



# 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.*

“And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children’s offspring,” says the LORD, “from this time forth and forevermore. ~Isaiah 59:21

November 7, 2021

## **Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song**

### **Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #43**

**Question:** What are the sacraments or ordinances?

**Answer:** The sacraments or ordinances given by God and instituted by Christ, namely baptism and the Lord’s Supper, are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith by his death and resurrection. By our use of them the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.

## **Baptism: Millie and Emma Carter**

### **Welcoming Each Other**

### **Giving Worship to God: Offering**

### **Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Nehemiah 9:26-38***

“Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies. <sup>27</sup> Therefore you gave them into the hand of their enemies, who made them suffer. And in the time of their suffering they cried out to you and you heard them from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them saviors who saved them from the hand of their enemies. <sup>28</sup> But after they had rest they did evil again before you, and you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies, so that they had dominion over them. Yet when they turned and cried to you, you heard from heaven, and many times you delivered them according to your mercies. <sup>29</sup> And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your rules, which if a person does them, he shall live by them, and they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not obey. <sup>30</sup> Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. <sup>31</sup> Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

<sup>32</sup> “Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day. <sup>33</sup> Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly. <sup>34</sup> Our kings, our princes, our priests, and our fathers have not kept your law or paid attention to your commandments and your warnings that you gave them. <sup>35</sup> Even in their own kingdom, and amid your great goodness that you gave them, and in the large and rich land that you set before them, they did not serve you or turn from their wicked works. <sup>36</sup> Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves. <sup>37</sup> And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress.

<sup>38</sup> “Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests.

## **Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives**

**Sermon:** *The Problem of Exile and Post-Exile*

Outline:

1. What Do We Do When We Continue to Sin Against the Lord? (v. 26-30)
2. What is Our Only Hope in Our Sin? (v. 31-33)
3. How Can We Use Exile in Our Prayers?

## Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

### Public Prayer

God, Israel shows us that apart from Your mercy, we move away from You and Your covenant of promised love and towards our own evil and corruption. Your patience is long but our sin maligns Your name and character. Forgive us.

Father, thank You for Your great mercies (v. 31) and that You have fulfilled Your promised covenant with us in Jesus. Thank you that Your promised grace is stronger than our sin. Our hope is that Your covenant is a unilateral covenant. Yet You call us to a role that is based on responding to Your covenant love.

### Private Reflection

#### The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

“Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” ~Matthew 26:27-28

#### 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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### Core Questions:

1. How is the Holy Spirit whispering or shouting to you from this passage? What stands out for you?
2. How does the text intersect or engage your life? Where is the connection or application for you?
3. Where do you find gospel conviction and gospel comfort in this passage? (Gospel = the specific act of Jesus taking your sin and sharing with you his victory.)

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### Announcements:

- **Kicking Cancer 5K:** Riley Fernandez and her school (Voyager Academy High School) are hosting a 5K to raise awareness and support of those who have battled or are currently battling cancer within their school's community. Follow the link to register or donate to the cause: <https://forms.gle/SybJMuptNKJHqGQ49> For more information, reach out to Riley: [rileyfernandez04@gmail.com](mailto:rileyfernandez04@gmail.com)
- **Renewed Covid Policy: Starts 8/12/21. Goal: robust, Christ-centered, gathered worship**
  - To continue our in-person worship and provide for the health of our community, masks are required at all indoor public gatherings starting Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- **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