

At Ridgewood, we are nothing more than real people living in a real world serving a real God.

January 8, 2023

Ridgewood
CHURCH

Here are things that may be different from your previous church experiences:

No Age-Graded Ministries | All God's people - from infants to the elderly - are needed in relationships with each other. We worship together as one big family - the family of God.

Children are Welcome and Encouraged in the Worship Gathering
It is the parent's duty to train their children to participate in corporate worship, including singing, tithing, prayer, and active listening to the teaching of the Word of God. (Deut 31:12-13, Ezra 10:1, Matt 18:1-5, 19:13-15, Eph 6:1-4, Col 3:20) As part of this training process, children may make small noises in the service. These are a reminder "to such belong the Kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). However, we also have the "Genesis Room" at the far end of the hall set up with video and audio feed for your convenience if you feel your child needs more attention.

We Partake in the Lord's Supper Weekly | We ask that the elements only be taken by professing baptized believers who are in a good standing with their local church. (Acts 2:43-47, 1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

We Practice Systematic Exposition | The Bible is God's word and is our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. The music is prayerfully selected based on each week's text of Scripture. (Acts 2:42-27, Colossians 3:16)

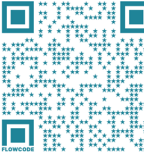
Weekly Fellowship Meal | Families of Ridgewood have brought food for their own household and extra to share with visitors. Fellowship is one way we endeavor to 'encourage one another' in our Christian walk. (Acts 2:42-47, Hebrews 10:24-25)

Use this Bulletin Throughout the Week as a Home Worship Guide
God has called you to disciple your household. He has also called His church to encourage, equip, and expect you to disciple your household. Use this as a home-worship guide to use throughout the week.

The song of the month is a great place to start with family worship. The prayer guide is a tool designed to guide you and your family in prayer. The catechism/doctrine and home devotions are wonderful discipleship tools for everyone, especially for children of all ages. . If you have any questions, the fellowship meal is a great time to get help and encouragement from others. That's what we are here for!

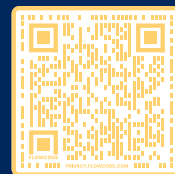
True Life Cards | We encourage you to pick up some True Life Cards in the foyer and give out a few every week. Pray for an opportunity of Gospel conversation with and the salvation of people in the following categories: Family, Friends, Neighbors, Coworkers, Community. Go to truelife.org for more information.

Announcements:

- » Wednesday Nights resume this week, 6p
 - We will have NTS SETX worknights every Wednesday up until the event. There are work projects for all ages. Pizza will be provided.
 - A new Bible Study on the Doctrine of Man begins on Wednesday, February 15, 6p. This is a continuation in our journey through Systematic Theology.
- » Night to Shine SETX | February 10, 2023
 - Register today at www.nighttoshinesetx.com | QR is for volunteers > 
 - Work Night and Board Meeting - January 11, 6p
 - Prom Dress Boutique Days - January 21 & 22 (help needed)
 - Volunteer Training #1 - Thursday, January 26, 6:30-8p
 - Volunteer Training #2 - Sunday, January 29, 1-2:30p
- » Operating:
 - Church Board Meeting, Today, 12:45-1:45p
 - Annual Church Meeting, Sunday, January 29
 - Please remember to be faithful in your tithes and offerings (2 Cor. 9:6-7)
 - Offering plates are at the back of the auditorium, or text "\$amount" to 409-239-0774.

409.729.6000 • ridgewoodchurch@yahoo.com • www.ridgewoodchurch.us

Our Purpose... To Belong to Christ
Our Mission... To Become like Christ
Our Vision... To Bear Christ's Fruit



Welcome Guests!



Welcome

Catechism/Responsorial Doctrine-God the Glorious Creator

1. Who made you? God made me.
2. What else did God make? God made all things.
3. Why did God make you and all things? For His own glory.

