



Grace Hill Church

The Mission of Grace Hill Is to Gather People to the Table of Christ, Who Is the Bread of Life, to Be Transformed by His Grace, Renewed in His Truth, and Sent on His Mission.

He will succeed in prayer who understands the science of pleading with God. “Put me in remembrance: let us plead together,” is a divine command. “Come now, let us reason together” is a sacred invitation. Pleading is wrestling: arguments are the grips, the feints, the throes, the struggles with which we hold and vanquish the covenant angel. The humble statement of our wants is not without its value, but to be able to give reasons and arguments why God should hear us is to offer potent, prevalent prayer. Among all the arguments that can be used in pleading with God, perhaps there is none stronger than this— “Have respect unto the covenant.” ~Charles Spurgeon, “The Covenant Pleaded.”

October 10, 2021

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #39

Question: With what attitude should we pray?

Answer: With love, perseverance, and gratefulness; in humble submission to God’s will, knowing that, for the sake of Christ, he always hears our prayers.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Psalm 74*

O God, why do you cast us off forever?

Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?

² Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!

Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.

³ Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!

⁴ Your foes have roared in the midst of your meeting place; they set up their own signs for signs.

⁵ They were like those who swing axes in a forest of trees.

⁶ And all its carved wood they broke down with hatchets and hammers.

⁷ They set your sanctuary on fire; they profaned the dwelling place of your name, bringing it down to the ground.

⁸ They said to themselves, “We will utterly subdue them”; they burned all the meeting places of God in the land.

⁹ We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet, and there is none among us who knows how long.

¹⁰ How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile your name forever?

¹¹ Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand?

Take it from the fold of your garment and destroy them!

¹² Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.

¹³ You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters.

¹⁴ You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

¹⁵ You split open springs and brooks; you dried up ever-flowing streams.

¹⁶ Yours is the day, yours also the night; you have established the heavenly lights and the sun.

¹⁷ You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth;

you have made summer and winter.

¹⁸ Remember this, O Lord, how the enemy scoffs,

and a foolish people reviles your name.

¹⁹ Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild beasts;

do not forget the life of your poor forever.

²⁰ Have regard for the covenant, for the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence.

²¹ Let not the downtrodden turn back in shame; let the poor and needy praise your name.

²² Arise, O God, defend your cause; remember how the foolish scoff at you all the day!

²³ Do not forget the clamor of your foes, the uproar of those who rise against you, which goes up continually!

Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives

Sermon: *Praying God’s Redemptive Story*

Outline:

1. In times of chaos and despair, is it OK to ask God, “Why?” (v. 1, 10-11)
2. In times of chaos and despair, we must always remember what God has done. (v. 2, 12-17)
3. In times of chaos and despair, it is crucial that we remember who God is. (v. 20-23)

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

You are faithful, O Lord. You remember Your promises even though we forget Your grace and power. We confess that in times of chaos and despair, we forget to bow before You, the only One with the power to deliver us. Far too often, we search for solutions to our problems without considering the One who alone can bring an end to all problems. Forgive us.

Thank You God for never forgetting us, Your children. Thank You for being our eternal King who continues to work salvation in the midst of our world. Thank You for giving us everything we need for life and godliness. Father, remember Your covenant.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ~Joel 2:12-13

Responding to the Lord with Worship

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)

Additional Quotes:

Important as it is to learn of God’s plans in the Bible, it is even more important to learn of God himself and his great saving works. Remembering what God is like, what promises he has made, and how he has redeemed his people in the past is our chief source of hope in a dark and dangerous world. With this in mind, we see that Psalm 74:12 makes a statement of confidence in God that turns Psalm 74 from a bereaved lament into a confident prayer. Here is the turning point that lifts the lament into a bold appeal: “Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.” ~Richard Phillips, *Reformed Expository Commentary*

Core Questions:

1. How is the Holy Spirit whispering or shouting to you from this passage? What stands out for you?
2. How does the text intersect or engage your life?
3. Where do you find gospel conviction and gospel comfort in this passage? (Gospel = the specific act of Jesus taking your sin and sharing with you his victory.)

Announcements:

- **Renewed Covid Policy: Starts 8/12/21. Goal: robust, Christ-centered, gathered worship**
 - To continue our in-person worship and provide for the health of our community, masks are required at all indoor public gatherings starting Thursday, August 12th, 2021.
- **Worship in Offering:** Three ways to worship the Lord with your tithes and offerings
 - Use your bank’s BillPay system to give to Grace Hill
 - Send a physical check
 - Use our mobile giving option (either as a guest or by setting up an account):
 - <https://faithlife.com/grace-hill-church/give> or text the word “Give” to 919 296 1330.



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. Our pastor is Ross Durham. He can be reached at ross@gracehillnc.org or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Youth Director is Daniel Havener, daniel@gracehillnc.org. Our Worship Music Director is Kayli Havener, kayli@gracehillnc.org. Our Communications Coordinator is Kayli Havener, kayli@gracehillnc.org. Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc