

C O R N E R S T O N E  
H O U S T O N

GATHERING GROWING GLORIFYING

Order Of Worship  
September 21, 2025

\*Call to Worship | 2 Peter 3:18 | Rev. Blake Arnoult

*God invites and calls us into his presence to worship him.*

<sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.  
Amen.

\*Song of Adoration | All Creatures Of Our God And King

*We begin by responding with praise to God for who he is and for what he does.*

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
O praise Him, Alleluia  
Thou burning sun with golden beams  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam

**Oh praise him, Oh praise him  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Thou rushing wind that art so strong  
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along  
O praise Him, Alleluia  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice

**Chorus**

Thou flowing water pure and clear  
Make music for Thy Lord to hear  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright  
That givest man both warmth and light,

**Chorus**

Let all things their Creator bless  
And worship Him in humbleness  
Oh praise Him, Alleluia  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One

**Chorus**

*Music and Lyrics: St. Francis of Assisi, William Henry Draper*

## \*Confession of Faith | Heidelberg Catechism Q.1

*With the church in history we confess a basic statement of what Christians believe.*

### **What is your only comfort in life and death?**

**That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

## \*Song of Confession | Before The Throne Of God Above

*Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs are simply prayers that are sung. We respond in repentance and praise for God's redemptive work in Christ.*

Before the throne of God above,  
I have a strong, a perfect plea,  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands,  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the Just, is satisfied  
To look on him and pardon me.  
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb,  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I AM,  
The King of glory and of grace!  
One with Himself I cannot die,  
My soul is purchased by His blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God  
With Christ, my Savior and my God

*Music and Lyrics: Charitie Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook*

### Confession of Sin

*We fight the temptation to hide our sin and instead acknowledge it openly to God, but we do so in light of the grace offered in Jesus.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, who we confess as Savior, have mercy on us and forgive us to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon | Romans 10:9 | Rev. Blake Arnoult

*The good news of the gospel is that we are forgiven in Jesus Christ. This assurance is based on God's words of promise and it is therefore certain.*

<sup>9</sup> because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

## \*Song of Response | Thy Mercy My God

*We respond in repentance and praise for God's redemptive work in Christ.*

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue;  
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;  
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,  
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,  
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,  
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;  
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

*Music and Lyrics: John Stocker*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*We offer our gratitude to God in prayer in response to his gifts and blessings to his people and ask that he make us faithful managers of these gifts.*

## Song of Thanks | Abide With Me

*As we offer our prayers so we also offer up our thanks in song.*

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile;  
And, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,  
Thou hast not left me, though I oft left Thee,  
On to the close, Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour.  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness.  
Where is thy sting death? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

*Music and Lyrics: Henry Francis Lyte, William Henry Monk*

## Prayer for Christ's Church

*We lift up our requests to God knowing that he hears us when we pray.*

**\*Reading of Scripture | Matthew 10:32-39 | Rev. Blake Arnoult**

*God reveals himself and his work and speaks to us his people through his Word.*

10<sup>32</sup> So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup> And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**The Preaching of the Word | Rev. Blake Arnoult**

**"Confessing Jesus Before the World"**

***Matthew: The Gospel to the Church***

**Pastoral Prayer**

## Sacrament of Communion

*Sacraments are visible signs of the invisible grace of God - what Christ does by his Holy Spirit within us. Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist), as the distribution of the elements of bread and wine, symbolizes a meal. Communion is a sign of fellowship. That sign signifies more than just the future heavenly fellowship that is to come. The outward sign signifies the inner reality that sinners already experience fellowship with God in the Spirit because of Jesus. Communion is not a meal for good people. It functions as a renewing seal to desperate sinners of that fellowship we have with our holy and gracious God.*

*You will be invited to come forward. If you are not a Christian we encourage you to spend this time in reflection on what you've seen and heard in the worship. Children who have not received their first communion are welcome and encouraged to come forward with their families to witness their partaking. We invite children who are ready to make a public profession of faith in Christ to arrange a meeting with the elders, and thus become "communicants" at the Lord's Table.*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**Hallelujah!**

Pastor: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us. Hallelujah!

