



# 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.*

“So ends the first stage, a generation long, of Israel’s rehabilitation. It had opened when the Lord ‘stirred up the spirit of Cyrus’ (1:1), and it concluded with his turning the heart of one of that king’s most powerful successors.” ~Derek Kidner, *Ezra and Nehemiah: An Introduction and Commentary*, 68

“And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. 10 Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” 11 So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.” 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them. ~Ne. 8.9–12

Scripture speaks of believers having a joy in Christ Jesus that is inexpressible and glorious (1 Pet 1:8). Through regeneration, a life comes into existence that can hunger and thirst after God and His righteousness. Hunger and thirst presuppose not merely a tendency of the will toward God but also that emotion accompanies it. Geerhardus Vos, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4.51.

“I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.” ~Matt. 12.6

“...two came forward and said, ‘This man said, “I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.”’” ~Matt. 26.61

“And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.” ~Matt. 27.51

“And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.” ~Rev. 21.22

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,  
for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; Rev 19.7

February 14, 2021

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

### **Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #7**

**Question:** What does the law of God require?

**Answer:** Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done.

## **Welcoming Each Other**

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

#### **Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Ezra 6.13–22***

Then, according to the word sent by Darius the king, Tattenai, the governor of the province Beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and their associates did with all diligence what Darius the king had ordered. <sup>14</sup> And the elders of the Jews built and prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They finished their building by decree of the God of Israel and by decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia; <sup>15</sup> and this house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

<sup>16</sup> And the people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy. <sup>17</sup> They offered at the dedication of this house of God 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel 12 male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. <sup>18</sup> And they set the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their divisions, for the service of God at Jerusalem, as it is written in the Book of Moses.

<sup>19</sup> On the fourteenth day of the first month, the returned exiles kept the Passover. <sup>20</sup> For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were clean. So they slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves. <sup>21</sup> It was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile, and also by every one who had joined them and separated himself from the uncleanness of the peoples of the land to worship the LORD, the God of Israel. <sup>22</sup> And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

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

**Sermon: Joy in the Temple and Joy in Jesus, Our Temple**

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

Outline:

1. We Find Confidence in God’s Commands: the Temple Is Completed
2. Let Us Rejoice in God’s Work: Jesus is the True Temple

*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, when we read of the starts and stops, and then the final completion of the temple, we confess we also need endurance and confidence that You are always at work. In good times and bad, secretly and publicly, in our hearts and the hearts of the rulers, You are fulfilling Your purposes. We need help to have confidence in You today, even as we await Your complete fulfillment.

Father, Jesus is the true temple, the true Passover, the true Feast of Unleavened Bread. Help us to rejoice because in Him, we, the sinful, are able to come to You, the Holy. Because of Him, we are brought in to You with intimacy and great joy. Help us to worship and celebrate because in Jesus we receive what we most need and long for, even You Yourself, today and evermore.

### **Private Reflection**

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

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. ~Rom. 15:13

### **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**
- **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/>
- **Called to Lead: Yourself and Others. Leadership/Discipleship Monthly Meeting:** The Session invites everyone to Called to Lead meetings on the Fourth Tuesdays. Next: Tuesday, 2/23/21.
- **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 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