Memory Verses:

Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Pray for our Church Body (James 5:16)

The Abshire Household

Pray for Kings and Those in Authority (1 Timothy 2:2)

Local | Thurman Bartie | Mayor

State | Gregg Abbott | Governor

National | Joe Biden | President

Pray for the Great Commission (Luke 10:2)

New Testament Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20, page 835

Songs:

"House of God, Forever"

"Everlasting God"

"After All"

Old Testament Scripture

Ezekiel 27, page 714

Song of the Month | scan QR code for lyrics/video

"On That Day" by CityAlight

Message

The Gospel of Matthew | Matthew 1:1, page 807

Confession/Repentance

Lord's Supper

"Surely Goodness"

Dismissal/Offering

Fellowship Luncheon

Please join us in the gym for fellowship and food!



UNIT 1 – SECTION 1

God the Glorious Creator

QUESTIONS TO LEARN:

- 1. Who made you?**
God made me.
- 2. What else did God make?**
God made all things.
- 3. Why did God make you and all things?**
For his own glory.

* * *

God's glory is revealed through his creation and through his ongoing interaction with his creation. In this section, the story of Job and the events in the life of a scientist named Galileo Galilei show the glory that God displays in his world, and the praise it has elicited from mankind throughout the ages.

“Behold, My Creation”

Job looked at his friends and sighed. A fine lot of comfort they'd been these past few weeks. His friends had only made his suffering worse, convinced as they were that he had done something to make God angry.

“How can you say you're innocent, Job?” Bildad said. “Don't you know you're a sinner? No one is righteous before God. You should quit claiming to be.”

“You're a great help, Bildad,” Job replied sarcastically. “I'm telling you I'm holding on to my righteousness. There's nothing hurting my conscience. I have left no sin unconfessed.”

Job's friend Zophar was silent. He had already tried to tell Job that God only punishes wicked people. If Job were really innocent, he would still be healthy and rich.

Indeed, Job had once had ten beautiful children and had been considered the greatest man in the East. He had owned thousands of sheep, camels, donkeys and oxen, and everyone had respected him. Most importantly, he had always loved and obeyed God. Then God had allowed everything to be taken from him—his wealth, his children, even his health. He now sat, a little apart from his friends, scraping his diseased skin with a piece of broken bowl.

“Never has my heart been secretly enticed to worship the sun or the moon,” Job declared to his friends. “I've been faithful to God and obeyed him. I've shared my bread with the poor. I've been true to my wife and children. I was kind to my servants and upheld right causes in court. Yet now God is against me for no reason, and I don't think it's right.”

Job's friends eventually gave up trying to convince him and fell silent. As they all sat pondering Job's recent misery, a gust of wind caught their attention. A storm was beginning to brew off toward the west. The distant rumble slowly grew to a loud howl. Above them, they saw a black sky closing in. What they heard in the gathering winds and pelting rain caused them to fall face down. God was speaking.

“Who is this who questions my wisdom?” God's thunderous voice asked Job. “Were you there when I created the earth? Did you stretch a measuring line across it to mark off its borders? Who shut up the sea behind doors and knit the clouds into its garment? Have you given orders to the morning or shown the sun where to rise?”

As God opened the secrets of the world to Job, Job listened fearfully. Who was he to question God's doings?

"Tell me if you understand how really big the earth is, Job. Have you seen where light lives, or have you cut channels through the earth for the torrents of rain? Do you dispatch the lightning bolts, and do they come back and tell you where they have been? Do you know when the mountain goats have their babies, or do you nourish the hungry raven?"

On and on God unfurled the wonders of his creation to Job, while more and more, Job realized the wisdom and goodness of God. Finally, the storm subsided and Job was silent before God. Never had he fully understood God's ways until now! Everything in the creation belongs to God and he can do no wrong with it. He is holy and powerful and good. Thereafter, whenever Job didn't understand something, God's creation was a magnificent reminder that God could still be trusted. God had shown Job his glory.

Taken from Job 25-31; 38-39:1

FROM THE BIBLE:

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (Romans 1:19-20)

TALKING IT OVER:

1. *To glorify means to praise, give honor or ascribe beauty. How did God use the creation of the world to glorify himself to Job?*
2. *If someone did not believe God created the earth and all people, how do you think this belief would make them act?*
3. *How do you think a person would act who believes that God made him and all things?*
4. *How does God's creation of you bring glory to him?*

The Starry Messenger

The evening of January 8, 1610, was a clear and starry one in Padua, Italy, where Galileo Galilei taught mathematics at the leading university of that day. When the sun had finally dropped behind the horizon and taken the last rays of light along with it, Galileo quickly put aside his papers and started up the stairs to the top floor of his house.

