



# 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.*

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen." Deut. 18:15 (18:15-19)

November 14, 2021

## Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

## Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #44

**Question:** What is baptism?

**Answer:** Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to his church.

## Welcoming Each Other

## Giving Worship to God: Offering

## Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading

## Acts 4:23-31, Psalm 2

Acts 4:23-31

<sup>23</sup> When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said,

"Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,

<sup>25</sup> who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

"Why did the Gentiles rage,  
and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers were gathered together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed"—

<sup>27</sup> for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

<sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

### Psalm 2

Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed,  
saying,

<sup>3</sup> "Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us."

<sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.

<sup>5</sup> Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

<sup>6</sup> "As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill."

<sup>7</sup> I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to me, "You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.

<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I will make the nations your  
heritage,

and the ends of the earth your possession.

<sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's  
vessel."

<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Serve the Lord with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.

<sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son,  
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

## Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

**Series:** God's Story Helps Us Pray: Nehemiah 9 and Acts 4

**Sermon:** *The Grand Gospel Story Helps Us Pray*

Outline:

1. Our Context Is Similar to the Early Church, Acts 3-4
  - a. Opportunities for Mercy (Acts 3:1-7), Worship (3:8-10) and Testimony (Acts 3:11-26)
2. The Grand Gospel Story Gives Us Understanding in Our Situations and Language for Prayer
  - a. Creation (from Neh. 9:6) Reminds us of God's Power, Glory, Worthiness, 4:24
  - b. Peoples, Kings Gather Together against the Lord and his Anointed, 4:25-26
  - c. Historic-King David Points to the Incarnate, Victorious True Son, 4:27-28
  - d. "And Now" Applies the God of Creation, Sovereignty, Victory in Christ to Act, 4:29-31
3. How We Can Pray Acts 4 and Psalm 2?

## **Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin Public Prayer**

God, we confess that often our prayers are either half-hearted or “help me, help me.” But the Scriptures show us Your people finding understanding, words-to-pray, confidence, and courage in praying Your big story. Lead us and teach us to do likewise.

Father, Your big story asserts that You have made all, see all, know the intentions of every heart. We are not in a story that is uncertain, fragile, or lacking the strength of Your Son Jesus. Rather He has been victorious and He can enable us to be fruitful, faithful, bold, and enduring by the Holy Spirit.

## **Private Reflection**

### **The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ**

And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ~James 5:15

## **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. While Jesus spent time with everyone, he also shared the bread and cup only with those who followed him. Children who have not yet become *communing members* should not take the bread and cup but talk with our pastor or an elder about their personal faith.

We are currently celebrating the Lord's Supper by remaining 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 use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

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

## **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 let me know the reality of your love and glory. Give me an understanding of you that is captivating, convincing—that leads to You Yourself and the life You promise. Amen.

## **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)

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#### **Announcements:**

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **Congregational Meeting Sunday 12/21/21 after Worship.** Make plans to stay for the Congregational Meeting next Sunday after worship to elect Deacons (all Communing members of GH may vote) and communicate updates in the life of Grace Hill.
- **Housing Need:** Ben and Timber's landlord is moving back into the home they currently rent in Hillsborough. They are looking for rental options from January-June before moving more permanently for residency. If you know of anyone who has an in-law suite or rental home available, they would greatly appreciate being put in touch. Ben's phone number is 402 547-0122.
- **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 text the word “Give” 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](mailto:ross@gracehillnc.org) or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Youth Director is Daniel Havener, [daniel@gracehillnc.org](mailto:daniel@gracehillnc.org). Our Worship Music Director is Kayli Havener, [kayli@gracehillnc.org](mailto:kayli@gracehillnc.org). Our Communications Coordinator is Kayli Havener, [kayli@gracehillnc.org](mailto:kayli@gracehillnc.org). Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 [www.gracehillnc.org](http://www.gracehillnc.org); Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: [gracehillnc](#)

