

How is it possible that the gospel should be credible, that people should come to believe that the power which has the last word in human affairs is represented by a man hanging on a cross? I am suggesting that the only answer, the only hermeneutic of the gospel, is a congregation of men and women who believe it and live by it. —Lesslie Newbigin

August 17, 2014

## Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

### Declaring What We Believe: Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen*

### 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. We have a goal of twenty percent of gifts going 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 *Proverbs: Friendship*

Proverbs 27:9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

Prov 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Prov 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Prov 20:6 Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?

Prov 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Prov 13:20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Prov 25:17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you.

Prov 27:14 Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing.

Prov 26:18-19 Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I am only joking!"

Prov 14:20 The poor is disliked even by his neighbor, but the rich has many friends.

Prov 17:18 One who lacks sense gives a pledge and puts up security in the presence of his neighbor.

Prov 19:6 Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.

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

"Wise Friendship"  
Ken Woo

1. *A Good Friend is Hard to Find*
2. *The Wise Person Seeks Friendship*
3. *The Wise Person Guards Friendship*
4. *The Wise Person Offers True Friendship*

## **Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin**

### **Public Prayer**

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.  
Forgive 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 a past that we cannot change;  
open to us a future in which we can be changed.  
Grant us grace to grow more and more  
in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ,  
the light of the world. Amen.

### **Private Reflection**

#### **The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.  
Be not wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.  
It will be healing to your flesh  
and refreshment to your bones. (Proverbs 3.5-9)

## **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 fourth Sunday 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 Sunday, 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")**

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb 13.20-21)

## **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 you yourself and 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, giving 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 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 Presbyterian denomination with a rich history of living in Christ's grace and truth.

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