

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

GATHERING GROWING GLORIFYING

Order Of Worship

July 19, 2026

*Call to Worship | Psalm 146:1-2 | Rev. Blake Arnoult

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

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

*Song of Adoration | A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great;
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph thru us.
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

Music and Lyrics: Frederick Hedge, Martin Luther

*Confession of Faith | Philippians 2:5-11

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

⁵ Christ Jesus, ⁶ though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*Song of Confession | I Asked The Lord

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

I asked the Lord that I might grow
In faith and love and every grace
Might more of His salvation know
And seek more earnestly His face

Twas He who taught me thus to pray
And He I trust has answered prayer
But it has been in such a way
As almost drove me to despair

I hoped that in some favored hour
At once He'd answer my request
And by His love's constraining power
Subdue my sins and give me rest

Instead of this He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart
And let the angry powers of Hell
Assault my soul in every part

Yea more with His own hand He seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Cast out my feelings, laid me low

Lord why is this, I trembling cried
Wilt Thou pursue thy worm to death?
"Tis in this way" The Lord replied
"I answer prayer for grace and faith"

"These inward trials I employ
From self and pride to set thee free
And break thy schemes of earthly joy
/That thou mayest seek thy all in me"/

Music and Lyrics: John Newton, Laura Taylor

Confession of Sin | Psalm 25:6-8, 16-18

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.

- ⁶ Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!**
- ⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.**
- ¹⁷ The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.**
- ¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.**

Assurance of Pardon | Colossians 1:12-14 | 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.

- ¹² Give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

*Song of Response | Blessed Assurance

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

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

**This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long**

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Chorus

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Chorus

Music and Lyrics: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, Fanny Jane Crosby

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 | A Debtor To Mercy Alone

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

A debtor to mercy alone,
Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear, with Thy righteousness on,
My person and offering to bring.
The terrors of law and of God
With me can have nothing to do;
My Savior's obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view

The work which His goodness began,
The arm of His strength will complete;
His promise is yea and amen,
And never was forfeited yet.
Things future, nor things that are now,
Not all things below nor above
Can make Him His purpose forego,
Or sever my soul from His love.

My name from the palms of His hands
Eternity will not erase;
Impressed on His heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.
Yes, I to the end shall endure,
As sure as the earnest is given
More happy, but not more secure,
The glorified spirits in heaven.

Music and Lyrics: Augustus Montague Toplady, Kevin Twit

Prayer for Christ's Church

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

***Reading of Scripture | Psalm 88 | Rev. Blake Arnoult**

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

⁰ A Song. A Psalm Of The Sons Of Korah. To The Choirmaster:
According To Mahalath Leannoth. A Maskil Of Heman The Ezrahite.

- ¹ O LORD, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before you.
- ² Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry!
- ³ For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
- ⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am a man who has no strength,
- ⁵ like one set loose among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.
- ⁶ You have put me in the depths of the pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
- ⁷ Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.
- ⁸ You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a horror to them.
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
- ⁹ my eye grows dim through sorrow.
Every day I call upon you, O LORD;
I spread out my hands to you.
- ¹⁰ Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the departed rise up to praise you?
- ¹¹ Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
- ¹² Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?
- ¹³ But I, O LORD, cry to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- ¹⁴ O LORD, why do you cast my soul away?
Why do you hide your face from me?
- ¹⁵ Afflicted and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am helpless.

- ¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me;
your dreadful assaults destroy me.
- ¹⁷ They surround me like a flood all day long;
they close in on me together.
- ¹⁸ You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me;
my companions have become darkness.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Preaching of the Word | Rev. Blake Arnoult

"God & Darkness"

Psalms: Songs of "Amen"

Pastoral Prayer | Rev. Blake Arnoult

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 | We Lift Our Eyes (Psalm 102)

We celebrate our communion in faith and song.

"Mercy, mercy," we cry out.
Turn an ear, Lord, when we call.
From Heaven's holy height, look down
To an earth after a fall.

**Isn't it you who has justified?
Hung on a cross for a wicked bride.
To you, O Lord, we lift our eyes
Isn't it you who is glorified?
Paid for our sins with a holy price.
To you, O Lord, we lift our eyes.**

Bitter wine and ash for bread.
Are you with us in this place?
Our days, like evening shadows, end.
Have you turned away your face?

Chorus

All our days pass away.
But you, O Lord, shall remain.

Chorus

Music and Lyrics: Rivan Bennevendo

Departing Song | Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)

We begin to end in faith and song.

