

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 6, 2026

***Call to Worship | 1 Peter 1:3-5 | Rev. Blake Arnoult**

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

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

***Song of Adoration | He Is Exalted**

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

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high And I will praise Him
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His Name

For He is the Lord; forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy Name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

Music and Lyrics: Twila Paris

***Confession of Faith | Psalm 130**

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

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

² O Lord, hear my voice!

**Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

**³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?**

**⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.**

**⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;**

**⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

**⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.**

**⁸ And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.**

*Song of Confession | Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

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

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long expected prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
By His Son, God now has spoken:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress:
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him,
Was the stroke that Justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly,
Nor suppose the evil great,
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the Sacrifice appointed!
See Who bears the awful load!
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,
Son of Man, and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost.
Christ's the Rock of our salvation,
His the Name of which we boast.
Lamb of God for sinners wounded!
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

Music and Lyrics: Thomas Kelly, Wen Reagan

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.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious Word. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon | Psalm 130:3-4 | 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.

³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.

***Song of Response | Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!**

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

Jesus! What a friend for sinners!
Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

**Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.**

Jesus! What a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my victory wins.

Chorus

Jesus! What a help in sorrow!
While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking,
He, my comfort, helps my soul.

Chorus

Jesus! I do now receive Him,
More than all in Him I find.
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.

Chorus

Music and Lyrics: John Wilbur Chapman, Rowland Prichard, and Ryan Dahl

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 | In Christ Alone

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

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease!
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This Gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Music and Lyrics: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

Prayer for Christ's Church

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

*Reading of Scripture | Daniel 3:1-2, 4-6, 8, 12-14, 15b-30 | Rev. Blake Arnoult

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

¹ King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ² Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁴ And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace."

⁸ Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews.

¹² "There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?"

¹⁵ But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us

from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²² Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

²⁵ He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.

²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other

god who is able to rescue in this way.”³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Preaching of the Word | Rev. Blake Arnoult

“The Fiery Refining Furnace”

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 | When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

We celebrate our communion in faith and song.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

Forbid it Lord that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to His blood

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did ever such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul my life my all

Music and Lyrics: Isaac Watts

Departing Song | Revelation Song

We begin to end in faith and song.

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

**Holy holy holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings
You are my everything
And I will adore You**

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor strength and glory
And power be to You the only wise King

Chorus

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power, breath, and living water
Such a marvelous mystery

Chorus

Music and Lyrics: Jennie Lee Riddle

*Benediction | Romans 15:5, 6 | 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.

⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.



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.



Giving Platform Update!

Our online giving platform has changed to a new, mobile-friendly interface called Raisely! While our giving page will look a little different, the giving process stays the same. Those with recurring donations can continue to use existing Aplos Pay credentials to manage gifts through Raisely. Please reach out to Emily McEwin with any questions about the new platform and online giving.

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

Monthly Bible Studies

Women's Monthly Study

Tuesday, September 8, 7 PM

The Home of Susan Arnoult

Men's Monthly Study

Friday, September 11, 7 AM

Bean and Bottle

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!

Announcements

Women's Gathering

Tuesday, September 22, 7 PM

Home of Marion Wade

Inquiring minds want to know! Ladies, let's pepper our Pastor with all kinds of questions about Jesus, culture, the Christian life.... You ask, he'll answer! Please scan the QR code to ask your questions!



The Story of Our Time: Living in a World Created by God An Evening with Dr. Michael Horton and Dr. Richard Lints

Sunday, November 8, 6:15 PM

A.D. Players at the George Theater

What are the questions the church is asking today? What are the questions our neighbors are asking today? Cornerstone invites you to an evening with senior theologians Dr. Richard Lints and his dear friend, Dr. Michael Horton. They'll show us how the story of the gospel intersects and challenges the stories of our culture: stories about identity, freedom, happiness, and truth.

Dr. Lints is an author, a church planter, an educator, and presently the Senior Advisor to Redeemer City-to-City in NYC. Dr. Horton is a professor at Westminster Seminary California as well as an author and the host of the White Horse Inn podcast. Both have a unique understanding of the world we live in and how we relate to it.

Please note, this is an evening for adults.

Scan the QR code to register!



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

I covenant to you, as my Father covenanted to me, a kingdom.
Luke 22:29

? CATECHISM OF THE WEEK ?

Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.



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

Would you rather meet a famous person who is boring or a regular person who is hilarious?

Would you rather lose the ability to cry or cry every day for 20 minutes randomly?

Would you rather be the President of the United States for a day or a billionaire for a day?

Would you rather live forever or wake up every day with a new superpower?

Would you rather be one of the best in the world at one thing or be good at everything?

Would you rather always be the center of attention or always go unnoticed?

Would you rather never get tired or never have to go to the bathroom?

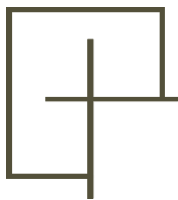
Would you rather get a million dollars or have the Astros win the World Series?

Would you rather lose everything and have Jesus OR lose Jesus and have everything?

What is Jesus worth to you?

The most important question is: What are you worth to Jesus?

Did you know that you are worth everything to Jesus? That Jesus gave up his life for your life, that he took your sin to give you his righteousness, that he took your eternal punishment on the cross to give you heaven? Why did he do that? To save you, because you're worth everything to him.



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