



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.

[Additional quotes on back]

“Although some prophets will sometimes feel abandoned by God or will occasionally denounce the grinding demands God makes on them, none but Jonah experiences as many emotional fluctuations within so brief a narrative.” Sasson, *Jonah*, 348-9

May 15, 2022

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Jonah 1:1-6, 9-10; 3:10-4:11*

^{1:1} Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” ³But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

⁴But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.

⁶So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”

^{1:9} And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” ¹⁰Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

^{3:10} When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ² And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³ Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Do you do well to be angry?”

⁵ Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. ⁶ Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ And the LORD said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives

Series: The Gospel Speaks to Our Emotions

Sermon: Our Emotions Affected by Our Spiritual Choices

1. Jonah Points to Our Emotions, 4:1-4
2. What Affects Our Emotions: The Lord’s Presence, The Lord’s Values, Real vs. Formal Faith
3. What Heals Our Emotions: Jonah vs. Job, the Older Son, Jesus

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

God, we confess we have temptations like Jonah. We can be much more concerned for our own comfort and reputation than following You. We are often more interested in our values than Yours. There are times when our hearts want distance rather than intimacy with You. Forgive us.

Father, we cry out to You to heal, cleanse, and grow our faith so that we would desire Your presence above all. Out of Christ's costly gift of intimacy with You, enable us to love the things You love and follow Your words of mission to us. Give us grace to cooperate with You in this work of Your Holy Spirit maturing, enlivening, and growing our faith and service.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:6-10

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. ~ Hebrews 13:20-21

Additional sermon quotes

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. Exodus 34:6-8

"Throughout the entire narrative what has most concerned and moved Jonah has been his personal dignity, comfort, and reputation. Jonah expresses extreme anger at the loss of the bush. But is he not a Hebrew believer, even a commissioned prophet? ... In some situations [Jonah] is a believer, but only when it seems to suit him. In other circumstances he manifests behavior more suggestive of unbelief." Thiselton, *Hermeneutics of Doctrine*, p. 31-32.

For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. Matthew 12:40-41

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- **Zoom PIN** for Adult Core is 989209. "Core" is the name for our "Sunday School" classes for nursery through adults, following the worship service at 11:15. Please join us in person!
 - **Prayer Meeting**, Wednesday, May 25 from 6 to 7pm, at Grace Hill and on Zoom
 - **Urbana Missions Conference** is December 28-31, 2022, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Grace Hill would like to encourage individuals or a group to go to this important Missions Conference, which as first held in 1946. GH will provide some financial support. More info at urbana.org
 - **Donations for the MTW in Ukraine** are still welcome. If you would like to continue giving and praying in this time of great need, we encourage you to do so at mtw.org/ukraine-crisis.
 - **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. Worship Music Director: Abby Hummel, abby@gracehillnc.org. Communications Coordinator: Mary Erickson, tworstaggering@yahoo.com. Interim Youth Director: Ben Ashby, hippodudeman@gmail.com. Church address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278
www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc