

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 20, 2026

*Call to Worship | Psalm 61:1-3 | Rev. Brooks Harwood

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

¹ Hear my cry, O God,
listen to my prayer;
² from the end of the earth I call to you
when my heart is faint.
Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I,
³ for you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.

*Song of Adoration | Jesus Lover Of My Soul

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

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
'Til life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
I helpless, hang on Thee;
Leave, oh leave me not alone,
Support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
In the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, are all I want,
Here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am;
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart;
For all eternity.

Music and Lyrics: Charles Wesley

*Confession of Faith | Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell.¹

The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic² church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

1: The phrase "descended into hell" refers to the torments Christ suffered before his death on the cross.

2: The term "catholic" means "universal", throughout all ages and generations.

*Song of Confession | Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

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

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah
Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but Thou art mighty
Hold me with Thy powerful hand
Bread of heaven
Feed me now and evermore
Bread of heaven
Feed me now and evermore

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through
Strong Deliverer
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield
Strong Deliverer
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield

When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside
Death of death and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee
Songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee

Land me safe on Canaan's side
Bid my anxious fears
Bid my anxious fears
Land me safe on Canaan's side
Bid my anxious fears
Bid my anxious fears goodbye

Music and Lyrics: Jeremy Casella

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 mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed in love for you and love for others. We have ignored your truth concerning the path to greatness and sought our own path. We have neglected service and mercy. We seek to serve ourselves, not you, not others. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon | 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 | Rev. Brooks Harwood

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.

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

*Song of Response | My Faith Has Found A Resting Place

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

My faith has found a resting place,
Not in device or creed;
I trust the ever living One,
His wounds for me shall plead.

**I need no other argument,
I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died,
And that He died for me.**

Enough for me that Jesus saves,
This ends my fear and doubt;
A sinful soul I come to Him,
He'll never cast me out.

Chorus

My heart is leaning on the Word,
The living Word of God,
Salvation by my Savior's Name,
Salvation through His blood.

Chorus

Music and Lyrics: Andrew Osenga, Francis Johnson

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 | What A Friend We Have In Jesus

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

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms he'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Music and Lyrics: Charles Crozat Converse, Joseph Medlicott Scriven

Prayer for Christ's Church

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

***Reading of Scripture | Mark 9:14-29 | Rev. Brooks Harwood**

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

¹⁴ And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. ¹⁶ And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷ And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." ¹⁹ And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³ And Jesus said to him, "'If you can!' All things are possible for one who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸ And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹ And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

Pastor: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Preaching of the Word | Rev. Brooks Harwood

"His Help"

Pastoral Prayer | Rev. Brooks Harwood

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 | Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

We celebrate our communion in faith and song.

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

***Departing Song | Doxology**

We begin to end in faith and song.

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen

Music and Lyrics: Thomas Ken

***Benediction | 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 | Rev. Brooks Harwood**

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.

¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

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!



Women's Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday, September 23, 10:30 AM

Home of Marion Wade

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 27, 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.

Announcements

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.

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

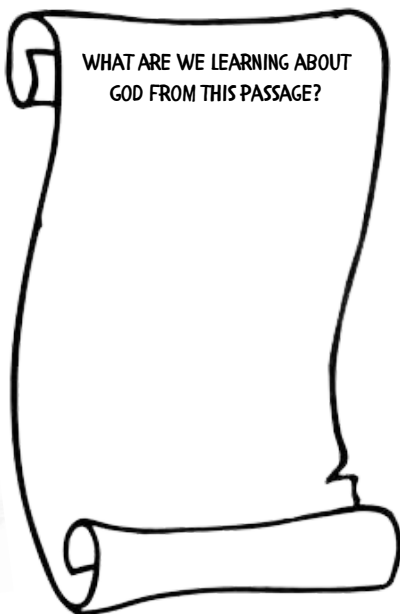


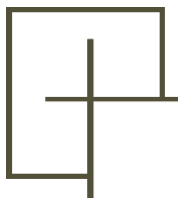
Favorite song
today was:

NEW WORDS I HEARD TODAY



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT
GOD FROM THIS PASSAGE?





SUNDAYS, 10 AM

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