



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

GATHERING GROWING GLORIFYING

PURPOSE

(the why of the church)

Gather people in Houston and grow together in life in order to glorify Jesus Christ.

PLAN

(the what, so what, how, when, where, and who of the church)

Means (What will accomplish our purpose?)

- Word (the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament)
- Fellowship
- Prayer
- Sacrament

Goals (So what do we see if we are accomplishing our purpose?)

- Fruitfulness: conversions, Christian character, good deeds
- Biblical world and life view
- Fellowship and Service
- Evangelism and Missions
- Worship: corporate and individual

Presuppositions (How will we approach accomplishing our purpose?)

- Individual: there is both great commonality and diversity among individuals
- Demographical: our ability to minister is affected by the character of the city
- Pedagogical: there is a common learning process among all peoples
- Theological: ministry is carried out from a specific perspective that is for all peoples
- Providential: God is at work accomplishing his purpose of the church

Times (When will we accomplish our purpose?)

- Sunday: corporate worship, when the church gathers, grows, and glorifies weekly
- Monday to Saturday: pilgrim life, when the church lives out of and up to Sunday

Places (Where will we accomplish our purpose?)

- Large Groups: community; gathering and binding the whole group together-
- Small Groups: friendship; relating an individual to other individuals
- One on Ones: intimacy; personal conversation where ministry happens organically

Participants (Who is accomplishing our purpose?)

- God the Father the Architect-Builder, the Son the Cornerstone, the Spirit the Paradigm Power
- God's People-House the Church

Order Of Worship

December 20, 2020

***Call to Worship** | Hebrews 12:22-24 | Rev. Blake Arnoult

God invites and calls us into His presence to worship Him.

22 You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

***Prayer of Adoration** | Luke 1:68-75

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

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; 72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

***Confession of Faith** | Luke 1:46-55, "The Magnificat"

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

46 Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the abundantly flourishing he has sent away empty. 54 He has

helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

***Song of Confession | We Three Kings Of Orient Are**

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

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain moor and mountain
Following yonder star

**O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light**

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever ceasing never
Over us all to reign

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising all men raising
Worship Him God on high

Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing sighing bleeding dying
Sealed in the stone cold tomb

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and sacrifice
Alleluia alleluia
Peals through the earth and skies
Music and Lyrics: John Henry Hopkins

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.

Lament | 2 Corinthians 5:1-4

A lament is our expression of grief and frustration at the brokenness of the world. This is an act of faith as we turn to God as our only source of hope and comfort.

1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened-not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

Confession of Sin | based on Romans 1 and 5

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.

Our great God, we confess that although we have known you, we have not honored you as our God and King nor given you thanks, but we have become futile in our thinking; and our senseless minds have been darkened. We have been filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, and malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and craftiness, we are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, rebellious toward parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Yet we do also confess, that when we were weak, at the right time, you sent your Son into the world to be born, live, and die for the ungodly. We most joyfully confess that you have proven your love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Forgive our sins, we pray, through him who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our salvation. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon | 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

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.

14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Prayer for Christ's Church

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

*Reading of Scripture | Matthew 2:1-21 | Blake Arnoult

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

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 6 "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." 9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud

lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." 21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Preaching of the Word | Rev. Blake Arnoult

"The New Savior King Of The Jews"

The Gospel As The New Exodus

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 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 | The First Noel

We celebrate our communion in faith and song.

The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel**

When they looked up, they saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far:
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence

Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

Music and Lyrics: John Stainer

***Departing Song | O Holy Night**

We begin to end in faith and song.

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

**Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
Oh night divine, oh night, oh night divine**

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains He shall break for the slave is our brother
And in His Name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy Name

**Christ is the Lord!
Oh, praise His Name forever
His power and glory evermore proclaim
Oh, night divine, oh, night when Christ was born**

Music and Lyrics: Placide Cappeau, John S. Dwight

***Benediction | Revelation 22:20, 21 | 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.

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with
all. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Celebration 2pm A.D. Players Parking Lot

Christmas Eve Service 3pm Lessons and Carols

INFORMATION

To the Parents of Young Children

Welcome! We are so glad you are here. We believe the church is for all people, even children, and we want Cornerstone to be a church where children are both seen and heard. So don't worry if your children wiggle in the pews or make a little noise! We invite you to keep your children in our service and help them understand what is going on, sing the songs with you, and participate in worship. Children learn how to worship by imitating you. We say parts of our worship service every week in order to help our non-reading children to participate. There are also ages, stages, and times when it might not be best for your children to be in worship.

The Liturgy

Our order of worship may be new to you. Every worship service in every church has a structure. We want to be intentional about ours as it is a real back-and-forth conversation between us and God. He calls us to worship, and then we respond and move through the different elements of the service. We have both spontaneous, personal prayers as well as ancient, printed prayers. Please look over the service to see what we will hear and say along the way.

Cornerstone Podcast

To listen to the sermons during the week, please visit: www.cornerstonehouston.com/resources or anywhere you normally listen to podcasts.

GIVING

Online Donations

If you'd prefer to give online as either a one-time gift or as a recurring gift, you may do so through our website,

www.cornerstonehouston.com/give

It will direct you to the online donation portal powered by Aplos. This is a secure site that can process credit card, debit card, and

EFT. All donations go directly to Cornerstone. You will receive an electronic receipt and an end of year tax statement.

