

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

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.

November 9, 2025

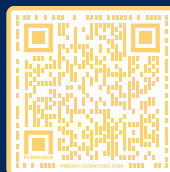
Ridgewood CHURCH

Announcements:

- » **Wednesday Nights at 6p**
 - Bible Study continues this Wednesday at 6p. We are continuing our journey through Systematic Theology by working through a series on Eschatology which is the study of last days. Title of the series is "End Times Made Simple."
- » **Night to Shine SETX Upcoming Dates**
 - Online Registration for Guests and Volunteers is OPEN! Register today at www.nighttoshinesetx.com
 - THIS WEEK - NTS SETX Board Meeting - Wednesday, November 12 at 6p
 - Prom Dress Boutique - 12/7/25 from 2-5p
 - Save the Date: "Passport to Paris" Night to Shine SETX - 2/13/26
- » **Church Board 2026 Budget Meeting #1 - 11/16/25 at 12:30p**
- » **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

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!



Prelude "Grace"

Welcome

Catechism/Responsorial - Doctrine - Christ's Resurrection & Return

127. Did Christ remain in the tomb after his crucifixion? **No.** He rose from the tomb on the third day after his death.

128. Where is Christ now? In heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father.

129. Will Christ come again? **Yes.** At the last day he will come to judge the world.

Memory Verse: Acts 1:11, "...Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Pray for our Church Body (James 5:16)

Karen Brantley

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

Local | Byron Terrier | Regional 5 Education Service Director

State | Donna Campbell | TX Senate Education Committee

National | Bill Cassidy | Senate Chair Education Committee

Pray for the Great Commission (Luke 10:2)

New Testament Scripture

Colossians 2:16-23, page 984

Congregational Singing

"Come Ye Sinners"

"In Christ Alone"

"Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me"

Old Testament Scripture

Song of Solomon 3, page 561

Home Worship Song of the Month | scan QR code for lyrics

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us" Stewart Townend -1995

Message

The Gospel Explained: Anchored in Freedom Gal.4:8-11, p 974

Confession/Repentance

Lord's Supper

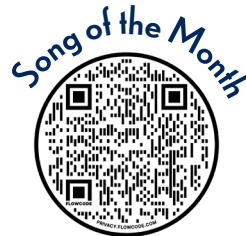
"Rock of Ages"

Dismissal/Offering

"Doxology"

Fellowship Luncheon

Please join us in the gym for fellowship and food!



UNIT 8 – SECTION 1

Christ's Resurrection and Return

QUESTIONS TO LEARN:

127. Did Christ remain in the tomb after his crucifixion?
No. He rose from the tomb on the third day after his death.
128. Where is Christ now?
In heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father.
129. Will Christ come again?
Yes. At the last day he will come to judge the world.

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We know Thomas as the disciple who doubted Jesus, but we are indebted to him for helping us to believe in the resurrection of Jesus though we ourselves have not yet seen our risen Lord. If we, by faith, see the resurrected Jesus and touch his wounds, we will be blessed by the same assurance that Jesus gave to Thomas. One who depended on that assurance was the eighteenth-century composer George Friedrich Handel, whose glorious oratorio, entitled Messiah, proclaimed and celebrated Christ's death, resurrection and ultimate return for his own.

Those Who Have Eyes, Let Them See

Thomas rose with the sun and once again tried to tell himself that everything was going to be okay. After three days of repeating this, however, Thomas' practical side was clearly winning out. It told him that things were absolutely *not* okay, and they never would be again, because Jesus was dead and buried.

Determined to fight off despair, however, Thomas drove that thought into a dark corner of his mind and locked it away. Life must go on.

"I will concentrate on today," he told himself. "I wonder if it is yet safe for me to go about town? After all, it would surely be good to see the other disciples."

Motivated by this hopeful thought, Thomas dressed quickly and slipped out into the street, pulling his head covering forward so that it hid his face. Mingling casually with the crowd, Thomas arrived at the disciples' meeting place without incident.

When he had knocked and identified himself, the door was thrown open to him and he was greeted with a room full of beaming faces. How happy he was to see them! But where was the gloom that he himself had been suffering? Thomas' question was soon answered.

"Thomas," the other disciples said, "we have very good news for you. *We have seen the Lord!* He is resurrected."

These words took a few moments to sink in. Thomas looked slowly from one to another of his brethren – all of them joyful but clearly not joking. They seemed sane, clear-minded, even calm. "Oh my," he thought to himself in alarm, "they have managed to delude themselves and one another!" Thank goodness he had stayed away, for someone had to face reality. Thomas shook his head. He must help them to accept the truth. "*Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it,*" he said firmly, sadly.

A number of days passed. During that time, Thomas went often to visit the other disciples, but he always sensed a joyful camaraderie among them that he just couldn't share. They all believed that Jesus had been resurrected, and he could not.

Then eight days later, on the evening when Thomas was with the disciples, *Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"*

He turned to Thomas, who was gaping at him in wonder. Jesus held up his hands. *"Put your finger here; see my hands,"* he said. *"Reach out your hand and put it into my side,"* Jesus now commanded him. Then Jesus said to him gently, *"Stop doubting and believe."*

"My Lord and my God!" confessed Thomas to the Savior who had treated his unbelief so tenderly.

"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed," Jesus answered.

