



# 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.*

There is a difference between praying to an unknown God whom we hope to discover in our praying, and praying to a known God, revealed through Israel and Jesus Christ, who speaks our language. In the first, we indulge our appetite for religious fulfillment; in the second we practice obedient faith. The first is a lot more fun, the second is a lot more important. What is essential in prayer is not that we learn to express ourselves, but that we learn to answer God. ~Eugene Peterson

The barely habitable city, the encircling heathen, and the poverty and seeming insignificance of the Jews are all transcended by the glorious reality of God. ~Derek Kidner

Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love. ~Neh. 13:22

The facts are not ignored, as the ensuing prayer will show, but they will be seen in the context of eternity (*everlasting to everlasting*) and of God's unimaginable greatness (*above all blessing and praise*). ~D. Kidner

Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your presence. ~Psalm 140:13

"For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes." ~Rev. 7:15-17

September 12th, 2021

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

### **Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #35**

**Question:** Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from?

**Answer:** All the gifts we receive from Christ we receive through the Holy Spirit, including faith itself.

## **Welcoming Each Other**

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

### **Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *Nehemiah 9.1-13***

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. <sup>2</sup> And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. <sup>3</sup> And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the Lord their God. <sup>4</sup> On the stairs of the Levites stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani; and they cried with a loud voice to the Lord their God. <sup>5</sup> Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said,

"Stand up and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

<sup>6</sup> "You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

<sup>7</sup> You are the Lord, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham. <sup>8</sup> You found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite. And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous.

<sup>9</sup> "And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea, <sup>10</sup> and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. ...

<sup>13</sup> You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven and gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes and commandments.

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

**Series:** Prayer and the Grand Gospel Story: Nehemiah 9 and Acts 4

**Sermon:** *Prayer and Story: "Stand Up and Worship"*

Outline:

1. Praying Basics:
  - a. What: Both in Response to God (v.3) and in Response to Situations (v.1-2)
  - b. When: Pray at Planned Times, When Awake and Before Sleep, In Moment (Neh. 13:22)
  - c. How: Privately (Neh. 13:22) and Corporately (v.1-4)
2. Praying the Chapters in God's Grand Story: Creation, Covenant, Exodus, Law, ..., v.6, 7, 9, 13.
  - a. Summary of the Story of the OT, Each Chapter Will Help Us to Pray, Christian Worldview
3. Praying Praise: Worship is Always Our Most Important Work, in Every Situation, v.5

## **Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin**

### **Public Prayer**

God, we confess that we have so much room to grow in prayer. You come saying “Where are you?” (Gen. 3:9) but we are so often hiding, escaping, busy, bored. You want relationship with us but we want other things. We are drawn to good things but You are better than all and we are created for You. Forgive us.

Father, You are seeking us; help us to hear. You are speaking in Your word; enable us to respond. You made us with a need for worship as much our need for food, sleep, and breath. Help us sense our worship hunger-pains. Enable us to live out our design and purpose with joy and satisfaction. Jesus died for us so we could worship; He rose for us so we could have sweet joyful communion with You.

### **Private Reflection**

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

<sup>7:9</sup> After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb dressed in long white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. <sup>7:10</sup> They were shouting out in a loud voice,

“Salvation belongs to our God, to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ~Rev. 7:9-10

## **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)

### **Additional Quotes:**

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” ~John 4:23-24

### **Announcements:**

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **Women’s Bible Study:** Join the Grace Hill women’s Bible study this fall as they embark on a 9-week study on the Old Testament and how it relates to the Christian faith. The first meeting begins on September 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30, and will continue on every Wednesday from there. Please come and invite friends! For more information, contact [cathyoodurham@gmail.com](mailto:cathyoodurham@gmail.com) or [kaylynfernandez@hotmail.com](mailto:kaylynfernandez@hotmail.com).
- **Nomination of Elders and Deacons:** Grace Hill has begun the process of nominating new Elders and Deacons. To participate, please write the name of your nominee along with “elder” or “deacon” on a piece of paper and put it in the designated box in the entryway. For more information on this process, reach out to Ross Durham, Tony Fernandez, or Keith Blackmon.
- **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 Kayli Havener, [kayli@gracehillnc.org](mailto:kayli@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