



Grace Hill Church

The Mission of Grace Hill Is to Gather People to the Table of Christ, Who Is the Bread of Life, to Be Transformed by His Grace, Renewed in His Truth, and Sent on His Mission.

“Ezra 2 brings to centre stage the main character of Ezra-Nehemiah, namely the cast of thousands that made up the people who returned to build the house of God. This book is about them and about what ordinary men and women can do when God is motivating them. God loves ordinary believers and he loves to use them (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26–29). Of the 42,360 people of this chapter not all are even named, and yet this story is their story.” ~ Gregory Goswell, *A Study Commentary on Ezra-Nehemiah*, EP Study Commentary (Darlington, England: EP, 2013), 92

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12.1-2

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ... ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10.11-12, 14

January 17, 2021

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #3

Question: How many persons are there in God?

Answer: There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Ezra 3.1–13*

When the seventh month came, and the children of Israel were in the towns, the people gathered as one man to Jerusalem. ² Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, and they built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. ³ They set the altar in its place, for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening. ⁴ And they kept the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the rule, as each day required, ⁵ and after that the regular burnt offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the appointed feasts of the LORD, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill offering to the LORD. ⁶ From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD.

But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid. ⁷ So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

⁸ Now in the second year after their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to supervise the work of the house of the LORD. ⁹ And Jeshua with his sons and his brothers, and Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together supervised the workmen in the house of God, along with the sons of Henadad and the Levites, their sons and brothers.

¹⁰ And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel. ¹¹ And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,

“For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”

And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. ¹² But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers’ houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, ¹³ so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.

Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives

Sermon: Pursuing the Most Important Thing

Series: The Grace and Work of Leading: Rebuilding God’s People for Worship in Ezra

Outline:

1. Our Primary Work Is Worship, v.2
 - a. Worship Because of Fear, v.3
2. The What of Worship:
 - a. Two Approaches to Worship, v. 3-5 and 6-9
 - b. Two Types of Worship: v. 2 and 10-11
3. The How of Worship

The Vision of Grace Hill Is to Love God and Love Our Neighbor and Love God and ...

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

God, we confess we struggle to pursue Your worship first. We are distracted and tempted. We often turn to many other hopes, desires, longings. Especially when we are fearful, we do not turn to worship as our primary, best response. Forgive us.

Father, You made us and You sustain us (NCC #2). But even more, You created us to worship You and to find meaning, purpose, joy, and security in a worshipful relationship with You. When our minds are tired, capture us with images of Your perfect goodness, and help us to bow before You. When our hearts are confused, lead us to find rest in Your worship, and help us to sing Your praises. Let Your loyal love uphold us, and mold us, as worshipers who are finding all we need in Your presence.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you. ~Ps. 86.5

Responding to the Lord with Worship

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction (“the good word”)

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb. 13.20–21)

Announcements:

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **New City Catechism:** Please make plans to use the New City Catechism book and website at Home at least one day a week. This article speaks to how our kids are already being catechized by our broader context: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/catechize-kids/>
- **Growing Leaders/Disciples Monthly Meeting:** The Session invites everyone to schedule the Fourth Wednesday of the Month to join us for a Growing Leaders/Disciples meeting. First meeting on Zoom Tuesday, January 26th at 7pm, finishing before 8:15pm.
- **Virtual Missions Conference by Mission to the World.** February 19-20, 2021. Sign up! Put it in your calendar! <https://mtw.org/opportunity-details/virtual-missions-conference>
- **Worship in Offering:** Three ways to worship the Lord with your tithes and offerings
 - Use your bank's BillPay system to give to Grace Hill
 - Send a physical check
 - Use our mobile giving option (either as a guest or by setting up an account):
 - <https://faithlife.com/grace-hill-church/give>, or
 - <https://tinyurl.com/ul68txo>, or
 - Simply text the word Give with the amount (e.g. Give 100) to 919 296 1330.



Grace Hill seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (John 1.14–18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a Presbyterian denomination with a rich history of living in Christ's grace and truth. Our pastor is Ross Durham. He can be reached at ross@gracehillnc.org or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Youth Director is Daniel Havener, daniel@gracehillnc.org. Our Worship Music Director is Kayli Havener, kayli@gracehillnc.org. Our Communications Coordinator is Andrea Sterling, andrea@gracehillnc.org. Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc