

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

GATHERING GROWING GLORIFYING

Order Of Worship

October 5, 2025

*Call to Worship | Psalm 66:1-4 | Rev. Blake Arnoult

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

¹ Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

² sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!

³ Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

⁴ All the earth worships you

and sings praises to you;

they sing praises to your name."

*Song of Adoration | What Wondrous Love Is This

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

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb Who is the great "I Am";

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And through eternity I'll sing on.

Music and Lyrics: American folk hymn

*Confession of Faith | Westminster Larger Catechism Q.191

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

Q. What do we pray for in the second petition of the Lord's Prayer?

A. In the second petition, (which is, Thy Kingdom come,) acknowledging ourselves and all mankind to be by nature under the dominion of sin and Satan, we pray that the kingdom of sin and Satan may be destroyed, the gospel propagated throughout the world, the Jews called, the fulness of the Gentiles brought in; the church furnished with all gospel officers and ordinances, purged from corruption, countenanced and maintained by the civil magistrates; that the ordinances of Christ may be purely dispensed, and made effectual to the converting of those that are yet in their sins, and the confirming, comforting, and building up those that are already converted: that Christ would rule in our hearts here, and hasten the time of his second coming, and our reigning with him for ever: and that he would be pleased so to exercise the kingdom of his power in all the world, as may best conduce to these ends.

*Song of Confession | Abide With Me

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

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

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.

God of grace, out of our bondage and sorrow, we come to you. Out of our shameful failure and loss, we come to you. Hear us oh Lord and have mercy. We have turned our faces away from you and hated those whom you've commanded us to love. Remember your Son, Jesus, and forgive us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon | 1 Peter 2:24 | 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.

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

*Song of Response | Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

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

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer,
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

**To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine,
I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me**

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed

**To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won,
And I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me**

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave

**To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released,
I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me**

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

**To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete,
Still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!**

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

Music and Lyrics: Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren

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 | Isaiah 43

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

When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you,
And the waves will not
Overcome you.
Do not fear,
For I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name,
You are Mine.

**For I am the Lord your God
(I am the Lord your God),
I am the Lord your God (I am)
The Holy One of Israel
Your Savior**

**I am the Lord (do not fear)
I am the Lord (do not fear)
I am the Lord (do not fear)
I am the Lord (do not fear)**

When you walk through the fire you'll not be burned,
And the flames will not consume you.
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name, you are Mine.

Chorus

I am the Lord

Music and Lyrics: Anonymous

Prayer for Christ's Church

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

*Reading of Scripture | Matthew 13:10-17, 31-32 | Rev. Blake Arnoult

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

¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

""You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive."

¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.'

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

³¹ He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Pastor: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Preaching of the Word | Rev. Blake Arnoult

"Parables and the Mysteries of the Kingdom"

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 | O Come to the Altar

We celebrate our communion in faith and song.

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

**O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ**

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

/ Chorus /

/ Oh what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen /

/ Chorus /

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

Music and Lyrics: Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joye

Departing Song | O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

We begin to end in faith and song.

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Lyrics & Music: Robbie Seay, Taylor Johnson, Albert Lister Peace, George Matheson

*Benediction | Romans 15:33 | 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.

³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Announcements

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!

Women's Monthly Bible Study

Tuesday, October 7, 7pm

Home of Susan Arnoult

Our women's monthly Bible study takes place next Tuesday evening at 7pm! Join us at the home of Susan Arnoult for our next lesson on the Sermon on the Mount!

Sunday Bible Studies

Bible studies for K-12th grade will NOT gather next week, October 12, but will resume on October 19.

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.

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.



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.



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

"Our Father, who art in heaven, thy kingdom come!"

KIDS' LESSON

Riddles!

What tree grows but has no shadow?

Which animals can jump higher than a tree?

I am a seed with three letters in my name. Take away the last two and I still sound the same.

I grow in trees, eat living things, but have no teeth and give birth to one that looks nothing like me.

When Rick was 5 years old he hammered a nail into his favorite tree to mark his height. 5 years John returned to see how much higher the nail was. If the tree grew by 5cm each year, how much higher would the nail be?

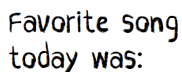
Today in Matthew 13 Jesus tells a bunch of parables and the parables of Jesus are like riddles. And what do you do when you can't get the answer to a riddle? You have to go to the riddler and ask them to give you the answer and explain the riddle.

That's why Jesus tells parables. Jesus tells riddle parables so we go to him so he can tell us about us and about him: how much trouble we're in, and how much he loves us, and how he has saved us by living and dying for us.

Jesus tells this one parable about a tree slowly growing over time. And Jesus says that his kingdom is like a tree - it doesn't grow really fast - it grows really slowly BUT like a tree it is always growing.

Think about an acorn. An acorn doesn't look like much. But if you planted just one acorn it would grow a tree that would grow 10,000 acorns. And if you planted all those acorns they'd grow trees that would make tens of thousands of more acorns. And you keep planting and growing...Did you know that from one acorn you could cover the earth with trees? That's the power of one little acorn. Jesus is saying his kingdom is like this itty bitty mustard seed that grows into a big tree.

