



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.

“to accomplish a journey so long and so arduous in perfect safety, is one of the most astonishing events recorded in history. Nothing but the vigilant care of a superintending Providence could have brought them securely to their destination.”
~Jamieson, R. Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible (Vol. 1, p. 293).

“Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today.... Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.” ~Dt. 8.11, 17–18

“For you save a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.” ~Ps. 18.27

“He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.” ~Ps. 25.9–10

“For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” ~John 13.15–17

February 28, 2021

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #9 (newcitycatechism.com)

Question: What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

Answer: First, that we know and trust God as the only true and living God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry and do not worship God improperly. Third, that we treat God’s name with fear and reverence, honoring also his Word and works.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Ezra 8.1–2, 15–26, 31–36*

These are the heads of their fathers’ houses, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babylonia, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king: ² Of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom. Of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel. Of the sons of David, Hattush.

¹⁵ I gathered them to the river that runs to Ahava, and there we camped three days. As I reviewed the people and the priests, I found there none of the sons of Levi. ¹⁶ Then I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, leading men, and for Joiarib and Elnathan, who were men of insight, ¹⁷ and sent them to Iddo, the leading man at the place Casiphia, telling them what to say to Iddo and his brothers and the temple servants at the place Casiphia, namely, to send us ministers for the house of our God. ¹⁸ And by the good hand of our God on us, they brought us a man of discretion, of the sons of Mahli the son of Levi, son of Israel, namely Sherebiah with his sons and kinsmen, ¹⁸; ¹⁹ also Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, with his kinsmen and their sons, ²⁰; ²⁰ besides 220 of the temple servants, whom David and his officials had set apart to attend the Levites. These were all mentioned by name.

²¹ Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. ²² For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, “The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him.” ²³ So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty.

²⁴ Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests: Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their kinsmen with them. ²⁵ And I weighed out to them the silver and the gold and the vessels, the offering for the house of our God that the king and his counselors and his lords and all Israel there present had offered. ²⁶ I weighed out into their hand 650 talents of silver, and silver vessels worth 200 talents, and 100 talents of gold....

³¹ Then we departed from the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from ambushes by the way. ³² We came to Jerusalem, and there we remained three days. ³³ On the fourth day, within the house of our God, the silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed into the hands of Meremoth the priest, son of Uriah, and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas, and with them were the Levites, Jozabad the son of Jeshua and Noadiah the son of Binnui. ³⁴ The whole was counted and weighed, and the weight of everything was recorded.

³⁵ At that time those who had come from captivity, the returned exiles, offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel, twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, and as a sin offering twelve male goats. All this was a burnt offering to the LORD. ³⁶ They also delivered the king’s commissions to the king’s satraps and to the governors of the province Beyond the River, and they aided the people and the house of God.

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

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

Sermon: The Call to Humility

Series: The Grace and Work of Leading: Rebuilding God's People for Worship in Ezra

Outline:

1. Ezra Shows Us How to Begin Humbly
2. Ezra Shows Us How to Complete Humbly
3. Jesus Directs Us Humbly

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

God, we confess we often do not humbly seek Your presence before we start some journey or work. And we often do not humbly give You celebrating praise when we finish. We confess that we often rush out in misplaced confidence and more likely seek You only in our trouble. Forgive us.

Lord, thank You for Jesus' strong, humble journey to rescue us, even before we knew we were in captivity to sin. We know we need more than a mere example or exhortation to humility. We need a hero of humility. And it is Jesus. Renew us in His love that our pride may be cast far away. Change our hearts to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with You, our God.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

~2 Chronicles 7.14

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**
- **GH Spring Break Food Drive:** Drop-off dates Sun. 3/7, 9:30am–10am & Wed. 3/10, 4pm–6pm. See email for more details about what to donate!
- **Shower the Elniffs!** with love and practical things as they prepare for life with a baby again! They have many things already. No baby clothing, books, or toys needed right now. However, there are a few things that we can do to help support them as they welcome a little one sometime in April!!
 1. Purchase something from her Amazon registry: https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/sarah-elniff-april-2021-hillsborough/2IH1MKEMWYPGD?ref=cm_sw_em_r_px_MOBILE_semZNR5MyEfMX
 2. Purchase a gift card to Walmart, Once Upon A Child in Durham, Weaver Street Market, or Amazon.
 3. Send a note or a written prayer for their family encouraging them during this transition time. Their address: 626 Freeland Drive, Hillsborough, NC 27278.
- **Missions:** Imprisoned for Christ, VOM virtual event, featuring Andrew Brunson and others. Friday, March 5, 2021, 6:30pm. <https://tinyurl.com/mjufmebc> OR https://www.persecution.com/churchevent/watch/?_source_code=EM21B7
- **Missions:** MTW virtual missions recordings: <https://mtw.org/virtual-missions-conference-videos>
- **Called to Lead: Yourself and Others. Leadership/Discipleship Monthly Meeting:** The Session invites everyone to Called to Lead meetings on the Fourth Tuesdays. Next: Tuesday, 3/23/21.
- **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 Andrea Sterling, andrea@gracehillnc.org. Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: [@gracehillchurch](https://twitter.com/gracehillchurch); Instagram: [gracehillnc](https://www.instagram.com/gracehillnc)