

# Worship

February 13, 2011

I saw coming towards us a Ghost who carried something on his shoulder. Like all the Ghosts, he was unsubstantial, but they differed from one another as smokes differ. Some had been whitish; this one was dark and oily. What sat on his shoulder was a little red lizard, and it was twitching its tail like a whip and whispering things in his ear. As we caught sight of him he turned his head to the reptile with a snarl of impatience. "Shut up, I tell you!" he said. It wagged its tail and continued to whisper to him. He ceased snarling, and presently began to smile. Then he turned and started to limp westward, away from the mountains. ...

"I cannot kill it against your will. It is impossible. Have I your permission?" The Angel's hands were almost closed on the Lizard, but not quite. Then the Lizard began chattering to the Ghost so loud that even I could hear what it was saying.

"Be careful," it said. "He can do what he says. He can kill me. One fatal word from you and he will! Then you'll be without me for ever and ever. It's not natural. How could you live? You'd be only a sort of ghost, not a real man as you are now. He doesn't understand. He's only a cold, bloodless abstract thing. It may be natural for him, but it isn't for us. Yes, yes. I know there are no real pleasures now, only dreams. But aren't they better than nothing? And I'll be so good. I admit I've sometimes gone too far in the past, but I promise I won't do it again. I'll give you nothing but really nice dreams--all sweet and fresh and almost innocent. You might say, quite innocent .... "

(C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*)

## 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.)

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

## Community Together: Prayers of the People

## Giving Back to God: Offering

Please complete the section on the back and give it during the offering so we can let you know about upcoming events. Gifts to Grace Hill support the ongoing life and work of our community under the oversight of the church session; in addition to expenses, our budget maintains a goal for twenty percent of gifts to go to works of mission locally and globally.

## Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:17-24

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

## Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon *Killing the Red Lizard*

Outline:

1. It is imperative that we deal with indwelling sin, v. 17
2. Repeated disobedience results in the hardening of our hearts, v. 18-19
3. True freedom comes when we kill the sin that mastered us, v. 22
4. Victory comes when we put off the old self and consciously put on the new self, v. 22-24



Grace Hill Church

## Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

### Public Reading

Father, we find great joy because of your grace but we realize there is still darkness in us that is opposed to your person, your plan and the place you are taking us. There is a battle within us and we do not have the freedom that we need. Forgive us for coddling our indwelling sin, for still wearing our old self, for not putting on Christ fully and the new life in Him.

Lord, renew our minds, cleanse our hearts, help us to be clothed more fully in Christ. Remind us that your truth is unique and powerful; it has changed us. Convince us that you have made us new; you are renewing us in your own image. Free us from the subtle and strong lies of sin; you desire intimacy with us now and in the world to come.

### Private Reflection

#### Words of Forgiveness

For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. (Galatians 5.5-6)

## 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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Grace Hill.

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