You hear me when I call.
You are my morning song
Though darkness fills the night,
it cannot hide the light
Whom shall I fear
You crush the enemy
underneath my feet
You are my sword and shield
though troubles linger still
Whom shall I fear

**I know who goes before me,
I know who stands behind
The God of angel armies
is always by my side
The one who reigns forever,
he is a friend of mine
The God of angel armies
is always by my side**

My strength is in Your name,
for You alone can save
You will deliver me.
Yours is the victory
Whom shall I fear,
Whom shall I fear

Chorus

And nothing formed against me shall stand
You hold the whole world in Your hands
I'm holding on to Your promises
You are faithful, you are faithful
Nothing formed against me shall stand
You hold the whole world in Your hands
I'm holding on to Your promises
You are faithful, you are faithful, you are faithful

Chorus

Lyrics & Music: Scott Cash, Ed Cash, Chris Tomlin

*Benediction | Romans 15:13 | 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.

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Let Us Know You're Here!

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



Calendar and Announcements Page

We encourage you to visit Church Center or our website to view our calendar of gatherings and events! You can also find us on the Church Center app to stay up to date with our weekly and monthly events!



Serving

We rely on the willing hearts and bodies of our members to be the hands and feet of Christ for his church on Sunday mornings. Please take the time to sign up to serve this spring through Church Center! We need volunteers for all positions from setup, to nursery, to breakdown each Sunday in the coming months.

All positions for February-April are available for sign up!



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 standing on chairs | No stage access |
Use only the writing utensils provided in the Lobby by Cornerstone

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.

Announcements

Adult Teaching Series

Scripture

Tuesday, July 28, 7pm

Save the date!

For our summer adult teaching series we are visiting all the big, complicated questions about Scripture. Who wrote it and why? Is it complete? Is it all true? Are there errors? And so much more!

Men's Gathering

Saturday, August 1, 4:30pm

Frost Brewery

1719 Ruiz St. Houston, TX 77002

Cornerstone men, join us the evening of August 1 for the Astros vs. Rangers game! We'll gather at Frost Brewery before the game and walk over to Daikin Park together. Go 'Stros!

Fall Kick-Off

Sunday, August 23, 11:30am

Pickleball Social

Cornerstone's Fall Kick-Off and third annual pickleball tournament is just around the corner! For players and non-players alike, this is a fun event for all ages to fellowship and enjoy one another. Lunch is provided! View the tournament details and sign up on our website or Church Center!

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

¹ O Lord, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before you.

² Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry!

Psalm 88:1-2

? CATECHISM OF THE WEEK ?

What is the chief end of man?

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.



PRAYER REQUEST

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

KIDS' LESSON

Parents tell their kids we want them to come to us when things are hard, or when they're mad or sad - even when kids are mad at their parents. Because parents love their kids and we want to help our kids.

Today we're going to read the saddest psalm. In Psalm 88 the psalmist confesses to God how sad he is and how mad he is at God because his life is so hard.

And here's why that's a good thing: God is your God no matter what.

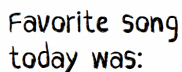
God doesn't love you because you're always such a good kid. God knows we sin and mess up - that's why he sent Jesus to come and live for us and die for us to SAVE us from our sin.

And God doesn't love you because you've always got a smile on your face and nothing can get you down and you're always happy and nice. No. God knows this world is hard and it can be really sad and we can get really sad and mad about life.

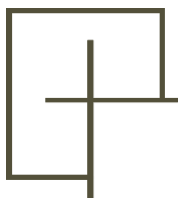
But you can tell God all of that in your prayers. You can pray like the psalmist, "God I'm really sad. God I'm really mad about..." When you tell God that you're mad that doesn't make God mad.

What God will do is talk back to you in the Bible. It's like a conversation. You can tell God you're sad or mad and God will tell you, "I know it's hard right now. But I still love you and I am still with you no matter what. And you can trust that when you remember the gospel about Jesus."

God did not spare his own son from suffering and death. The good news is God sent his son, Jesus, to suffer ultimate sadness and suffering on the cross so that you never have to, so that there is an end to your suffering at the end of your life. And one day all the sadness and badness in the world will be gone and there's only going to be joy and peace and awesome life in heaven forever where we live with God and his family.

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

A large, blank scroll with a black outline. 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 is unrolled, showing a large blank space for writing.



SUNDAYS, 10 AM
A.D. PLAYERS AT THE GEORGE THEATER
5420 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77056
www.cornerstonehouston.com