

# Worship

January 23, 2011

## Grace Hill Vision

To be a church community that engages Hillsborough, NW Chapel Hill, Orange County and beyond with the grace and truth of Jesus Christ so that we are transformed spiritually, socially and culturally.

## Grace Hill Core Value #3: Community

The core of Christianity is God calling individuals to himself through Jesus into a community. Grace Hill is a community where you can be known and missed, and welcomed and encouraged. We invite all kinds of diversity, but the most important is spiritual. We believe that our community is for old-fashioned bible-believing church-goers, but we also believe that skeptics, people without church backgrounds, and people who are not currently active in a church community make our community more vibrant and more complete. We think that we are a good community for liberals and conservatives, traditionalists and progressives, rich and poor, singles, families, men, women, children and just about anyone else. In a community lead by Jesus, all are welcome, encouraged and challenged. Come with a sharp mind and an open heart.

## Welcome

## Prelude and Time for Reflection

## Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

## Declaring What We Believe: Confession of Faith (Apostle's Creed, 4<sup>th</sup> c.)

## Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to their classrooms)

## Community Together: Prayers of the People

## Giving Back to God: Offering

Please complete the section on the back and give it during the offering so we can let you know about upcoming events. Gifts to Grace Hill support the ongoing life and work of our community under the oversight of the church session; in addition to expenses, our budget maintains a goal for twenty percent of gifts to go to works of mission locally and globally.

## Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading Nehemiah 1

11 So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. 12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. 13 I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. 14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. 15 Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16 And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work.

17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." 18 And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" 20 Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem."

## Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon *God Doing Great Things Through the Not Great*

### Outline:

1. We need to be equipped by God beyond our natural abilities, 2.11-20
2. We need to be gathered as His people, 3.1-32
3. Grace Hill's vision and values requires God's equipping and gather us



Grace Hill Church

## Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

### Public Reading

Father, we confess that are not as bold as we ought, as reflective as we should, as passionate as we must, unless you work in us a greater sense of the alternate reality of the Gospel. We forget its security, and we shun risk; we omit its plan to heal every part of sin, and we are casual and ill-prepared; we compartmentalize it, and we lack a passionate faithful story to tell.

And when we think of our response to opposition, it is too easy to see how much the Gospel needs to transform us. Forgive us. Father, please let the death and resurrection of Jesus work a new truth in our minds, hearts, souls--equipping us beyond our personalities, enabling beyond our abilities, freeing us from our fears. By depending on you, make us your joyful potent tools.

### Private Reflection

#### Words of Forgiveness

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (Ps 103.11,12)

## Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

*Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.*

## Responding with Song

### Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thess. 2: 16, 17

## Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

### Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

### Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.



**Grace  
Hill  
Church**

Grace Hill is a church that seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (see John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a denomination with a rich history of Christ's grace and truth. Our pastor is Ross Durham; he can be reached by email at [ross@gracehillchurch.net](mailto:ross@gracehillchurch.net) or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Worship Director is Michael Musser and our Children's Ministry Co-Directors are Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez.

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Grace Hill.

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