

# Worship

March 13, 2011

Losers make promises they often break. Winners make commitments they always keep. ~Denis Waitley

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build bridges even when there are no rivers. ~Nikita Khrushchev

A prince never lacks legitimate reasons to break his promise. ~Niccolo Machiavelli

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jeremiah 31.31-34)

## Welcome

### Prelude and Time for Reflection

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

### Declaring What We Believe: Confession of Faith (Apostle’s Creed, 4<sup>th</sup> c.)

### Being Part of the Community: Baptism of Kaeden Matthews

### Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to their classrooms)

### Giving Back to God: Offering

Please use the tear-off on the back so we can let you know about upcoming events. Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our community; our budget maintains for twenty percent of gifts to go to works of local and global mission.

### Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading Nehemiah 9.38, 10.1, 28-39

9.38 “Because of all this we make a firm covenant (~pledge to be faithful) in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests. 10.1 “On the seals are the names of Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, Zedekiah, ...

10.28 “The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, 29 join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God’s Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord and his rules and his statutes.

30 We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons. 31 And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day. And we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.

32 “We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: 33 for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God. 34 We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, have likewise cast lots for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers’ houses, at times appointed, year by year, to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the Law. 35 We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the Lord; 36 also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks; 37 and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor. 38 And the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive the tithes. And the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse. 39 ... We will not neglect the house of our God.”

### Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives: Sermon *The Promise We Need*

1. We Make Promises
2. What We Promise
3. Keeping Promises
4. Saving the Relationship with Promise



Grace Hill Church

## Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

### Public Reading

Lord, we can't live without promises. We need them made to us. We need to make them to others. But we confess our failure to keep our promises with complete faithfulness. They are important, but we can't maintain the loyalty and faithfulness you require and deserve. They are so valuable, but our inability makes us either skeptical of promises or frantic to keep them.

But you are loyal. You are faithful. You are true. Jesus is the fullest expression of your promise to us. He is our confidence before you; the new covenant in his life, death and resurrection for us. Grow and mature our faith. Let your unique loyalty to us in the Gospel change us and enable us to be more faithful to you and to those around to us. Make us to be true promisers.

### Private Reflection

#### Words of Forgiveness

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. (1 John 1.8-9)

## 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.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays, we remain 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 either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

*Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.*

## Responding with Song

### Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thess. 2: 16, 17

## 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 open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

### Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.



**Grace  
Hill  
Church**

Grace Hill is a church that seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (see John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a denomination with a rich history of Christ's grace and truth. Our pastor is Ross Durham; he can be reached by email at [ross@gracehillchurch.net](mailto:ross@gracehillchurch.net) or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Worship Director is Michael Musser and our Children's Ministry Co-Directors are Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez.

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**Facebook** Grace Hill Church News **Group:** **Twitter:** Gracehillchurch

Please let us know about your visit with us! Also feel free to ask any questions about Grace Hill.

Please fill out the form to the right and place in the offering basket during "Giving back to God."

Or if you prefer you can send your name, email address, and mailing address by txt to 919 593 2169 or by email to [info@gracehillchurch.net](mailto:info@gracehillchurch.net).

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