**People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

*Please let an usher know if it is difficult for you to come forward. We would be happy to serve you at your seat. All communion bread is gluten-free. All communion wine is made from grape juice.*

A communion prayer for those searching for the truth:

*Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen.*



## Communion Song | Come Boldly To The Throne Of Grace

*We celebrate our communion in faith and song.*

Come boldly to the throne of grace  
Ye wretched sinners come  
And lay your load at Jesus' feet  
And plead what He has done

"How can I come?" some soul may say  
"I'm lame and cannot walk  
My guilt and sin have stopped my mouth  
I sign but dare not talk"

**He makes the dead to hear His voice  
He makes the blind to see  
The sinner lost He came to save  
And set the prisoner free**

Come boldly to the throne of grace  
Though lost and blind and lame  
Jehovah is the sinner's Friend  
And ever was the same

### **Chorus**

Poor bankrupt souls who feel and know  
The hell of sin within  
Come boldly to the throne of grace  
The Lord will take you in

### **Chorus**

*Music and Lyrics: D. Herbert, Brian T. Murphy, Clint Wells*

## Departing Song | The Church's One Foundation

*We begin to end in faith and song.*

The church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord,  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word.  
From heaven He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,  
Yet one over all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation,  
One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses,  
With every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation,  
And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forevermore;  
'Til, with the vision glorious,  
Her longing eyes are blessed,  
And the great church victorious  
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union  
With God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we  
Like them, the meek and lowly,  
On high may dwell with Thee.

*Lyrics & Music: Thomas Ken*

## \*Benediction | 2 Corinthians 13:14 | Rev. Blake Arnoult

*God sends us out with his blessing. A benediction is not a prayer. We don't bow our heads. We lift them up and even lift up our hands to receive his blessing as we are sent out as participants in his mission to the city of man.*

<sup>14</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

# Announcements

## 2025 Budget Update

2025 Budget	\$813,000
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2025 Giving January - August	\$354,597
3-Year Average January - August	\$428,340
Difference January - August	(\$73,743)

3-Year Average Annual Giving	\$736,695
2024 Annual Giving	\$889,415

## Sunday Morning Volunteers Needed for October!

There are still opportunities to serve in October! Members can sign up to serve through the Church Center app by selecting "Sign Up" from your Church Center profile under "Schedule". Volunteers for the nursery and setup positions are the most needed.

## Women's Retreat

**Saturday, October 18, 10am - 4pm**  
**New Ulm, TX**

Cornerstone women, Join us at the Plank family farm for a day of rest and rejuvenation on October 18! We'll have great food, play some games, hear a message from our very own Kimmy Mota, and enjoy sweet fellowship! Friends are welcome and carpooling is encouraged!

## **RSVP and Announcements Page**

Visit the website to view our calendar and RSVP to events!



## **Let Us Know You're Here!**

Welcome, visitors! We are so glad to have you with us this morning! Please scan the QR code to let us know you're here, or visit our website at [cornerstonehouston.com](http://cornerstonehouston.com).



## **Serving**

Scan the QR code below to sign up to serve at Cornerstone!



## **Giving**

Scan the QR code below to see different ways to give!

\*Please Note: An additional fee is charged per transaction for online giving. Please consider adding this fee to your total contribution in order to help us cover it: Credit/Debit Cards: 2.9% + \$0.30/transaction; American Express: 4% + \$0.30/transaction; and Bank Transfer (ACH): 1% + \$0.30/transaction.



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Cornerstone asks its members and visitors to observe the following guidelines set forth by A.D. Players while in the auditorium space:

- no food or drink other than water
- no writing utensils other than those provided in the Lobby by Cornerstone
- no coming on stage
- no standing on chairs

Cornerstone loves our children, and we encourage parents to bring children of all ages into the worship service. We do ask for your help to ensure children observe these guidelines. Special A.D. Players approved dry erase crayons are available in the Lobby for our children to use during the worship service.

