



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 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." *Genesis 50:24*

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. *Galatians 5:6*

"Only if your god can outrage and challenge you will you know that you worship the real God and not a figment of your imagination. . . . If your god never disagrees with you, you might just be worshipping an idealized version of yourself." Tim Keller, *50 Sayings*, at Gospel Coalition

May 28, 2023

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: Belgic Confession: Article 8

Question: What do we believe concerning the Holy Trinity?

Answer: We believe in one God, who is the one single essence, in which are three persons, really, truly, and eternally distinct according to their incommunicable properties; namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father is the cause, origin, and beginning of all things visible and invisible; the Son is the word, wisdom, and image of the Father; the Holy Spirit is the eternal power and might, proceeding from the Father and the Son. Nevertheless, God is not divided into three, since the Holy Scriptures teach us that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have each His personality, distinguished by Their properties; but in such a way that these three persons are but one God. They are not divided, nor intermixed; for They are all three co-eternal and co-essential. There is neither first nor last; for They are all three one, in truth, power, goodness, and mercy.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11:17-22

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

²⁰ By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.

²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.

²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

Series: Hebrews: The Greatness of Christ at Work in Us

Sermon: Faith Enables Us to Act with an Eye to the Future

1. We See Future-Oriented Faith in Action in Four Stories
2. We See How Faith Acts
 - a. Faith Means We Privilege God's Words to Us over Our Desires
 - b. Faith Means We Act Today from the Resource of Our Eyes on the Future
 - c. Faith Is Often Counter-Cultural
 - d. Faith Means God Enables Us to Speak His Good Words to Others
 - e. Faith Means We Hold on to God's Covenant Even When We Can't See Its Fulfillment in This Life
3. Where Is Jesus in These Stories?

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 believe; help our unbelief. We confess we often struggle to act out of faith. Instead, we can be frozen by indecision, cultural expectations, and personal comforts, or we act out of self-will and personal power. We lack Holy Spirit-borne and Holy Spirit-strengthened faith. Forgive us. Help us.

Father, as he was dying, Joseph saw a future of Your people freed from Egyptian slavery because of Your covenant to Abraham. But as he was dying, Jesus accomplished the future of Your people freed from the tyranny and darkness of sin. Thank you, Jesus for living future-oriented faith and obtaining salvation for all those who put their faith in You. Enable us to live Your future-oriented faith that others may see Your strong, beautiful redemption.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." *Luke 5:20*

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Now, as it is certain and beyond all doubt that Jesus Christ has not enjoined to us the use of His sacraments in vain, so He works in us all that He represents to us by these holy signs, though the manner surpasses our understanding and cannot be comprehended by us, as the operations of the Holy Spirit are hidden and incomprehensible. *Belgic Confession, #35*

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him. While Jesus spent time with everyone, he also shared the bread and cup only with those who followed him. Children who have not yet become *communing members* should not take the bread and cup but talk with our pastor or an elder about their personal faith.

On the fourth Sunday of the month, we come forward as families, groups, and individuals to receive the bread and cup and then have an elder pray a prayer of blessing. Whether you take the elements or not, we invite you to come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus. *Juice is in the outer rings; wine is in the inner rings. Gluten-free crackers are in small cups.

Prayer for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup, for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and let me know the reality of your love and glory. Give me an understanding of you that is captivating and convincing—that leads to You Yourself and the life You promise. Amen.

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*

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- **CORE** is the name of our classes following the worship service, 11:15am-noon. We have a place for everyone, from infants through adults. Please stay and join us! **Zoom PIN** for Core is 989209.
 - **QR Link:** Please share your prayer requests needs, what is going well, any new ideas, suggestions, or feedback on what could be improved. The Session, Deacons, and staff want to hear how the Spirit is speaking to you.
 - **Deacon-sponsored food drive for OCIM finishes today.**
 - **Helping Carlye Carr:** Visit and bring a sweet treat for Carlye Carr. June dates are available. See Thursday email to sign up.
 - **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. Deacons: 743.241.0760. Director of Ministries and Youth: Aaron Carr, aaron@gracehillnc.org. Worship Music Director: Abby Hummel, abby@gracehillnc.org. Children's Ministry Director: Kristen Carter, kristen@gracehillnc.org. Communications Coordinator: Mary Erickson, tworstaggering@yahoo.com. Church address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc