

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

GATHERING GROWING GLORIFYING

Order Of Worship
August 23, 2026

*Call to Worship | Psalm 103:1-2, 20-22 | Rev. Blake Arnoult

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

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

² Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,

²⁰ Bless the Lord, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his word,
obeying the voice of his word!

²¹ Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his ministers, who do his will!

²² Bless the Lord, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

*Song of Adoration | Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

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

Come, Thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God:
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let Thy grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Music and Lyrics: George Robert Robinson

*Confession of Faith | Westminster Confession of Faith Ch. 20,
"Of Christian Liberty"

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

The liberty which Christ has purchased for believers under the gospel consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the curse of the moral law; and, in their being delivered from this present evil world, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin; from the evil of afflictions, the sting of death, the victory of the grave, and everlasting damnation; as also, in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto him, not out of slavish fear, but a childlike love and willing mind. All which were common also to believers under the Law. But, under the New Testament, the liberty of Christians is further enlarged, in their freedom from the yoke of the ceremonial law, to which the Jewish church was subjected; and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the Law did ordinarily partake of.

*Song of Confession | From The Depths Of Woe I Raise To Thee

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

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee the voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me and hear my supplication;
If Thou iniquities dost mark our secret sins and misdeeds dark,
O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?)
O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?)

To wash away the crimson stain, grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas! Are all in vain; in much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in Thy sight, all must alike confess Thy might,
And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy)
And live alone by mercy (Live alone by mercy)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own merit;
On Him my soul shall rest, His word upholds my fainting spirit;
His promised mercy is my fort, my comfort and my sweet support;
I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience)
I wait for it with patience (Wait for it with patience)

Though great our sins and sore our woes,
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows, our upmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is He, who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow (All their sin and sorrow)
From all their sin and sorrow (All their sin and sorrow)

Music and Lyrics: Martin Luther and Richard Massie

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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon | Romans 8:1-4 | 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.

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

*Song of Response | Song of Moses

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

Oh the Lord, our Strength and Song,
Highest Praise, to Him belongs.
Christ the Lord, our conquering King,
Your name we raise, Your triumph sings

**Praise the Lord, our mighty warrior,
Praise the Lord, the glorious one
By his hand, we stand in victory,
By his name, we've overcome**

Though the storms of hell pursue,
In darkest night, we worship You
You divide the raging seas,
From death to life, You safely lead

Chorus

All the saints and Angels bow,
Hosts of heaven are crying out
Glory, Glory, to the King,
You reign for all eternity.

Chorus

// The Lord Shall reign forever and ever
The Lord Shall reign forever and ever //

Chorus

Music and Lyrics: Aaron Keyes, Ben Smith, Chris Moerman, Graham Kendrick, Joseph Pat Barrett

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 | Jesus Thank You

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

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend
The agonies of Calvary
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me

**Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You**

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near
Your enemy You've made Your friend
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end

Chorus

Lover of my soul
I want to live for You

Chorus

Music and Lyrics: Pat Sczebel

Prayer for Christ's Church

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

*Reading of Scripture | Daniel 1:1-21 | Rev. Blake Arnoult

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

¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. ³ Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, ⁴ youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. ⁵ The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. ⁶ Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. ⁷ And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

⁸ But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. ⁹ And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, ¹⁰ and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king." ¹¹ Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹² "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." ¹⁴ So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. ¹⁶ So the steward

took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. ¹⁸ At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. ²⁰ And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. ²¹ And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Preaching of the Word | Rev. Blake Arnoult

"Faith in Exile"

Daniel: Visions of Things Unseen

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 | 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: Mack Brock, Wade Joye, Christopher Brown, Steven Furtick

Departing Song | Holy, Holy, Holy!

We begin to end in faith and song.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee!
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons blessed Trinity!

Music and Lyrics: John Bacchus Dykes and Reginald Heber

*Benediction | Numbers 6:24-26 | 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.

- ²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you;
²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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

Fall Kick-Off

Sunday, August 23, 11:30 am

Pickleball Social

Cornerstone's Fall Kick-Off and third annual pickleball tournament is today! For players and non-players alike, this is a fun event for all ages to fellowship and enjoy time with one another. Lunch is provided!

Women's Weekly Bible Study

Romans

Wednesday, September 9, 10:30 am

Home of Marion Wade

We will continue our study on Romans this fall. We tend to think Romans is intimidating and scary because there's so much serious theology in it. All the while the world does not take our theology seriously, but instead thinks Jesus and the gospel about a crucified savior is a joke. Part of how we need to approach Romans therefore is seeing Paul point up the absurdity of evil and the devil and death and everything that sets itself up in opposition to Jesus. Paul is not ashamed to hold this gospel out to anyone who wants it.

Sunday Student Studies

Covenants

Sunday, September 13, 9 am

A.D. Players at the George Theater

What's a covenant? Who cares? Covenant is the structure of the Bible. It's like the skeleton that gives the Bible its shape. And since the Bible shapes you, covenant is also like the skeleton of your life. Which means covenant is the key to answering the most important questions in your life. Who cares about covenants? You do.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 13

A.D. Players at the George Theater

A congregational meeting for ministry and budget updates will take place on Sunday, September 13, during the service. All members are encouraged to attend!

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

Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

? CATECHISM OF THE WEEK ?

What does it mean to pray, "Thy kingdom come"?

We are asking God to bring more and more people to hear and believe his gospel.



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

Are Christians better than other people? Are we saved because we're better than other people or because we're smarter than other people or because we're stronger than other people? NO! We are saved because of Jesus, not because of anything we have done. All we have done is believe in Jesus and even our believing is a gift from Jesus all by grace. So what we really want is for others to hear about Jesus and his love and grace and pray that Jesus would be gracious to them so that they might believe with us?

SERMON NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

KIDS' CORNER

WRITE OR DRAW SOMETHING YOU HEARD IN THE SERMON

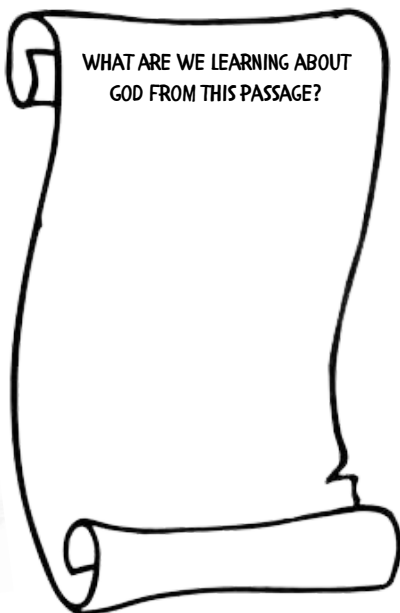


Favorite song
today was:

NEW WORDS I HEARD TODAY



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT
GOD FROM THIS PASSAGE?



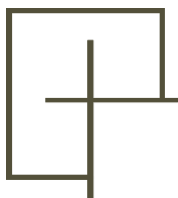
KIDS' CORNER

Four Israelites in Babylon

The king brought 4 Israelites to be taught and trained. Their names were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Find 15 differences.





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