



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.

The Evangelist did not intend to contrast the true light with the false, but to distinguish Christ from all others, that none might imagine that what is called light belongs to him in common with angels or men. The distinction is, that whatever is luminous in heaven and in earth borrows its splendour from some other object; but Christ is the light, shining from itself and by itself, and enlightening the whole world by its radiance; so that no other source or cause of splendour is anywhere to be found. He gave the name of the true light, therefore, to that which has by nature the power of giving light. ~John Calvin, *Commentary on the Gospel According to John*

Then he (Jesus) said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not **disbelieve**, but **believe**." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you **believed** because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have **believed**." ~John 20:27-2

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by **believing** you may have life in his name. ~John 20:30-31

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever **believes** in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and **believes** in me shall never die. Do you **believe** this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I **believe** that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." ~John 11:25-27

December 5, 2021

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #47

Question: Does the Lord's Supper add anything to Christ's atoning work?

Answer: No, Christ died once for all. The Lord's Supper is a covenant meal celebrating Christ's atoning work; as it is also a means of strengthening our faith as we look to him, and a foretaste of the future feast. But those who take part with unrepentant hearts eat and drink judgment on themselves.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *John 1:6-8, 19-34*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. ²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

Sermon Series: John: Jesus' Incarnation is Reason for a Feast

Sermon: *Testifying to the Light, That All Might Believe*

Outline:

1. Who John the Baptist is Not:
 - a. Not the Light (v.8)
 - b. Not the Christ/Word (v.20)
 - c. Not Elijah nor the Prophet (v.21)
2. Who John the Baptist is:
 - a. Witness to the Light (v.7,8)
 - b. The Voice of One Crying Out in the Wilderness (v.23)
 - c. Witness to Jesus, the Son of God (v.28)
3. Our Call to A Present, Active Faith (v.7)
4. Our Call to Bear Witness to the Light

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

Father, we confess that we often view belief as a light switch, something we simply have to turn on. But You call us to an active, ever-increasing belief. We also confess that often, when we feel as though our faith is strong, we desire the spotlight. When we feel as though our belief is weak, we try to hide in darkness. We fail to realize that Jesus is the ever-present light that shines upon His children. We fail to emphatically point our neighbors to Jesus, the true Light. Forgive us.

Thank you, Father, for sending Your Son to shine His light upon us. May His light shine and lead us when our faith is strong and when it is weak. Thank you, Jesus, for giving us the power of the Holy Spirit so that our belief might be ever-increasing and that we may bear witness to You, the true Light.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ~John 1:12-13

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)

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? Where is the connection or application for you?
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:

- **Feast of the Incarnation:** Sunday, December 12, 2021, after worship. (No Core.) Indoor and outdoor seating will be provided. (The temperature looks to be around 60; dress accordingly!). Grace Hill will provide drinks and the main course; each family is welcome to bring additional items they would like to have. Join us as we celebrate our Lord’s Incarnation!
- **2022 Transition Update**
 - Abby Hummel is starting January 1 as our Interim Worship Music Director
 - Mary Erickson is starting January 1 as our Interim Communications Director
 - Ben Ashby is starting January 1 as our Interim Youth Director, with help from Aaron Carr
 - Fine tuning our Associate Pastor Job Description before posting
- **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