for me to feel sorrow for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than 120,000 people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, to say nothing of all the animals?"

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Come Thou Font of Every Blessing

†GOSPEL READING Matthew 20:1-16

Ginger Rodriguez

"The kingdom of heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workers for the vineyard. After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, the owner sent them out to the vineyard. About mid-morning, the owner came out and saw others standing around the marketplace without work, and said to them,...

†The people will rise in body or spirit

'You go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair.' At that they left. "Around noon and again in the mid-afternoon, the owner came out and did the same. Finally, going out late in the afternoon, the owner found still others standing around and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 'No one has hired us,' they replied. "The owner said, 'You go to my vineyard, too.' "When evening came, the owner said to the overseer, 'Call the workers and give them their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first.' When those hired late in the afternoon came up, they received a full day's pay, and when the first group appeared they assumed they would get more. Yet they all received the same daily wage. "Thereupon they complained to the owner, 'This last group did only an hour's work, but you've put them on the same basis as those who worked a full day in the scorching heat.' 'My friends,' said the owner to those who voiced this complaint, 'I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, didn't you? Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this worker who was hired last the same pay as you. I'm free to do as I please with my money, aren't I? Or are you envious because I am generous?' "Thus the last will be first and the first will be last."

ANTHEM *I Am His Child* Rev. Jeffrey Campbell

SERMON *Equity Card* Rev. Jackson

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS Rev. Lopez & Ginger Rodriguez

OFFERTORY *The Spirit Of Jesus* Rev. Campbell

†DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

REMEMBRANCE & CONSECRATION

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: For the power of love in humanity and history,

Many: we give thanks and praise.

One: At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus declared, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Many: We are called to do the same because the Spirit of the Lord is also upon us. All of us!

One: On the night of his betrayal and arrest, as he shared a meal with his friends, Jesus took Bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his followers, saying:

"Share this bread among you; this is my body which will be broken for justice.
Do this to remember me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

"Share this wine among you; this is my blood which will be shed for liberation.
Do this to remember me." Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is here. Christ will come again.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (Cont.)

One: Let us pray

Many: God of love, Spirit of compassion, bless us and this bread and wine. May this meal be food and drink for our journey— renewing, sustaining, and making us whole.

INVITATION TO THE FEAST

One: When we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we experience again the presence of Jesus in our midst. The table is ready.

To Our Guests

We celebrate an open communion. We understand the sharing of the bread and the cup in Jesus' name to be a representation of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to be a member of this church, or any church, to participate with us in this feast of grace. Simply come forward and receive a piece of bread; hold it until the cup is offered, then dip it in the cup and eat, and then return to your seat.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *I Exalt Thee*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Let us pray.

All: God of love, we give you thanks for satisfying our hungry hearts with this meal. Send us out from here to reveal your love in the world. Inspire in us the resolve and the courage, the compassion and the passion, to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN

Everywhere That I Go

†BENEDICTION Prayer of Protection

All: The light of God surrounds us; The love of God enfolds us; The power of God protects us; The presence of God watches over us; Wherever we are, God is!

POSTLUDE

We Are Family
Sister Sledge

Please join us for coffee hour following the worship service!

Welcome!

If you are visiting the **Cathedral of Hope Houston UCC (COHH)** for the first time, we are glad to have you here and we are blessed by your presence! We invite you to join us on our faith journey as we worship God and learn more about Christian living in an inclusive and progressive way.

At **COHH** you will discover a warm group of real people who love God, who want to learn and grow, and who want to be of service in the world. From the moment you walk up to the building you can expect to feel at home, knowing that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome!

At **COHH** we seek to explore, understand and apply God's everlasting wisdom and grace to our lives at every level in a spirit of love. You will find a growing variety of resources to help you grow in God's truth.

In the building next to main sanctuary we always have the pot on for a cup of coffee (or tea or hot chocolate). More than likely there will be a treat or two as well.

All are welcome. Really, all are welcome. If you are comfortable in doing so, please provide us with your name and address in the pew pad, as we would like to reach out to you and invite you back.

Visit www.CoHHouston.org for more information. Again, welcome! We hope your experience today is grace-filled and that you will come back often.

**For general questions and information,
please contact us at:
info@cohhouston.org**



Pastor

Rev. Leslie Jackson
pastor@cohhouston.org

COHH Leadership Council

Dorian Elliott, President
Milton Ressmann, Treasurer
Adam Buttermore, Financial Secretary
Susan Guerrero, Secretary
David Mathis, At-Large

COHH Music Ministry Lead

Shawn Heller

Clergy in our Community

Rev. Mona Lopez

Cathedral of Hope Houston UCC

Worship Sunday at 10:00 am

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