*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.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ~John 1:1-3

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ~1 John 1:1-3

As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices,  
and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house. When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord,   
saying, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” ~2 Chronicles 7:1-3

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram. ~Genesis 15:17-18

December 19, 2021

**Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song**

**Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #49**

**Question:** Where is Christ now?

**Answer:** Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right   
hand of the Father, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us, until he returns to judge and renew   
the whole world.

**Welcoming Each Other**

**Giving Worship to God: Offering**

**Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading**  ***John 1:14-18***

**14**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **15**(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) **16**For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17**For the law was given through Moses;   
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18**No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

**Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives**

**Sermon Series:** The Gospel of John: Jesus’ Incarnation Is a Reason for a Feast

**Sermon:** *Grace and Truth Come to Us in the Incarnation*

Outline:

1. He Became Flesh, But How Close Will He Get? (v.14)
   1. External vs. Internal
   2. He wants to dwell in your house
2. He Has a Glory, But Are We Seeing It? (v.14)
3. He Brings Grace and Truth, Because He Is the Only God Who Makes God Known (v.14,17,18)

**Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin**

**Public Prayer**

God, Christ has come near to us, but we confess that sometimes we don’t want Him so close. We are afraid of what He will find or unsure of how we should receive Him. Other times we know we need His glory, but we have a hard time seeing it. Help us to see Him and receive Him.

Father, Jesus came because apart from Him we cannot know You in intimacy and truth. He is the only begotten and so He has glory, He is full of grace and truth, and He alone can thoroughly explain Your true nature and the relationship You want with us. Spirt, enable us to receive Jesus, to see new facets of His glory, and to find contentment, safety, and meaning in His grace and truth.

**Private Reflection**

**The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ**

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. ~1 John 2:12

**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. (Hebrews 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.)

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**Announcements:**

* **Pastoral Search Committee election TODAY!**Directly following this morning’s worship service we will hold a brief congregational meeting to elect the following four nominees for the Pastoral Search Committee: Tony Fernandez, Mike Musser, Emily Merryweather, Margaret Barr. If you are a member of Grace Hill, please remain for this vote before heading to CORE.
* **Christmas Eve service (December 24, 5-5:45pm)**Join us for our annual Christmas Eve service, as we lift our voices in celebration and adoration of our Savior’s miraculous birth! Bring family, friends and new acquaintances with you—all are invited to come and worship.
* **Updated Grace Hill directory for 2022**

A draft copy of the upcoming directory is available on a table in the lobby.  Please look at your entry and make any corrections necessary.

* **Grace Hill Calendar**Check out our church calendar on the Grace Hill website.  Go to *gracehillnc.org*, then click on the "Get Involved" tab at the top right of the home page.
* **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
  + We are 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](mailto:ross@gracehillnc.org) or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Youth Director is Daniel Havener, [daniel@gracehillnc.org](mailto:daniel@gracehillnc.org). Our Worship Music Director is Kayli Havener, [kayli@gracehillnc.org](mailto:kayli@gracehillnc.org). Our Communications Coordinator is Kayli Havener, [kayli@gracehillnc.org](mailto:kayli@gracehillnc.org) Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc