

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

April 7, 2024

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 2:42-47, 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 2:42-47, 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 bulletin as a home-worship guide 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.

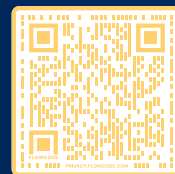
Announcements:

- » Wednesday Nights at 6p
 - A new study on Pneumatology: the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit continues this Wednesday, April 7 at 6p.
- » Shine On Summer Kick-Off Carnival
 - Save the Date - Shine On Summer Kick-Off Event for people with special needs and disabilities of all ages and their families on 6/1/24. More info to come soon.
 - Church work night Wednesday, May 29 at 6p.
- » Extra-Cushion Diaper Ministry
 - Outreach Port Arthur will be distributing diapers the second Wednesday of each month from 3-5p. Contact Savannah S if you would like to help
- » Operating:
 - 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
 - 1st Quarter Giving Report (Jan. 1 - March 31):

Projected Tithe Income: \$46,250.00 Actual Tithe Income: \$49,246.21

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!



Order of Service: April 7, 2024

Sermon Notes:

Song "Blessed Assurance"

Welcome

Catechism/Responsorial Doctrine - The Atonement - Christ Suffered & Obeyed

46. For whom did Christ obey and suffer? For those whom the Father had given Him.

47. What kind of life did Christ live on earth? A life of perfect obedience to the law of God.

48. What kind of death did Christ die? The painful and shameful death of the cross.

Memory Verse: Romans 6:4 "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Pray for our Church Body (James 5:16)

Dale & Anna Guidry

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

Local | Bobby Adams | Constable Precinct 7

State | Brig. Gen. Andrew Camacho | Texas Air National Guard

National | General Charles Brown | Chief of Staff Air Force

Pray for the Great Commission (Luke 10:2)

New Testament Scripture

Romans 10:5-17, page 946

Songs

"The Solid Rock"

"Come Ye Sinners"

"Take My Life"

Old Testament Scripture

Genesis 10, page 7

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

"He Will Hold Me Fast" (Ada Habershon 1906; Matt Merker 2013)

Message

The Parable of the Sower | Matthew 13:1-23, page 818

Confession/Repentance

Lord's Supper

"I Surrender All"

Dismissal/Offering

"Doxology"

Fellowship Luncheon

Please join us in the gym for fellowship and food!



UNIT 3 – SECTION 5

Christ Obeyed and Suffered

QUESTIONS TO LEARN:

- 46. For whom did Christ obey and suffer?**
For those whom the Father had given him.
- 47. What kind of life did Christ live on earth?**
A life of perfect obedience to the Law of God.
- 48. What kind of death did Christ die?**
The painful and shameful death of the cross.

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In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus poured out to his Father the sorrow with which he faced his final act of obedience—dying on a cross. The early church historian Eusebius records the story of Agbarus, a ruler in the time of Jesus who asked the Lord to come to his kingdom and heal him. But Jesus would not be deterred from the purpose for which he came to earth—to be crucified and resurrected.

The Cup of Christ's Suffering

James could not recall ever being so confused before. His beloved Jesus had spent the evening warning the disciples that one of them would soon betray him, and that the rest of them would fall away! Even worse, Jesus kept talking about suffering, about leaving them, and about "pouring out his blood." Everything seemed calm enough, but Jesus always knew things that James did not.

James closely watched his Lord, who walked a few steps ahead of the disciples. He tried to convince himself that nothing would happen to Jesus so long as he kept his eye on him. Jesus seemed to be headed for the garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives, where he often prayed when he was in Jerusalem.

Peter and John trudged along next to James. When he stole a glance at them, they stared back with the same wonder and apprehension that shrouded his own heart. No one said anything; there was nothing to say.

Soon they were in a small clearing among the olive trees in the garden of Gethsemane. There, Jesus stopped abruptly and turned to them. His face was streaked with tears, his forehead creased in grief. He stood with one hand against his chest. "*My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,*" he told them.

James wanted to rush forward and comfort his Lord, but Jesus' anguish was too great. James could not get any nearer to it.

"*Stay here and keep watch,*" Jesus said to them. "*Pray that you will not fall into temptation.*" Then he walked several yards away and fell to the ground.

"Yes, I should do that. I should pray," James thought. "But why is my Lord so troubled? What is going to happen to him? I can't bear it if he goes away. What will we do if he does?" Overcome by these fears, James felt his eyes grow heavy. He lay down on the ground, and the fear receded into the darkness as he gave himself over to sleep. The others did likewise.

A stone's throw away, Jesus poured out his sorrow to the Father. "*Father,*" he said, "*everything is possible for you. If you are willing, take this cup from me.*" The cup he spoke of was his upcoming, agonizing death on the cross. He knew he would have to take the sin of the whole world onto himself in order to pay the penalty for it on the cross. He—who had never sinned—would have to become sin so that those who believed in him could be forgiven and have everlasting life.

He knew too that the Father could not allow sin into his holy presence. Then, while Jesus hung on the cross, weighed down by all the world's ugliness, the Father would strike him, crush him, and forsake him. This was the suffering he really dreaded. This was the payment, the atonement, the horror of God's wrath. The unspeakable physical pain and earthly humiliation that awaited Jesus on the cross were secondary.

Drops of sweat that were like blood formed on his brow as he prayed. "Yet not my will, but yours be done," Jesus cried out in love and obedience to the Father who had sent him for this very purpose.

