

Worship

January 16, 2011

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. ... 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (Genesis 2.8,9,15)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1.3-5)

Engaged: Real belief cannot be reduced to mere "caring and doing," but it is incomplete without it. Growing faith in Jesus leads us to value and pursue purpose in our vocational callings, in communicating grace and truth, and in living out faith amidst the needs of our communities. Creativity and stewardship are integral in a life of faith, since God is creator and has made us to be "sub-creators." There are a variety of places we can practice mission: community, family, vocation, world. "Right-sized" mission means we serve and create out of our gifts as much as possible and that we seek to neither bury our talents nor make our lives revolve around them. We believe we are changed and matured as we serve Christ and make his Grace known in the various creational and redemptive avenues God gives us. (Grace Hill Values #4)

Welcome

Prelude and Time for Reflection

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: Confession of Faith (Apostle's Creed, 4th c.)

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to their classrooms)

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 Nehemiah 2.1-10

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. 2 And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. 3 I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" 4 Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." 6 And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. 7 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, 8 and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me. 9 Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. 10 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon *The Opportunity to do Great Things*

Outline:

1. What are Great Things?
2. How do we do Great Things?
3. Desiring Great Things at Grace Hill.



Grace Hill Church

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Lord, each of us at times thinks of work as only hardship, but we forget that you called Adam to “tend and keep” even before there was sin. Each of us at times categorizes work along hierarchies: by salary and title, with our hands versus with our minds, by the quality of life returned. We have missed and distorted your call to “garden.” Forgive us.

Father, give us a sharper picture of the aims and means you have as you work in this world. Help us to see how you have built us and invited us to partner with you. Let us reflect and see how the product of our work is to be for you and for others. And teach us how we can do great things through prayer, planning and risk; school us in these, especially where we are weak.

Private Reflection

Words of Forgiveness

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (Ps 103.11,12)

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 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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Web: www.gracehillchurch.net **Facebook** Grace Hill Church News **Group:Twitter:** Gracehillchurch

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Also feel free to ask any questions about
Grace Hill.

Please fill out the form to the right and place
in the offering basket during “Giving back to
God.”

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919 593 2169 or by email to
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