

# Worship

February 6, 2011

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (Mt 6.24)

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (1 John 3.17)

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (James 1.14-15)

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (2 Cor 8.1-5)

## Welcome

### Prelude and Time for Reflection

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

### Declaring What We Believe: Confession of Faith (Apostle's Creed, 4<sup>th</sup> c.)

### Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to their classrooms)

### Giving Back to God: Offering

Please complete the section on the back and give it during the offering so we can let you know about upcoming events. Gifts to Grace Hill support the ongoing life and work of our community under the oversight of the church session; in addition to expenses, our budget maintains a goal for twenty percent of gifts to go to works of mission locally and globally.

### Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading Nehemiah 5.1-11,14-19

5 Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. 2 For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." 3 There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." 4 And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. 5 Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards."

6 I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. 7 I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them 8 and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say. 9 So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? 10 Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. 11 Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them."

14 Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. 15 The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. 16 I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work. 17 Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us. 18 Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. 19 Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.

### Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon *Financial Shalom for Individuals and Community*

1. What is this Internal Conflict?
2. How did this Situation Occur?
3. What is the Solution?



Grace Hill Church

## Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

### Public Reading

Lord, the actions and consequences of these wealthy ones in the time of Nehemiah is atrocious, but we confess that we are subject to the same subtle, stealthy, strong temptations of wealth. We are enticed by its desire--completely apart from the matter of how much or little we have. We feel the pull of two masters but we do want to serve only you. Forgive us. Help us.

Father, give us eyes to see your shining moral perfection, your deep loving compassion, your powerful direction of our lives; and grow our proper fear and awe of You. Let us mature in both commandments: to love you, the Lord our God, with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourself. Let us find joy in receiving and emulating Jesus' generosity.

### Private Reflection

#### Words of Forgiveness

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (Ps 103.11,12)

## Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

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.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

*Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.*

## Responding with Song

### Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thess. 2: 16, 17

## Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

### Prayer 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 open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

### Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.



**Grace  
Hill  
Church**

Grace Hill is a church that seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (see John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a denomination with a rich history of Christ's grace and truth. Our pastor is Ross Durham; he can be reached by email at [ross@gracehillchurch.net](mailto:ross@gracehillchurch.net) or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Worship Director is Michael Musser and our Children's Ministry Co-Directors are Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez.

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Please let us know about your visit with us! Also feel free to ask any questions about Grace Hill.

Please fill out the form to the right and place in the offering basket during "Giving back to God."

Or if you prefer you can send your name, email address, and mailing address by txt to 919 593 2169 or by email to [info@gracehillchurch.net](mailto:info@gracehillchurch.net).

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