# Cornerstone Kids

What in the world is...?

## Hymns, Praise Songs?

Singing loudly is not just something we do in the shower. God gave us voices to sing about how awesome he is!

## Confession?

God wants to hear what we did wrong. Tell him! He not only listens, he also forgives.

## Prayer?

God cares so much for us that he taught us to pray. He wants us to know what to pray for and also how to pray. How amazing is that? Take a look in your parents' bulletin to check it out!

## The Offering?

Ever wonder why we put money in that basket being passed around? God wants us to give to him and his church in joy as an act of worship!

## The Sermon?

This is when the pastor helps us understand what God is telling us in the Bible. And the Bible is God's word!

## Communion?

Communion is when we celebrate what Jesus did for us on the cross. We say the bread represents Jesus' body and the wine represents Jesus' blood. Weird huh? And awesome. It means Jesus is really spiritually present with us in the Lord's Supper by the power of the Holy Spirit. And when we eat the bread and drink the wine God nourishes our spirits!!! Who gets to take communion? Those who believe in Jesus and have shared their faith with the leaders in the church.

## Benediction?

This is the end of the church service where everyone receives God's blessing. Isn't it awesome that God shares this blessing with us?

# KIDS' CORNER



## MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,  
2 Timothy 3:16

## ? CATECHISM OF THE WEEK ?

**How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?**

That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.



## PRAYER REQUEST

"Father, help me to love Jesus more than anything and anyone else!"

# KIDS' LESSON

Do y'all know the song, Rock-a-bye baby? Have you ever really listened to the words? It's a really really weird song. Listen to the words...

Rock-a-bye baby

on the tree top. [so the song begins with a little baby up in a tree]

When the wind blows

the cradle will rock. [now the little baby is in a windstorm with the tree shaking]

When the bough breaks, [boughs are tree branches = when the tree branches break...

the cradle will fall.

And down will come Baby,

Cradle and all.

Y'all that's what parents sing to their little babies to calm them down at night when they're fussy and crying. "Oh little baby are you scared? OK just imagine you're stuck up in a tree in the middle of a storm and the tree starts shaking so hard that your branch breaks and you start falling falling falling all the way to the ground probably hitting every other branch on your way down. OK, now go to sleep and have terrifying dreams." Ok that's a crazy song to sing to a baby right? When you think about what you're saying - that's crazy. But we just sing it like no big deal.

Well we also do that with Jesus - we say things about Jesus like, "Yeah he's God, the perfect human being, Lord, and Savior, he's the Chosen One. I'm a sinner and I need Jesus to save me from death and hell..." - but we can say that stuff like it's no big deal. But if you really think about them, those things are shocking.

We confess Jesus is the one that the whole Bible from beginning to end is all about. The whole Bible is all about Jesus who came to live for you and to die for you and to be raised from the dead for you all to save you and love you and take care of you and be with you and get you to heaven where you will have eternal life. That's crazy when you think about it. And if you're kind of blah about Jesus - maybe it's because you need to stop and think about him for a bit. That's why church is the least boring thing you could ever do - if you think about what we're saying and doing.

# SERMON NOTES



A series of horizontal lines for writing notes, spanning the width of the page below the title.



# KIDS' CORNER

WRITE OR DRAW SOMETHING YOU HEARD IN THE SERMON



Favorite song  
today was:

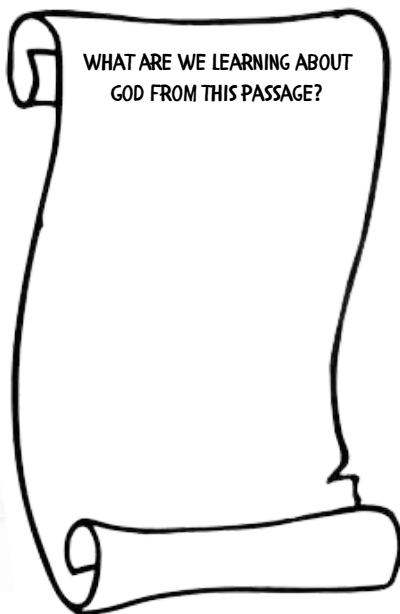
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NEW WORDS I HEARD TODAY



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT  
GOD FROM THIS PASSAGE?