The hard thing for us to believe is that Jesus is really in our lives taking care of us because: we can't see him and a lot of times we don't feel him. But can you look at a tree and watch it grow? No! But it is growing. And Jesus is caring for you and for his church even though we can't see it. And here's how we can always remember that. Where did Jesus most care for you? On the cross. And what does the cross look like? A tree. Jesus died for you on a tree to save us and because of that you can know that he's always caring for you and his church.

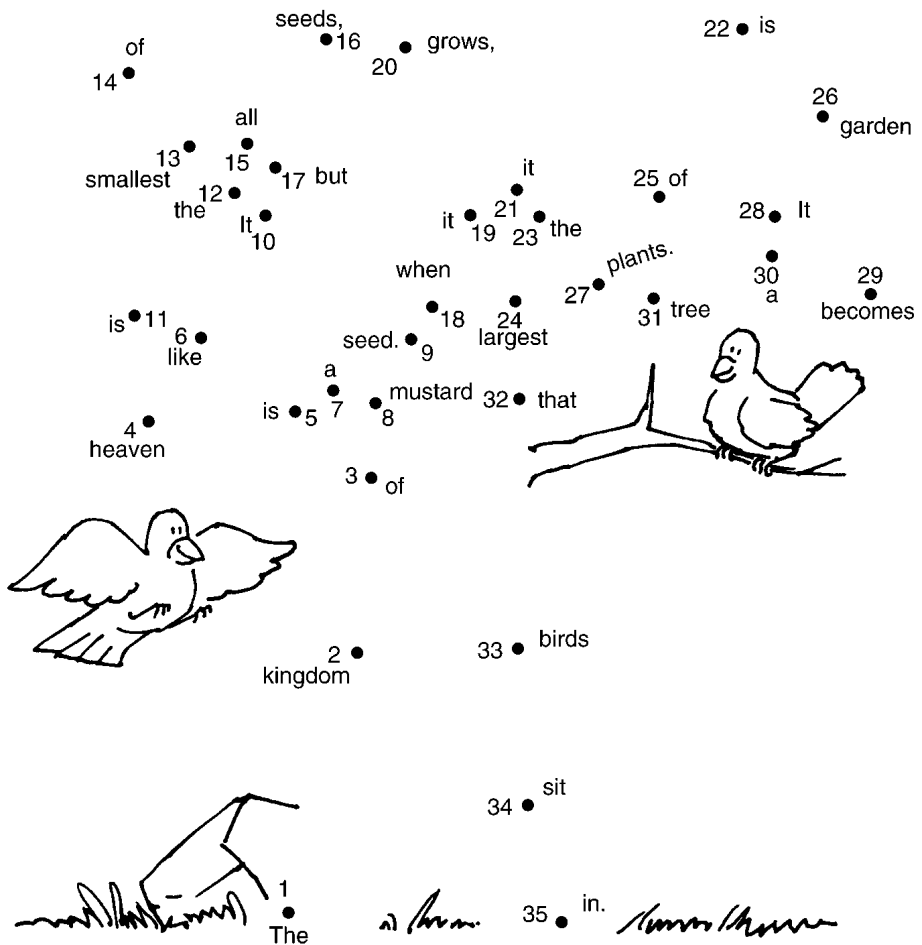
This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

A large, blank scroll graphic with a black outline. The scroll is unrolled, showing a large rectangular area. At the top, the text "WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT GOD FROM THIS PASSAGE?" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The scroll has a small loop at the top left and a larger loop at the bottom right, suggesting it is a scroll that can be rolled up. The background is white.

KIDS' CORNER

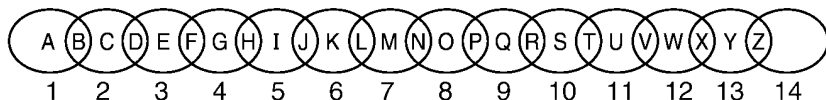
Short Parables

Connect the dots and read the parable of the mustard seed.



KIDS' CORNER

Use the code below to read the parable of the yeast.



“

10,11 4,5 3

6 5 7,8 4 2,3 8 7

8 3,4 4,5 3 1 11,12 3 7,8

5 10 6,7 5 6 3 13 3 1 10 10,11

10,11 4,5 1 10,11 1 8,9 3 9,10 10 8 7,8

10,11 8 8 6 1 7,8 2,3 7 5 12,13 3 2,3

5 7,8 10,11 8 1 6,7 1 9,10 4 3

1 7 8 11 7,8 10,11 8 3,4

3,4 6,7 8 11 9,10 11 7,8 10,11 5 6,7

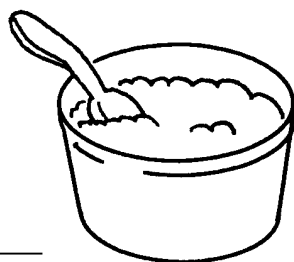
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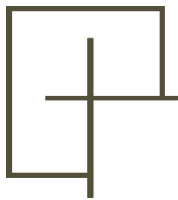
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2,3 8 11 4 4,5

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SUNDAYS, 10 AM
A.D. PLAYERS AT THE GEORGE THEATER
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