



# 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.*

“But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” ~Is. 66.2

“He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.” ~Luke 1.51–53

“The Eternal Being, who knows everything and who created the whole universe, became not only a man but (before that) a baby, and before that a foetus inside a woman’s body. If you want to get the hang of it, think how you would like to become a slug or a crab.” — “Mere Christianity”

“The cities and peoples and tribes in Asia honour Gaius Julius Caesar ... the manifest god descended from Ares and Aphrodite, and the common saviour of humankind.” ~Syll 760, 48 ad.

“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” ~Phil. 2.8

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” ~James 4.10

“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” ~1 Pe. 5:5–7

“For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.’” ~Is. 57:15

“Once in our world, a Stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.” ~C.S. Lewis in “The Last Battle”

December 6, 2020

## Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

### Declaring What We Believe: Heidelberg Catechism, Question #35

**Question:** What is the meaning of these words “He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary”?

**Answer:** That God’s eternal Son, who is, and continues true and eternal God, took upon him the very nature of man, of the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost; that he might also be the true seed of David, like unto his brethren in all things, sin excepted.

## Welcoming Each Other

### Giving Worship to God: Offering

#### Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Luke 2.1–20*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and unwrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives

### Sermon: The Humble Receive the Most at Christmas

### Series: The Thirst That Could Only Be Quenched by the Incarnate Christ: Lessons from Luke

#### Outline:

1. Christmas Comes to the Humble, v.1-2, 8–12
2. The Humble Can See a Transcendent Glory, v.9–14
3. How We Seek Humility so that We Might See Jesus’ Glory, v.20
  - a. Spiritually, reflectively, financially, temporally,

## Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin Public Prayer

God we confess our culture and our own big-headedness leads us to trying to be the great ones and accomplish our own great things. We are always trying to create some sort of glory for ourselves. But Your word shows us that the humble are those who receive the true glory, especially at Christmas.

Father, You made known Your grace and truth to the humble. Jesus, although You are Savior-Messiah-Lord, You were willing to come to us as a helpless baby in an animal's feeding trough. You came low for us because You have a great glory to share with us. Spirit, lead us not to try to manufacture a glory at Christmas—Jesus with tinsel—but rather teach us to receive the humble but glorious ways of heaven. Lord, show us Your glory, we humbly ask.

## Private Reflection

### The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

~2 Chronicles 7.14

## 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)

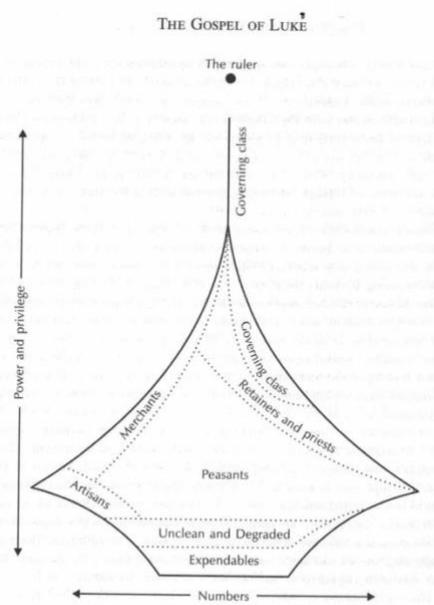


FIGURE I.  
A graphic representation of the relationship among classes in agrarian societies.

## Announcements:

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **Songs of Hope: A TGC Advent Concert.** Dec, 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm. The virtual concert will be streamed on our website, YouTube, Facebook, and on The Gospel Coalition smart TV apps.
- **Help Support Grace Hill Family:** Grace Hill would love to be able to help support the Carrs as they bring home their new baby boy, Elijah James. Please find here some suggested ways that you can contribute financially, alongside an abundance of prayer.
  - Gift cards to Walmart, The Wooden Nickel, and Weaver Street Market
  - Donations to their adoption fundraising campaign: <http://adopttogether.org/families/?fundraiser=creatingthecarrs>
- **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](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 Andrea Sterling, [andrea@gracehillnc.org](mailto:andrea@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