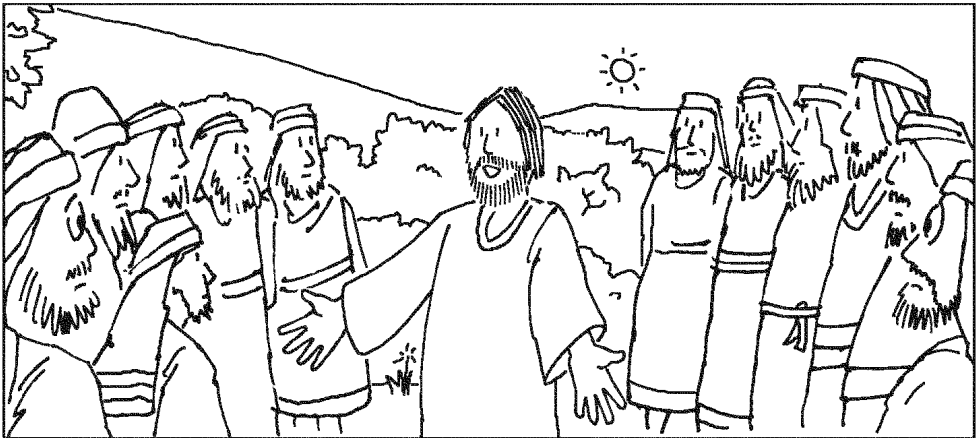
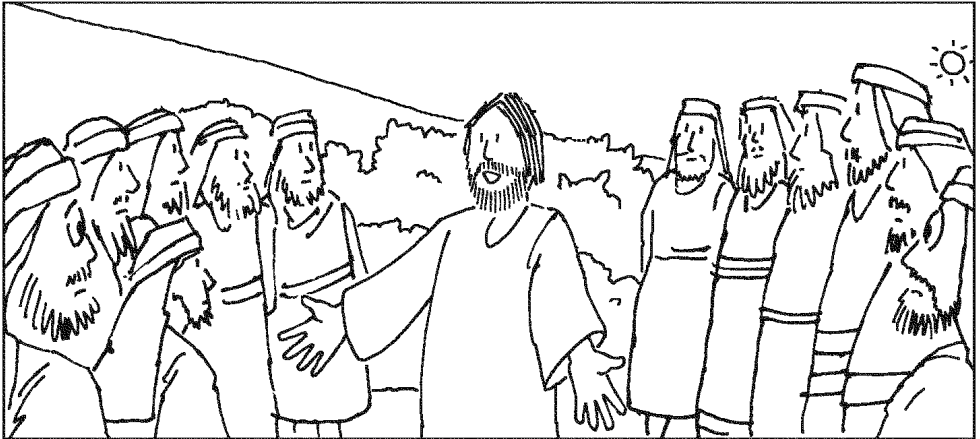


# KIDS' CORNER

## A Righteous Person's Reward

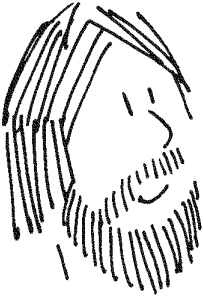
Jesus met with His disciples to teach them.

Find 15 differences between these two pictures.



# KIDS' CORNER

Use this letter maze to find the sentence below.  
Move only in straight lines: up, down, left and right.



“Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward.”

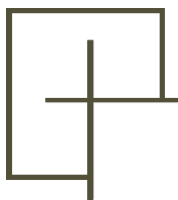
START



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FINISH



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