

## Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

## Community Together: Prayers of the People

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

## Giving Back to God: Offering

Please use the tear-off on the back so we can let you know about upcoming events. Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our community; our budget maintains for twenty percent of gifts to go to works of local and global mission.

## Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading Proverbs and Genesis, 1 Timothy, Ephesians

Gen 1.27-29,31 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ... And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

1 Tim 4.1-5 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

5.1-6 My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, 2 that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge. 3 For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, 4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; 6 she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.

7.21-23 With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him. 22 All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast 23 till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life.

23.26-35 My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. 27 For a prostitute is a deep pit; an adulteress is a narrow well. 28 She lies in wait like a robber and increases the traitors among mankind.

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine. 31 Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. 32 In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. 34 You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast. 35 "They struck me," you will say, "but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink."

20.1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Eph 5.15-18 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

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

*Creation is Good; We Distort*

1. Rejoice! God's Creation is Very Good
2. Behold! We Selfishly Distort His Very Good Gift



*To communicate 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, we believe you have created all things, and very good. But we admit we don't reflect on this enough to create the fullest gratitude, or the richest enjoyment, or the conviction to speak often of either. Rather there are particular elements of your creation that we over invest with greatness, find too much necessity in, or use in ways at odds with your intention. Forgive us.

### **Private Reflection**

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

Jesus was at work in creation (Col 1.16). He gave us these very good gifts and then he entered into his creation to redeem us and them. He himself enjoyed creation to its fullest intent. Wine for a wedding (Jn 2) because marriage, celebration, community, and honor are good. Food at the last supper because loyal, redemptive relationship are better. Creational elements, the Bread and the Cup, because the Creator sacrificing himself to redeem us, his ultimate creation, and then we the created finding our fullest satisfaction in His choice, His Love, His Recreating power is the best.

## **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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