When he arrived at his garden window, his breathing was rapid from anticipation. He was going to look upon parts of God's creation that had been hidden from man since the beginning of time. He was the first to see them; God had chosen him!

Galileo sat down and sidled up to the instrument he had spent months designing and shaping, remaking and perfecting in his workshop downstairs. In fact, this was an upgraded model of the instrument that he had fashioned last summer. This one, when he looked through it, brought distant objects 30 times closer and made them 1000 times larger than they actually were. It would eventually be called a telescope.

Throughout the fall Galileo had observed the moon through one of his less powerful, earlier telescopes. He had seen that it was a very different object than the perfectly smooth and polished sphere that people since the time of Aristotle—almost two thousand years before—had assumed it was. The real moon had craters and mountains much like Earth.

Last night he had tried this newest telescope for the first time and could hardly believe what his eyes had told him. Hoping to demonstrate that the planets actually orbited the sun rather than orbiting the Earth, as history taught and the Church still firmly held, Galileo had studied Jupiter. Unexpectedly, however, near Jupiter Galileo saw something that men had never seen before—three small but bright stars arranged in a straight line, two to the left of Jupiter and one to the right. Tonight he would check Jupiter again, and then possibly turn his lens to some new wonders.

Galileo found the bright planet in his sighting lens and noted again that without any magnification he saw none of the three nearby stars that he had seen the night before. Then he looked through the telescopic lens.

But wait. He must have focused on the wrong planet! He drew back and checked the sight, assuring himself that he had indeed found Jupiter. He looked into the telescope again, gasped, and then paced the room trying to imagine what this could mean.

Tonight, the three stars were all to the right of Jupiter. In the last 24 hours, could Jupiter somehow have changed directions in its orbit around the sun? Or, instead, did Jupiter speed up and overtake these stars in *their* orbits around the sun? Even Galileo did not yet guess that the whole universe does not revolve around our sun.

On the next night the sky in Venice was "covered with clouds in every direction," so Galileo could not look at Jupiter again until January 10. On that night, two of the stars were back on Jupiter's left, and the third star had disappeared entirely, apparently hidden behind the large planet.

Galileo sat back and sighed at the heavens. This could mean only one thing—these stars were actually moving around *Jupiter*, and not around either the sun or the Earth. (Later, men realized that these bright orbs were moons.) Galileo was just beginning to discern that much of what people of his day believed about the universe was wrong: that the stars didn't really revolve around the Earth, making the Earth the most important body in the sky. Man and the Earth were much smaller in the universe than previously believed, and the scope of God's creation was considerably larger.

Galileo rushed to document and publish his observations and conclusions about the moon, the Jupiter "stars," and certain other aspects of our solar system in a small book called *The Starry Messenger*. Soon people all over Europe were making or buying telescopes and viewing these and other wonders of God's universe.

As Galileo studied the order and beauty he found through the telescope, he became one of the first to hypothesize that God holds his creation together in part through mathematical "laws" that keep the universe ticking like a well-designed clock. God's power and glory were clearly revealed in this precision instrument called the universe.

Through Galileo and other courageous scientists of his time, people began to understand, experience, and appreciate God's creation in ways they never could before. To be sure, many have not credited the wonders of the creation to God, but the most honest have felt the same humility that Galileo Galilei confessed to a friend in the midst of his early observations:

"I feel an infinite amazement, that is, I render infinite thanks to God, that he has been pleased to make me alone the first observer of amazing things which have been obscured since the beginning of time."²

FROM THE BIBLE:

*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
(Psalm 19:1)*

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. (Genesis 1:14-15)

TALKING IT OVER:

1. *What might Galileo have learned about God from his astronomical and other discoveries?*
2. *How did Galileo feel about God letting him make the discoveries he did? Do you think that his response glorified God? Why?*
3. *Name one of God's creations that you think glorifies him. Tell why.*