

Worship

August 7, 2011

Grace Hill Core Value: Community

The core of Christianity is God calling individuals to himself through Jesus into a community. Grace Hill is a community where you can be known and missed, and welcomed and encouraged. We invite all kinds of diversity, but the most important is spiritual. We believe that our community is for old-fashioned bible-believing church-goers, but we also believe that skeptics, people without church backgrounds, and people who are not currently active in a church community make our community more vibrant and more complete. We think that we are a good community for liberals and conservatives, traditionalists and progressives, rich and poor, singles, families, men, women, children and just about anyone else. In a community lead by Jesus, all are welcome, encouraged and challenged. Come with a sharp mind and an open heart.

“We, the lucky billion, now spend most of our lives seeking ever-greater and subtler refinements in what we perceive to be our quality of life: nicer clothes, better music, more comfortable furniture, more interesting holidays, more convenient technology, more unusual variations of food, a more secure retirement. It doesn't get much better than this.” (Paul Gilding, *The Great Disruption: why the climate crisis will bring on the end of shopping and the birth of a new world*, p. 4.)

“Live comfortably, but after that it is more fun to change the world.” (Craig Newman, founder of Craigslist.org)

Welcome

Prelude and Time for Reflection

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Community Together: Prayers of the People

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Children's Worship)

Giving Back to God: Offering

Please use the tear-off on the back so we can let you know about upcoming events. Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our community; our budget maintains for twenty percent of gifts to go to works of local and global mission.

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading Acts 4.23-31

23 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?

26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’ —

27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. 29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Finding Help for Stress and Pressure

1. Where do we go and what do we do?
2. How do we pray?
 - a. Remember Who God Is
 - b. Remember God's Word
 - c. Remember God's Son
 - d. Remember our Need



Grace Hill Church

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Father, forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6.12,13)

Father, we confess we often do not fully use the resources you give us, specifically community and prayer. We do not rely on Christ-created community as strongly as you purposed. We also struggle to find the peace and power, the rest and reality, that you intend in prayer. Please forgive us for our faith has much room to grow.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

Jesus is the son of the Father; the servant of the Father. He was handed over for our sins but he raised the conquerer of death. Where is he now? He is at the right hand of the Father so that whenever we pray or confess in his name, he says, "Yes, Father, I also ask that you would do this for them." And the Father loves to fulfill his Son's requests. In Christ we are forgiven, and loved, and empowered, and Jesus is praying for us.

God exalted Jesus at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. (Acts 5.31)

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 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.

Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Ste. 500, Hillsborough, NC 27278 **Phone:** 919.617.1792

Web: www.gracehillchurch.net **Facebook** Grace Hill Church News **Group:Twitter:** Gracehillchurch

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.

Your Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Mailing Address _____

Please add me to the Grace Hill "Events and Updates Email." (easy unsubscribe)