



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.

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.
2 Cor. 1.20

“Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.” ~2 Tim 3.16-17 NET

“...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” ~Eph 6:17

January 24, 2021

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #4

Question: How and why did God create us?

Answer: God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Ezra 1.1; Matt 1.22–23; Ezra 3.2–5; Rom. 12.19; Ezra 7.6, 10–11, Acts 18.24–28*

Ezra 1 ¹ In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia...

Matt 1 ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Ezra 3.2 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.

Rom. 12 ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

1 Cor. 6 ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”

Ezra 7 ⁶ this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the Lord, the God of Israel, had given, and the king granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him. ... ¹⁰ For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel. ¹¹ This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, a man learned in matters of the commandments of the Lord and his statutes for Israel.

Acts 18 ²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, ²⁸ for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives

Sermon: God Gave Us Scripture to Know and Serve Him in this World

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

Outline:

1. God Reveals to Us His Unfolding Story in Scripture, Ezra 1.1
2. God Shows Us How to Live Before Him in Scripture, Ezra 3.2, 4
3. God Calls Us to Have a Heart for Scripture and a Growing Skill with Scripture, Ezra 7.6, 10, 11

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 are tempted away from seeing Your Scriptures as Your revelation to us. Sometimes we treat them as Your advice to us, or as words that are too bound in context to be relevant or helpful for us today. But in this we are wrong. Forgive us for our lack of listening to You, our lack of both faith and hard work in faith to see them as Your precious and vital communication to us.

Father, in love and truth, You have graciously disclosed Yourself to us in Your Scriptures. Apart from them, we cannot properly know You—much less Your purpose for humanity or Your intention for Your Church. Having heart to perceive their great value, enable us to study, do, and teach them. Ezra shows us this, but Jesus does much more. Help us to follow Him, and how He knew, loved, and lived out Your Scriptures. Thank You that He is the bedrock of our hope: all Your promises are “Yes” in Him.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ~Rom. 10:11

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.
- **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