

Worship

January 30, 2011

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. (Matt 5.44,45)

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (Rom 5.10)

Our highest value is Christ and the life with God that he brings. His loving initiative heals our alienation from God. We participate in the community he creates and defines. He empowers our life of faith with God. He is the center of the great exchange that uniquely brings us to God: taking our brokenness and failings, he gives us his rightness and faithfulness. Both grace and truth are found in Christ, enabling us to live the reality for which God has created us. He does all this because he is God incarnate: Emmanuel, God with us. (Core Value: Christ-focused)

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 up coming 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 4.1-16

4 Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. 2 And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" 3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!" 4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. 5 Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. 6 So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

7 But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. 8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. 9 And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

10 In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." 11 And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." 12 At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." 13 So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. 14 And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

15 When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. 16 From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon *The Refuge and Resiliency of Prayer*

Outline:

1. Pray Your Emotions, but not exactly like This, v.1-6
2. Pray and Act, and don't get Hung Up, v.7-9
3. Pray and Respond in New Ways, v.10-23



Grace Hill Church

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Father, we need your help in prayer. We want you but sometimes we are scared by what we see as difficult, we are unsure of its value, or we think of only stamping our card by going through the motions. We often are hurting but we struggle with proper formulas and formats. And what we don't fully understand, we can use as an excuse: do you act or do we?

But Father, you want relational connection with us. You want us messy, raw as well as ordered, thoughtful. You want to bring light to our confusion and healing to our pain. Thank you that Jesus takes your judgement, delaying ultimate justice, and brings your mercy, so that we, who were your enemies, might be become your deeply loved children.

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

Please let us know about your visit with us! 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."

Or if you prefer you can send your name, email address, and mailing address by txt to 919 593 2169 or by email to info@gracehillchurch.net.

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