Text-to-Give

If you'd prefer to give via text, please text "GIVE" to (833) 388-0906. It will direct to the online donation portal powered by Aplos to setup your account. You will only have to setup access the first use. It is a secure site that can process credit card, debit card, and EFT. All donations go directly to Cornerstone. You will receive an electronic receipt and an end of year tax statement.

Checks

You can give by check or mail a check to:

Cornerstone Church of Houston

14027 Memorial Drive #268

Houston, Texas 77079-6826

Make the check payable to Cornerstone Church of Houston. You will be mailed an end of year tax statement.

Stock

If you would like to transfer stock, please contact one of the church officers.

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?

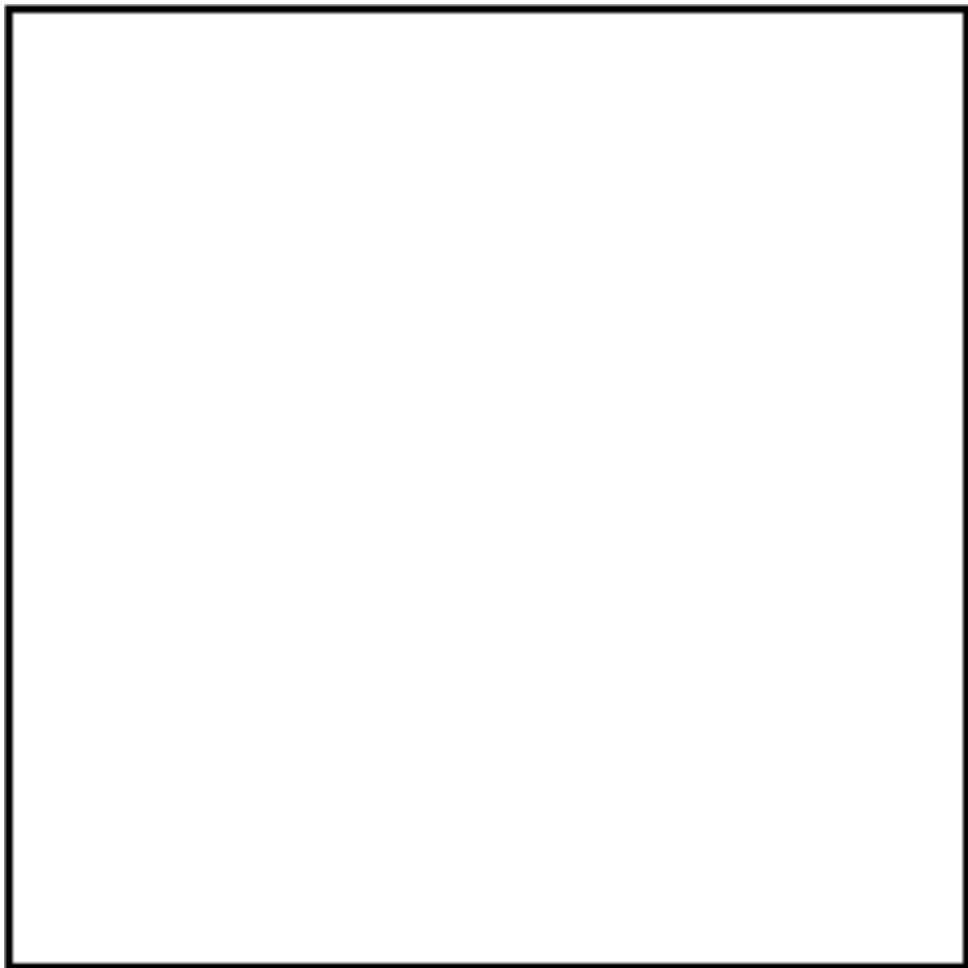
Communion is when we celebrate what Jesus did for us on the cross. We say the bread represents Jesus' body and the wine represents Jesus' blood. Weird huh? And awesome. It means Jesus is really spiritually present with us in Lord's Supper by the power of the Holy Spirit. And when we eat the bread and 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?

A Drawing

Show off your artistic talents below!



Word Search

Find these words from our passage Matthew 2:1-21!

C X V E H R W X S T T Q K Y W
C Y H W J W Z R U L E R F I C
A I P H O S F H E T C S M G A
P W K I N G R M X J W R G X M
P R Y B L U Z S Y G O G U I F
X H C Z E D Q T U D R I H L A
G Q E U G T V A N B S F C D C
S V C R W O H R J O H T J E Y
O N J B O G L L O U I S Q F W
U C U R R D M D E J P S F Z Q
M D I W C N V T C H R I S T M
N O F R A N K I N C E N S E Y
R Z Z M A Z T W I S E M E N R
E E Y T B F Q B X S U C B Y R
K C H I L D Y H C U B K H X H

Herod, Wise Men, King, Star, Worship, Christ, Bethlehem,
Ruler, Child, Rejoice, Gifts, Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh

The Sermon and Your A-Z's!

Each time you hear a word during the sermon that begins with one of the letters listed below, fill it in.

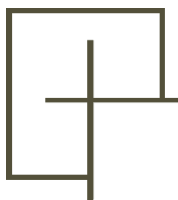
A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
J	W
K	X
L	Y
M	Z

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, except for Communion
- 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.

GATHERING GROWING GLORIFYING



SUNDAYS, 10 AM

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

www.cornerstonehouston.com