



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.

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. ~1 John 3:1-3

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. ~Revelation 19:9-10

Feast, Christians, feast; you have a right to feast. . . . But in your feasting, think of the Man in Bethlehem. Let him have a place in your hearts, give him the glory, think of the virgin who conceived him, but think most of all of the Man born, the Child given. ~Charles Spurgeon, *The Treasury of the Old Testament*

December 12, 2021

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #48

Question: What is the church?

Answer: God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *John 1:9-13*

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

Series: The Gospel of John, The Feast of the Incarnation

Sermon: *We Feast Because we are Children of God*

Outline:

1. The "True" Light Has Appeared to All (v.9)
2. Jesus Came to Dwell in His Own Creation
 - a. The World Did Not Know Him (v.10)
 - b. His Own Did Not Receive Him (v.11)
3. Those Who Have Received Him Are:
 - a. Children of God (v.12)
 - b. Born of God (v.13)
4. As Children, We Are Blessed to be Invited to Feast With Our Father (Rev. 19:9)

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

Our Father, You sent us the true light, yet we often ignore him. Often, we are blinded by the flickering and fleeting lights of this world. You created all the good in this world, yet we fail to acknowledge You as the Creator. Like disobedient children, we often ignore Your voice, our Father. Forgive us.

Thank You, Father, for giving us the right to be Your children. Thank You for affording us all the privileges that belong to Your Children. Help us to know all the benefits and rights that Christ has won for us. Thank You for inviting us to feast with You at the wedding supper of the Lamb. Come Lord Jesus. Amen.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ~1 John 4:10

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)

Announcements:

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **Feast of the Incarnation:** Sunday, December 12, 2021, after worship. Join us for a feast!
- **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 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 Kayli Havener, kayli@gracehillnc.org. Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: [@gracehillchurch](https://twitter.com/gracehillchurch); Instagram: [gracehillnc](https://www.instagram.com/gracehillnc)