



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.

“And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” ~Gal. 2.20

“Luke has related in explicit ways the *need* of Zechariah and Elizabeth (childlessness) and the *obstacle* to the resolution of their need (barrenness and age), but he has only hinted at the *need* and *obstacle* facing Israel (v.5, 10). Through divine intervention, both story lines—that of Zechariah and Elizabeth and of Israel—are brought together explicitly. By acting on behalf of Zechariah and Elizabeth (“you” – v.13,14), God is acting on behalf of Israel (v. 14b, 16-17).” ~Green, Luke, p. 73.

December 13, 2020

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: Heidelberg Catechism, Question #35

Question: What is the meaning of these words “He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary”?

Answer: That God’s eternal Son, who is, and continues true and eternal God, took upon him the very nature of man, of the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost; that he might also be the true seed of David, like unto his brethren in all things, sin excepted.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Luke 1.5–25, 57–66*

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.

¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” ⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives

Sermon: Christmas Comes Much More to Those with Intertwined Faith

Series: The Thirst That Could Only Be Quenched by the Incarnate Christ: Lessons from Luke

Outline:

1. We Encounter Difficulties of Faith with Our Personal Problems, v.5–13, 18.
2. We are Invited to an Intertwined Faith of Our Problems and Christ’s Church, v.5, 10, 14–17
3. The Beautiful Results of Second Chance Intertwined Faith, v.25, 57–66

The Vision of Grace Hill Is to Love God and Love Our Neighbor and Love God and ...

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

God, we confess we often respond as Zechariah, hoping and praying yet also rehearsing to You the problems that exist blocking the way of Your actions and promises. And when we do believe, our prayer and faith often stops at our mere desires and does not consider the needs of Christ's Church.

Father, You see our needs, even our desires, and also the impossible things for us. But like barrenness and national oppression, they are not beyond Your plan and purpose. Help us to pray and believe, and not stop at our needs and story! Grow in us a faith that sees You healing and blessing us in a way intertwined with Your plan to heal and bless the world, and even fulfill Your indestructible Kingdom, which is won and shaped by Christ's coming in love, offering in sacrifice, and leading us in truth.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemy besieges them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is, whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart and stretching out his hands toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place and forgive and act and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways (for you, you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind), that they may fear you all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers. ~1 Kings 8.37-40

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)

Announcements:

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **Help Support Grace Hill Family:** Grace Hill would love to be able to help support the Carrs as they bring home their new baby boy, Elijah James. Please find here some suggested ways that you can contribute financially, alongside an abundance of prayer.
 - Gift cards to Walmart, The Wooden Nickel, and Weaver Street Market
 - Donations to their adoption fundraising campaign:
<http://adopttogether.org/families/?fundraiser=creatingthecarrs>
- **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
 - <https://tinyurl.com/ul68txo>, or
 - Simply text the word Give with the amount (e.g. Give 100) 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 Andrea Sterling, andrea@gracehillnc.org. Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc