



# 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.*

“...he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 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.” ~Luke 1:15–17

“The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.” ~Luke 16:16–17

“But there is this difference for a Christian believer: At the end of all our striving and longing, we find not a force—but a face. All language about God is metaphorical. But the metaphor became flesh and dwelt among us. In times of sorrow, many, understandably, pray for a strength they do not possess. But God’s promise is somewhat different: That even when strength fails, there is perseverance. And even when perseverance fails, there is hope. And even when hope fails, there is love. And love never fails.” ~Michael Gerson, “Perspective | I Was Hospitalized for Depression. Faith Helped Me Remember How to Live.” *The Washington Post*, [www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2019/02/18/i-was-hospitalized-depression-faith-helped-me-remember-how-live/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2019/02/18/i-was-hospitalized-depression-faith-helped-me-remember-how-live/).

May 2, 2021

## Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

### Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #17

**Question:** What is idolatry?

**Answer:** Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.

## Welcoming Each Other

### Giving Worship to God: Offering

#### Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Luke 7.24-35*

When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup> What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. <sup>26</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup> This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>28</sup> I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” <sup>29</sup> (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, <sup>30</sup> but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

<sup>31</sup> “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? <sup>32</sup> They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

<sup>33</sup> For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ <sup>34</sup> The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ <sup>35</sup> Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

## Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives

**Sermon:** *Jesus Uses John the Baptist to Teach Us About Himself*

Outline:

1. Jesus Speaks about John the Baptist to Help Us See Jesus, v.24-27
  - a. Jesus the Fulfillment, v.27
  - b. Jesus the Fullness, v.28
2. Jesus Speaks about John and Himself to Show Us Our Hardness of Heart, v.31-35
3. Could We See Ourselves as a “Kingdom-John-the-Baptist?”

## **Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin**

### **Public Prayer**

God, we confess that in the challenges of life, we can at times have hearts that become hard like the people of Jesus' day. We can be tired, confused, and uncertain. We might feel lost and complain when our expectations do not occur. Forgive us for losing faith and endurance. Help us to have soft hearts to receive You and Your words.

Father, our capacity for hardness of heart is so great, but thank You that You have done the crucial spiritual work to enable us to believe. Spirit, help us to receive the gracious reality that the least in Jesus' Kingdom is greater than John. Do not let fear, uncertainty, or hardness of heart keep us from the fullness of what You have won for us in Jesus. Use us to humbly, courageously prepare the way for others to believe in Jesus--the one who brings the fulfillment of all Your promises.

### **Private Reflection**

#### **The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ**

But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. ~Acts 3.17-21

### **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)

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#### **Announcements:**

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **Renewed Covid Policy. Goal: robust, Christ-centered, gathered worship**  
For the sake of our personal health and gospel community at Grace Hill, for all indoor Grace Hill activities, we require the following: (1) masks be worn at all times, (2) temperature checks when entering the building, (3) refraining from hugs or handshakes, and (4) six foot distancing (whenever possible). Maximum indoor numbers are now 35 people. This number is only possible if the four previous precautions are meticulously adhered to. For outdoor activities, we require refraining from hugs or handshakes, and practicing six-foot distancing where possible. Masks are highly recommended for outdoor seated events.
- **Missions Zoom Prayer:** Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm. Let's share our experiences of praying during Ramadan and encourage each other to pray through the ending festival of Eid al-Fitr on 5/12/21.
- **Next Outdoor Communion:** Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 7pm. RSVP to Kayli at [kayli@gracehillnc.org](mailto:kayli@gracehillnc.org) if you'd like to attend.
- **Worship in Offering:** Three ways to worship the Lord with your tithes and offerings
  1. Use your bank's BillPay system to give to Grace Hill
  2. Send a physical check
  3. 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](http://www.gracehillnc.org); Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc