



the  
servant  
kingdom

Gracehill  
CHURCH

November 21, 2021

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### **Song of Gathering** *Almighty God*

Almighty God to you all hearts are open  
Search and know our thoughts and anxious fears  
Wash us in the fountain of your mercy  
Come with your light, we cannot hide from you

Almighty God to you all hearts are open  
With gratitude we raise our song to you  
Come and fill the praises of your people  
In grace and truth, you make us new again

#### *Chorus*

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

Almighty God to you all hearts are open  
We long for more than what this world provides  
No shallow spring will ever satisfy us  
Your river deep floods over everything

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Song of Gathering:** This first song of the service is meant to prepare our minds and hearts for worship. Feel free to sing along or simply meditate as we begin our time worshipping God.

## Call to Worship

from Revelation 19:5-8

Leader: Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.

**All: Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,**

Leader: For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

**All: It was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.**

## Song of Praise *For the Beauty of the Earth*

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.  
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light:  
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of Thine  
to the world so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
Flowers of earth, and buds of heaven:  
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

**Call to Worship:** We worship because we are called to do so. This call, usually taken from a psalm, is an invitation into the presence of God; to worship and praise him.

**Song of Praise:** We enter into God's presence praising him for who he is, and delighting in his desire to be in relationship with us.

**Prayer of Adoration** *(concluding with the Lord's Prayer)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Call to Confession** from Hebrews 3:7-11

Leader: Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness.

**All: We have gone astray; we have not known your ways.**

**Prayer of Confession** *(followed by Silent Confession)*

Leader: Lord, we come confessing. Hearing, we do not understand, and seeing, we do not perceive.

**All: Our hearts are dull, our ears are heavy, and our eyes are blind. We have seen your works, O Lord, but we remain unconvinced of your goodness and your kindness.**

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, for our forgetfulness and our ignorance. Our sin has blinded us, and we willfully neglect your Word.

**All: Open our eyes that we may behold wondrous things out of your law. Grant us ears to ear and eyes to see the gospel displayed in Christ.**

*from Isa. 6:9-10; Titus 3:5; Ps. 119:18*

**Prayer of Adoration:** Praying is essential to worship. As we pray, we begin by adoring God for who he is and what he has done through his son Jesus. We conclude this prayer by reciting together the Lord's Prayer.

**Call to Confession:** As we praise God, and through the Spirit showing us, we become aware of our own imperfections in light of our perfect God. In love, God calls us to freely and openly confess our sins before him.

**Confession of Sin:** Sin is not only something that we've done wrong. Rather, it's a state of being that we're born into, and that we need saving from. It is impossible to conquer sin on our own, or make amends for it by our own actions. Our only hope is to turn to Christ, asking that he forgive and conquer sin for us, and - by grace alone and through faith alone - save us.

## **Assurance of Forgiveness** from Titus 3:3-6

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

## **Song of Thanks** *O Great God*

O great God of highest heaven  
Occupy my lowly heart  
Own it all and reign supreme  
Conquer every rebel power  
Let no vice or sin remain  
That resists Your holy war  
You have loved and purchased me  
Make me Yours forevermore

I was blinded by my sin  
Had no ears to hear Your voice  
Did not know Your love within  
Had no taste for heaven's joys  
Then Your Spirit gave me life  
Opened up Your Word to me  
Through the gospel of Your Son  
Gave me endless hope and peace

Help me now to live a life  
That's dependent on Your grace  
Keep my heart and guard my soul  
From the evils that I face  
You are worthy to be praised  
With my every thought and deed  
O great God of highest heaven  
Glorify Your Name through me

**Assurance of Forgiveness:** As we confess our sin, God offers us the assurance that, in Jesus, we are forgiven and loved regardless of what we've done in the past. Because of Jesus, we are no longer condemned by our sin, but are brought into new life by the Spirit.

**Song of Thanks:** Knowing that we are forgiven, and knowing that Jesus has reconciled us with God the Father, we sing with thankful hearts.

## **Statement of Faith**    Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*That is, the true Christian church of all times and all places.

## **Sermon Title**    Of Loaves and Leaven

**Central text**    Mark 8:1-21

<sup>1</sup>In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, <sup>2</sup>“I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup>And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.” <sup>4</sup>And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” <sup>5</sup>And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” <sup>6</sup>And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. <sup>7</sup>And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them.

<sup>8</sup> And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. <sup>9</sup> And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. <sup>10</sup> And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

<sup>11</sup> The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. <sup>12</sup> And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." <sup>13</sup> And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.

