

February 3, 2013

"You stir man to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." —St. Augustine

"For most of us it takes years and years to exchange our dream world for the real world of grace and mercy, sacrifice and love, freedom and joy." —Eugene Peterson

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Community Together: Prayers of the People

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Sunday School)

Giving Worship to God: Offering

(Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our church community. Twenty percent of gifts also go to local and global mission, including Samaritan Health Clinic, Justice Matters, Young Life, and church planting in N. American and Asia.)

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *Ezekiel 18.1-4*

The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? 3 As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4 Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Hope for Change

1. Stuck in a Rut?
2. Who is Your God? (The Blame Game Doesn't Work)
3. How Serious is Your Situation? (Resolutions and Revisions Aren't Enough)
4. Where is Your Hope? (Real Possibility for Lasting Change)

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)

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and much too deep to undo.
Forgive us for what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from our past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which You are at work changing us.

Grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Phil 3.20, 21)

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 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.

Grace Hill Financial Information (some numbers are preliminary before accounting reports are done):

- Average Monthly expenses: \$14,400
- January 2013 giving: 9,296
- Average Monthly 2011 giving: 11,621
- Average Monthly 2012 giving: 13,664
- YTD basic operating budget balance: (\$5104)

Announcements and Information:

- * Kid's Night Out Ministry, Friday, February 8th
- * Potluck Lunch: February 10, 2013, after worship
food categories by last name:
 - * A-G Desserts/Drinks;
 - * H-O Main Dishes; and,
 - * P-Z Side Dishes/Vegetables.
- * 9:00 am Sunday Prayer, ste 600.
- * Philippians continues, 2/10/13, with 2.19-30.
- * Small Groups in Churton Grove, Becketts Ridge, Orange County, and Chapel Hill. See Ross for details.