

# Worship

January 8, 2012

It takes the quiet of a suburb for the birth of the thesis that human nonviolence is a result of the idea of a God who refuses to judge. In a scorched land, soaked in the blood of the innocent, that idea will invariably die, like other pleasant captivities of the liberal mind...In a world of violence it would not be worthy of God not to wield the sword; if God were not angry at injustice and deception and did not make a final end of violence, that God would not be worthy of our worship." (Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace*)

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." (C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*, 1940).

## Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

## Declaring What We Believe: Confession of Faith

## Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Sunday School)

## Giving Back to God: Offering

And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, 4 so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, 5 and said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do." 6 So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing, 7 for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more. (Ex 36.3-7)

(Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our church community. Our budget also reflects for twenty percent of gifts to go to works of local and global mission.)

## Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading Jonah 1.1-16

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." 3 But 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.

4 But 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. 5 Then 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. 6 So 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."

7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" 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." 10 Then 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.

11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. 12 He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." 13 Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. 14 Therefore they called out to the Lord, "O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you." 15 So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

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

*The God of the Bible*

1. There are gods all around, but Who is the God of the Bible?
  - a. Personal and Present (v.1-2)
  - b. Just and Gracious (v.2-4)
  - c. Powerful yet Calling (v.4,7,9,15)
2. There are faiths all around, and Storms show us Ours. (v.5-16)
  - a. Passionate and Worthy (v.2,4,16)



Grace Hill Church

To live out a hopeful, credible, Biblical picture of God's grace and truth in Jesus Christ  
and to grow together in maturity and mission.

## Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

### Public Reading

Father, forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6.12,13)

Father, apart from storms, we seldom reflect on your greatness. Help us to see you as personal and present in your good gifts to us. Aid us in reflecting on the satisfaction of your justice and graciousness. When storms come, save us with your loving kindness and let us see your glory.

### Private Reflection

#### The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

God says, Why do they flee from my presence? What did I do? What didn't I do? But I won't flee from them. I won't leave them in their rebellion. I will go after them with wind and sea, with determining the lot, with sacrifice. The Father said Let us be both Just and Gracious. Jesus said Yes, I will go after them. Hurl me into sea of their rebellion and I will take the storm they deserve and give them the calm of my innocent blood. By my sacrifice, the sea of sin will cease its raging. In Jesus we are forgiven and we come to know the God who is both just and gracious.

## 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.

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.*

## 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 that 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.

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### Grace Hill Financial Information:

- Ave. Monthly expenses (approx.): \$14,000
- Ave. Monthly 2011 giving: \$11,621
- Starting January 2012, monthly external giving will be: \$1,667
- Projected monthly shortfall starting Jan 2012 based on 2011 giving: \$721

### Grace Hill Upcoming Events and Opportunities:

- Opportunities to serve:
  - Greeting Coordinator
  - Research the particulars of Hillsborough/ Orange county's signage policy.
- Interested in joining the next cycle of Women's Tues pm study? Talk to Cathy Durham.
- Men's Wednesday 6:30 am prayer and study starts 1/18 at Grace Hill.
- Men's RTP Lunch study starts 1/19 at Rudino's RTP
- Women's Thursday am Bible Study, see Margaret Barr.
- Churton Grove Small Group restarts 1/11.
- Becketts Ridge Small Group, see Brant Merrill.



**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.