For forty days after his resurrection from the dead, Jesus appeared to his disciples and other believers and spoke to them about the kingdom of God. As a result, there were many first-hand witnesses to testify of his resurrection so that those of us who did not see – like Thomas – can be helped in our unbelief.

Finally Jesus returned to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. One moment he was with the disciples, and the next he was taken up before their very eyes and hidden in a cloud. As they all peered skyward in hopes of another glimpse of him, Thomas noticed that two strangers dressed in white stood nearby.

"Why do you stand here looking into the sky?" They asked the disciples. *"This same Jesus, who has gone into heaven, will one day return in the same way he left you."*

"In the meantime," thought Thomas, *"we must tell people all the things that we've seen and heard, just as Jesus commanded us!"* And he thanked God for the rich testimony he would share of the Christ who left visibly and who one day will visibly return from heaven to judge the belief of all people.

Taken from: Luke 24:36-49; John 20:24-31; Acts 1:1-11.

FROM THE BIBLE:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." (Matthew 25:31-32)

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, . . . (2 Peter 3:8-10a)

TALKING IT OVER:

1. *Why did Jesus come back and show himself to Thomas, even though Thomas would not believe the testimony of the other disciples about the resurrection of Jesus? (Because he was merciful, and to provide another eyewitness testimony of his resurrection to help us believe even though we can't see him.)*
2. *Where is Christ now, while we can't see him?*
3. *From the passage above, why has Christ not yet returned? What will he do when he does return?*

Handel's "Hallelujah"

From the small conductor's podium at the front of the stage, a frail and aging George Friedrich Handel could almost hear every sound in the theater. Behind him, the overflowing crowd that jammed the aisles was reverent and hushed as they awaited the performance of his famous oratorio. Nevertheless, against the wooden floor Handel heard the swish of every hoop skirt, the clanking of each wayward sword.

In front of him, the musicians were all in place, ready to tune their instruments. Bows began gliding across strings. In his heavy accent Handel called out to the second violin on his left to adjust to the first violin.

Yes, his composer's ear was as sharp as ever, though all he saw was blackness. With some effort, he raised his old arms to begin the overture, and the notes of his beloved *Messiah* filled his blind eyes with tears.

As he conducted, by memory, Handel was carried back eighteen years to the spring of 1741 when he had first realized that his career in composing story operas was over. The people of London had simply lost interest in them, and Handel was deep in debt from producing the magnificent new works they had continually rejected. Many of his admirers had even turned against him personally, no longer charmed by either his operas or his brash German ways.

Gravely disheartened, Handel had retired to his home on Brook Street to brood over his misfortune. For perhaps the first time in his life, he did not know what to do.

Just when it seemed that his despair might swallow him, Handel had received an unexpected package from Charles Jennens, who had written words (called the "libretto") for some of Handel's best musical scores. The package contained the libretto for a new oratorio entitled *Messiah*. The words, all adapted from Scripture, told of the Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming, his humble birth in Bethlehem, his death on the cross, resurrection, ascension into heaven, and his ultimate glorious return. Jennens urged Handel to put the words to music.

So confused and indecisive was Handel, however, that he barely looked at the new libretto. He fretted that the fickle Londoners would not like his oratorios any better than his operas. He had not immediately recognized that *Messiah* was a gift from God, both to him and to the world.

Soon, however, Handel had received the extra little push he needed – a letter inviting him to Ireland to participate in an upcoming season of oratorio concerts to raise money for several charities. A new audience, a good cause! This was just what Handel had prayed for. He even had the ideal subject for his featured piece – the Messiah.

Handel took up the libretto of *Messiah* on August 22, and had completed the entire musical score – about fifty-three movements in three tremendous parts – in only twenty-four days. He had composed it at a frantic pace and with great intensity, without any of the changing and rearranging that he usually struggled with when he set words to music. This music came to him easily – like a gift from God – sounding clearly in his mind as he pored over the beautiful story of Christ's victorious life.

In November, with copies of *Messiah* and several earlier works overflowing his bags, Handel had boarded a boat bound for Dublin. Performances of his works began on December 23, but he saved his new piece for near the end of the season, opening it on April 13, 1742 to a sold-out audience at the brand new Fishamble Street Music Hall. The Irish were awed. How their hearts seemed to be drawn to the risen Christ! They enthusiastically proclaimed *Messiah* to be one of the most worshipful pieces of sacred music ever written.

As he led the magnificent choir now before him into the final movements of *Messiah*, Handel savored the words that meant more to him with every passing hour: "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep."¹³

After the performance concluded, George Friedrich Handel fainted and was carried to his Brook Street home where he lingered for a few days in his final illness. It was just before Easter, 1759. Knowing that he had not long to wait now, Handel told a friend at his deathbed that he looked forward to "rejoining the good God, my sweet Lord and Savior, on the day of his resurrection."

A few days later Handel's hope was realized when he left this world and joined the One who had in every way been his Messiah.

FROM THE BIBLE:

. . . looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, . . . (Hebrews 1:3)

TALKING IT OVER:

1. *Why was Christ's resurrection so important to Handel? (Because Handel knew he was about to die.)*
2. *What do we know about God as a result of Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven? (Hint: God's power, the Father's love for the Son, God's glory, his victory over sin and death.)*
3. *How does Christ's resurrection and ascension affect your life?*