

I only mean that when one thinks coldly I see no reason for attributing to man a significance different in kind from that which belongs to a baboon or a grain of sand. Oliver Wendall Holmes, Letter to Frederick Pollock, 1929.

Without a belief in creation, we are forced to face the implication that ultimately there is no good reason to treat human beings as having dignity. Keller, Tim, *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just*, p. 82.

Contrast this with the implications of the Biblical view of humanity, made in the image of God, made to live with God for eternity. C. S. Lewis writes: There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations —these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. It is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit. Keller, Tim, *Generous Justice*, pp. 82-83.

June 23, 2013

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Community Together: Baptism of Ethan Matthews

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. America and Asia.)

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading

Genesis 1.26-27 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

James 3.9-10 With it [our tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

1 Chron 29.10-13 And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 13 And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

Matt 5.43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

James 1.9-10 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.

Deuteronomy 10.16-20 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. 17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. 19 Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. 20 You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Justice Driven by Creation and Redemption

1. Creation Means Seeing "Unerasable Value and Dignity" as a Motive for Justice
2. Redemption Means Seeing "Undeserved Love and Favor" as a Motive for Justice

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, You have said, "You shall not murder," and most of us have not. But we confess we have been angry with our brother; we have insulted and dismissed our sister; we have said, "You fool." Jesus says these are the same as murder. We have used such delineation to free ourselves from the necessity of showing mercy. In this we malign Your Image in humanity and fail to live out of the awe, gratitude and love that you have shown us in Christ's redeeming sacrifice. Forgive us. (Matthew 5.21-23)

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?
He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.
He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.
You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7.18-19)

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:

Average Monthly expenses:	\$14,400
May 2013 giving:	17,066
Average Monthly 2011 giving:	11,621
Average Monthly 2012 giving:	13,664
YTD operating budget balance:	(\$7360)

Announcements and Information:

- Pray for our children and youth as they will be involved in our 5th Sunday service next week.
- Pray for Members of our Provisional Session:
 - Doug Chism: d-chism@triad.rr.com
 - Stephen Eckel: seckel@unch.unc.edu
 - Steve Brown: sjbrown1963@gmail.com
- Pray for our Congregational Committee
- Guys Conversations: Tuesday, July 2nd, Radius Pizza, 8:00pm.



**Grace
Hill
Church**

Grace Hill seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a denomination with a rich history of living in Christ's grace and truth.

Our pastor is Ross Durham. He can be reached by email ross@gracehillchurch.net or by cell phone at 919.593.2169.

Our Worship Music Director is Michael Musser (mike@gracehillchurch.net) and our Children's Ministry Directors are Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez (robyn@ and kaylyn@gracehillchurch.net)