<sup>14</sup> Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. <sup>15</sup> And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." <sup>16</sup> And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? <sup>18</sup> Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? <sup>19</sup> When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve." <sup>20</sup> "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven." <sup>21</sup> And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Prayer

**Sermon:** Though spoken by a person, we are to hear the sermon as God speaking to us. A sermon is a study in God's Word, the announcement of the good news in Christ, and an invitation to apply the truth of God's Word to our daily lives. At Gracehill, our sermons are not generally based on certain themes; rather, we study through individual books of the Bible.

## Communion

### **Song of Response**      *We Will Feast in the House of Zion*

#### *Chorus:*

We will feast in the house of Zion.  
We will sing with our hearts restored.  
“He has done great things,” we will say together.  
We will feast, and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire;  
He is the Lord our God.  
We are not consumed by the flood  
— upheld, protected, gathered up.

In the dark of night before the dawn,  
my soul be not afraid;  
For the promised morning, Oh how long!  
O God of Jacob, be my strength!

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,  
You are the faithful One  
And from the garden to the grave,  
bind us together, bring shalom.

**Song of Response:** We sing in response to the hearing of God's faithfulness and love for his people, as revealed in his son Jesus.



## **Benediction** from 1 Peter 5:10-11

Now to the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, and who will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you; to him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### ***Doxology***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*If you'd like to meet to find out more about Gracehill, or ways to get connected, or if you have specific prayer requests, please contact Ben Seneker at: 616-227-8813, or email [benseneker@gracehillgr.church](mailto:benseneker@gracehillgr.church); or contact elder Ken Morse at [gkmorse60@gmail.com](mailto:gkmorse60@gmail.com)*

**Benediction:** As we conclude the service, the benediction is a blessing by God, as found in Scripture, for us individually and as a united church. We take this blessing with us as we - carrying the light of the gospel - go out into a dark world, that others may see the Light.

**Doxology:** In the Greek - doxologia, a word (logos) of glory (doxa). The doxology is an ancient hymn of praise, and has been part of the worship service in many churches for centuries. It is sung in response to the Lord's abundant grace for us and his church.

# Announcements

**Women of Gracehill's Christmas Party:** Hello ladies! We'd like to invite you to join us on December 6th from 7 to 9pm at the Buists' home for a time of Christmas season fellowship. Please bring an ornament to exchange during a game of White Elephant. It does not have to be a new ornament; it can be from your own closet or thrifted! Also, feel free to wear your favorite Christmas outfit and bring a Christmas mug. There will be tea, cocoa, snacks, and desserts. You are welcome to bring a dish to pass if you'd like, but there will be plenty of food. Please let Janae, Lois, or Brice know if you can make it. The Buists are located at 1844 4 Mile Rd. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 (this is a private drive called Woodview Lane, and they are the second house on the right).

**Specific Volunteer Needs:** 1) We are needing two more volunteers to help with our tech team. No prior experience is required, only a willingness to learn. 2) We are also needing four volunteers each Sunday to help with setting up before service and cleaning up afterwards (2 to set up, 2 to clean up). If you would like to help, please email Marcus at [mggelder@protonmail.com](mailto:mggelder@protonmail.com).

**Small Groups are launching!** Small groups are a great way to encourage and get to know one another, while also spending time in study and prayer. If you'd like to join, or you'd like to get more information, reach out using the emails listed below. This fall we'll be offering two small groups:

1. David and Sarah Johnson (2nd and 4th Sunday evenings; [dvan-johnson@gmail.com](mailto:dvan-johnson@gmail.com), [sarahpotterjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sarahpotterjohnson@gmail.com))
2. Jae and Jesslyn Park (Sunday evenings; [jaepark@gracehillgr.church](mailto:jaepark@gracehillgr.church), [jesslynsuepark@gmail.com](mailto:jesslynsuepark@gmail.com))

**Children's Ministry:** Faith Builders takes place each Sunday morning from 9:30-10:15. Classes are offered for children in grade levels pre-K, K-2, and 3-5. If you'd like more information, or would like to learn how to get involved, please email Lois at [loissmith@gracehill-gr.church](mailto:loissmith@gracehill-gr.church).

**Women's Bible Study:** Jesus never intended for us to have a little bit of happiness in our lives. He wants us to have fullness of joy—no matter our circumstances. The book of Philippians is an invitation to joy. Come join us Monday evenings this fall from 7 - 8:30 pm. Hosted and led by Janae and Nellie. Please reply to [office@gracehillgr.church](mailto:office@gracehillgr.church) if you would like to participate.

**Get Connected:** If you would like to be added to the weekly email list, learn of ways to serve, schedule a time to meet with Ben, or would like to submit prayer requests, please send an email to [office@gracehillgr.church](mailto:office@gracehillgr.church).

