

# Worship

Sunday, September 12, 2010

"I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities." (Acts 26.9-11)

It is clear that under the effect of a loving encounter, if I want to be *really* faithful to it, I must completely rework my ordinary way of 'living' my situation. ... I shall call 'truth' the real process of a fidelity to an event: that which this fidelity produces in the situation. (*Ethics: Essay on the Understanding of Evil, part 2*, by Alain Badiou, trans. Peter Hallward, p.41-42.)

"Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance." (Acts 26.19-20)

## Welcome

## Prelude and Time for Reflection

## Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song (see sheet)

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

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand Of God the Father Almighty, from where He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy \*catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen. (\* Universal church)

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

## Community Together: Prayers of the People

## Giving Back to God: Offering

Please use the tear off section on the back and place it in the offering plate and we will let you know about up coming events.

## Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading

Galatians 1.13-24

13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. 14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days.

19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. 20 (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) 21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. 23 They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." 24 And they glorified God because of me.

## Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon

*Free to Change*

Outline:

1. We All Have Pasts
2. Real Change is Possible
3. Real Change is Authentic



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## Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

### Public Reading

Father, we confess that we need your help in living each day in fidelity to the Gospel of Jesus dying for us, rising for us, and calling us to follow him. We think we must pretend our pasts were perfect but Paul talks openly about his. We fear we must earn our way to you or back to you but Paul says, "You were pleased to called him by Your grace." Our days are packed full and we think we have no gifts or time to offer, but Paul was called to You and sent by you.

Grant us more and more of the resurrection life: may we walk in its strength, may we see by its lenses, may we think by its truth. Show us what fidelity to the Gospel event looks like every day.

### Private Reflection

#### Words of Forgiveness

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal 2.20)

## 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.

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

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.

## 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 and 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 Group:** Grace Hill Church News

**Twitter:** Gracehillchurch

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

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your name, email address, and mailing address via txt to 919 593 2169 or email to [info@gracehillchurch.net](mailto:info@gracehillchurch.net).

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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