James, had he been awake at that moment, would have seen a golden light beam from heaven touch down in the grass next to his kneeling Lord. He might have discerned that the light beam was actually an angel of God, whose appearance strengthened Jesus.

This cup of suffering *was* the Father's will. By it he would make a way for his human children to come to him. In his heart, Jesus took the cup and began to drink.

He thanked the Father, rose, and returned to the sleeping disciples. James felt a nudge, and heard Jesus say, "Could you not keep watch for one hour? The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

"Rise! Let us go! Here is my betrayer!" Jesus said, as Judas led a crowd into the clearing, walked up to Jesus, and kissed him.

Taken from: Matthew 26:36-49; Mark 14:32-45; Luke 22:39-48.

FROM THE BIBLE:

"To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here . . . saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles." (Acts 26:22-23)

"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him." (John 17:1b-2)

TALKING IT OVER:

1. What was the difference between how Jesus handled his sorrow, and how James, Peter, and John did? What does this show about Jesus?
2. Did Jesus dread dying on the cross? Why did he dread it most?

Life from Death

Several men-in-waiting huddled around King Agbarus' bed fretting over him. One touched his forehead. Was it too hot? Was it too cold? Who could tell?

Agbarus brushed the dotting hand aside impatiently. He had his own plan.

"Bring Ananias to me at once!" he commanded, and watched one of his attendants scurry off to find the courier. Moments later, Ananias entered and approached the king's bed.

"I wish to dictate a letter to Jesus of Nazareth, the Jew who has been performing miracles in Judea. I will ask him to come and heal me," Agbarus announced. "Write this down:

I, Agbarus, Prince of Edessa, the great nation beyond the Euphrates, send greetings to Jesus, whose righteousness and miracles I have heard many reports of. They say that without medicines or herbs you cleanse lepers, give sight to the blind and strength to the lame, cast out demons, and raise the dead. After much consideration of these things, I have concluded that you are either God, having descended from heaven, or the Son of God. I therefore beseech you to come and heal me of the disease that I have suffered for many years, as none here know what to do for me. If you come you may stay. For I have heard that the other Jews are jealous and are plotting to harm you. Please note that Edessa is a modest but excellent kingdom, sufficient for us both."

As he finished his dictation, many in the circle around the king's bed gasped. Surely this was the futile act of a desperate man!

"Sire, you are offering to share your kingdom with him?" whispered an old man who had attended Agbarus from the time he was a small boy.

"Yes, Beram. If this conclusion that has come to me is correct, I should be grateful if he would let *me* stay. Now off with you, Ananias. I grow weary."

Several weeks later, Beram entered Agbarus' bedchamber while he was resting. "Sire," he said, shaking the king. "Ananias has returned. Enter, Ananias."

"Is Jesus with you?" Agbarus asked the courier eagerly.

"No, Sire, but he sent this message back to you: 'You are blessed, Agbarus, for without seeing, you have believed in me! It is written about me that some who see will not believe, whereas others who do not see will nevertheless believe and live. However, I cannot come to you now. Instead, I must soon fulfill all things for which I came. After I return to him who sent me, one of my disciples will come to heal your body and give you and yours eternal life!'"

Agbarus, who had been straining forward during the reading of Jesus' letter, fell back into his pillow. He promised himself that he would not die until Jesus' man came.

Soon word arrived in Edessa that Jesus had been crucified. Still Agbarus hoped.

And there came a day, many months later, when Agbarus heard talk of a stranger in Edessa named Thaddeus who was healing every kind of ailment in the name and power of Jesus Christ. Suspecting that he might be Jesus' promised disciple, the king summoned him. For the occasion, Agbarus assembled all his nobles in the great hall of his palace. When Thaddeus entered, Agbarus saw a light shining down from heaven onto Thaddeus' face, and to the amazement of his nobles who saw no light, Agbarus fell on his knees before the stranger. "Are you really Jesus' disciple?" Agbarus asked.

"Since you have great confidence in the Lord Jesus, he has sent me to you," Thaddeus assured him. "And as your faith grows, he will enable you to live in obedience to his commands and to enjoy abundant life."

"How I wish he had come when I wrote to him," Agbarus said. "I would have defended him against the Jews."

"By submitting to crucifixion, Sire, the Lord Jesus fulfilled the will of his Father, and having done so, was resurrected and taken up to him again," said Thaddeus. "For the sake of those whom the Father has given him, Jesus had to be crucified, and nothing could have kept him from it."

"I believe in him and in his Father," Agbarus said.

Thaddeus put his hands on Agbarus. "I have been given authority to heal your illness in the name of Christ Jesus," he said, and Agbarus felt new strength pour into his body and soul.

"Please tell me more about Jesus," he implored Thaddeus.

"I will not tell you alone," Thaddeus answered, "for I have been sent to bring this news to one and all. Therefore, you must assemble the people of your kingdom tomorrow, and I will tell you everything I know about Jesus. I will sow among you and your people the word of life that springs from the death of Jesus." And this he did.

Taken from Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History, 3.23, as a legend passed down in that region; not to be regarded as absolute historical fact.

FROM THE BIBLE:

Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? . . . But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. . . . Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. (Isaiah 53:1, 5, 10)

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)

TALKING IT OVER:

- 1. What are all the ways Jesus was obedient to his Father?*
- 2. Why did Jesus suffer and die on the cross? Could anything have deterred him from that purpose?*
- 3. The verse above, from the book of Isaiah, was recorded by one of God's prophets hundreds of years before Jesus lived. Do you think it had always been God's will that Jesus would be crucified?*