



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 what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church... *Ephesians 1:19-22*

Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. *2 Corinthians 1:9-10*

For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. *2 Corinthians 4:11*

March 10, 2024

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

(During the prelude, the first song at 10:00am, please use the music to prepare your hearts for worship.)

Declaring What We Believe: Belgic Confession: Article 29

Question: What are the marks of a true church?

Answer: We believe that the marks of the true Church are the preaching of the pure doctrine of the gospel, maintaining of the pure administration of the sacraments as instituted by Christ, and exercising of church discipline to chasten sin. In short, all things are managed according to the pure Word of God, all things contrary thereto are rejected, and Jesus Christ is acknowledged as the only Head of the Church.

The members of the Church are known by the marks of Christians, namely, faith, and having received Jesus Christ the only Savior, they avoid sin, follow after righteousness, love the true God and their neighbor, neither turn aside to the right or left, and crucify the flesh with its works. Although there remain in them great infirmities, they fight against them through the Spirit all the days of their life, continually taking their refuge in the blood, death, passion, and obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom they have remission of sins, through faith in Him.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

¹ I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³ And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵ On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— ⁶ though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations,^[a] a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

Series: God's Grace Works Spiritual Transformation, 2 Corinthians 6-13

Sermon: Grace, Thorns, and Strength

1. There Are Many Kinds of Strength, But How Much Do We Think about Spiritual Strength
2. Spiritual Strength Works Differently
3. Christ Is a Greater Reward Than the Thorns

Recognizing Our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

God, we confess sincerely that we don't think often about Spiritual strength. We train for various kinds of strength or we fake it until we make it. But we admit Spiritual strength is different, coming by confessing our weakness until Christ's power rests upon us. Forgive us.

Father, You raised the Lord Jesus from the dead—how great is Your power! We are in awe that You would work that power in us when we do not exalt ourselves but rather admit our weakness. Spirit, work Your strength in us so that we might serve You and Your purposes for Your Church. May we find Christ and His strength so satisfying that we are even content with hardships.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. *Philippians 3:8–11*

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

God is to us as a kind and compassionate parent, and knowing our needs, he provides help and affectionate support throughout our lives as He promises in Scripture. But he is pleased to give us an additional assurance of His ongoing abundant generosity in the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is the further sacramental promise to his Church by the hand of his only-begotten Son to give us his love, compassion, and strength.

As Christ is Living Bread (John 6.51), it is a spiritual feast on which our souls feed, for a true and blessed life with God through eternity. Calvin, *Institutes*, 4.17.1.

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.

*Juice is in the outer rings; wine is in the inner rings. Gluten-free crackers are in the small cups.

Prayer for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup, 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 and 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. *Hebrews 13:20–21*

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- **CORE:** classes following the worship service, 11:15 am-noon. Zoom code: 989209
 - **QR Link:** Please share your prayer requests, needs, praises, new ideas, feedback, suggestions, or improvements with the Session, deacons, and staff.
 - **Faith and Work Dinner:** The new date for the Faith and Work dinner with John Worsham is Friday, March 22, at 6:30 pm.
 - **Holy Week Schedule:** Maundy Thursday service, March 28, 6:15 pm
Easter, March 31, 10:00 am, followed by a potluck (No CORE)
 - **Worship in Offering.** Three ways to worship the Lord in giving: Bank BillPay system, physical check, mobile: giving.servantkeeper.com/grace-hill-church



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. Deacons: 743.241.0760. Director of Ministries and Youth: Aaron Carr, aaron@gracehillnc.org. Worship Music Director: Abby Hummel, abby@gracehillnc.org. Children's Ministry Director: Kristen Carter, kristen@gracehillnc.org. Communications Coordinator: Mary Erickson, tworstaggering@yahoo.com. Church address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; X: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehill