

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

March 31, 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:

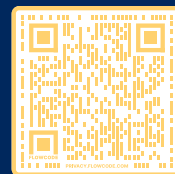
- » **Wednesday Nights at 6p**
 - A new study on Pneumatology: the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit continues this Wednesday, April 3 at 6p.
- » **Shine On Summer Kick-Off Carnival**
 - Save the Date - Shine On Summer Kick-Off Event for people with special needs and disabilities of all ages and their families on 6/1/24. More info to come soon.
 - THIS WEEK - NTS SETX Board Meeting for Shine On - Wednesday, April 3 6p-8p
- » **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!



Order of Service: March 31, 2024

Sermon Notes:

Song "Christ the Lord is Risen Today (He is not Dead)"

Welcome

Catechism/Responsorial Doctrine - The Atonement - Justification & Sanctification

43. What did God the Father undertake in the covenant of grace? To justify, adopt and sanctify those for whom Christ should die.

44. What is justification? It is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned and granting them righteousness. .

45. What is sanctification? It is God making sinners holy in heart and conduct.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:8-9 "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God." "

Pray for our Church Body (James 5:16)

Jason Guidry Household

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

Local | Bryan Werner | Constable Precinct 4

State | Anthony Woods | Texas State Guard Commander

National | General David Berger | Commander of USMC

Pray for the Great Commission (Luke 10:2)

New Testament Scripture

John 20:1-18, page 906

Songs

"Is He Worthy?"

"Because He Lives"

"His Mercy is More"

Old Testament Scripture

Genesis 9, page 6

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

"This is My Father's World" (Maltbie D. Babcock-1901)

Message

Believe in the Resurrection | 1 Cor. 15:1-11, page 961

Confession/Repentance

Lord's Supper

"Jesus Paid It All"

Dismissal/Offering

"Doxology"

Fellowship Luncheon

Please join us in the gym for fellowship and food!



UNIT 3 – SECTION 4

Justification and Sanctification

QUESTIONS TO LEARN:

- 43. What did God the Father undertake in the covenant of the grace?**
To justify and sanctify those for whom Christ should die.
- 44. What is justification?**
It is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned.
- 45. What is sanctification?**
It is God making sinners holy in heart and conduct.

* * *

Through Christ, God not only redeems us from our sin, but makes us holy. The broken-hearted woman of Luke 7, who loved Jesus much, must have fully appreciated the miracle of Jesus' justification of sinners. The eighteenth-century pastor and former slave trader John Newton was deeply grateful for the sanctification that he had experienced in his own life throughout the years that he had known the Savior.

The Woman Who was Forgiven Much

A constant stream of villagers filed past the sorrowful woman who shrank back into the shadows outside the home of Simon, the town's leading Pharisee. No one spoke to her, and she spoke to none of them. Though a few looked her way by accident, they quickly turned their heads when they saw who she was.

The woman did not blame them. As usual, she felt dirty. How was she going to get out of this mess she had gotten herself into? Who would ever forgive her for all the evil she had done?

As she fought back tears, the woman clutched the small jar in her hand a little tighter. Soon, another cluster of men approached from the road that led up to Simon's house.

"Do you think he will really come?" One of the men asked another. "Surely Jesus knows that Simon and his crowd will try to prove him a fake."

The woman in the shadows could barely keep from calling out as they passed her by without a glance. "What about his miracles?" she wanted to ask, "and his teachings about love and forgiveness?" Why, rumor had it that Jesus had allowed a tax collector to travel with him! And Jesus treated the man as if his past no longer mattered. Perhaps he would even . . . well, . . . no, surely not. Would he? Tonight would tell.

Trembling, the woman pulled her scarf up over her face and stepped out into the light. Somehow no one seemed to notice as she slipped in with the others to hear Jesus.

At first she sat at the back and watched Jesus recline at the table with Simon and several important guests invited to eat with them. Jesus talked calmly and confidently with the Pharisees, even though the woman was sure they were trying to trick him into saying something wrong, something they could condemn him for. He seemed to have compassion for them in spite of their deceit. Without a thought for herself now, the woman drew closer and closer until she found herself kneeling and crying at Jesus' feet.

Unmindful of the gasps of the host and many of the guests, the woman pulled the small alabaster jar from her smock, uncorked it, and allowed the strong perfume inside to fill the house. When the fragrance reached Jesus, he looked down at her and she saw that he too was near tears. His look said, "Yes, I know what you are, but still you may touch me."

She poured the perfume on his feet, washed them with her tears and kisses, and wiped them with her hair.

All the while, Simon and his guests exchanged glances. The woman noticed the growing disdain in the way some of them looked at Jesus, and she worried that she might be the very instrument by which they would trap him.

Then Jesus turned to his host and said, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," Simon said, reluctantly.

"Two men owed money to a certain money-lender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now, which of them will love him more?" Jesus asked.

"I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled," said Simon.

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said, and then pointed down at the sinful woman at his feet.

"Do you see this woman?" he asked Simon, but did not wait for a reply. "I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. . . . Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

Jesus looked back down and said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." And for the first time in many, many years, the woman felt clean.

Taken from Luke 7:36-50.

FROM THE BIBLE:

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law . . . the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, . . .
(Romans 3:21-24)

[B]ut God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (Romans 5:8-9)

TALKING IT OVER:

1. *Was Simon any different from the sinful woman in God's eyes? What were the differences between them?*
2. *Even though the woman had sinned greatly, how did she become justified before God?*
3. *Why do you think the woman loved Jesus more than Simon did?*

God's Amazing Grace

"William, my boy, come right in, come right in," John Newton beckoned to the young man waiting outside his study at London's St. Mary's Woolnoth Church.

William Wilberforce was quite happy to "come right in," as he was eager to escape the more public areas of the church where he might be seen by one of his fellow parliamentarians. He wasn't sure he wanted them to think he was keeping company with evangelical Christians, a much-reviled group in 1785.

"I was delighted to hear that you wanted an appointment with me, son," said the sixty-year-old vicar. "Now what can I do for you?"

"Well, sir, . . . I, I've had a rather strange thing happen to me lately, and I don't know quite what to do about it," William began.

John was intrigued. He had learned over the years that when someone spoke of "something strange" with the surprised but thrilled anticipation that he had just heard in William's voice, it always seemed to have something to do with God.

"And?" John coaxed. "Tell me. What has God done?"

"I guess the best way to say it, Sir, is that he sent Christ Jesus to save me."

"Ah, excellent!" John said, clapping William on the back. "So you finally see. I have prayed for this for a long time. But you are concerned by it?"

"It's just that . . . well, you know that I was elected to Parliament a few years back, and I . . . I love the work. I just don't know that I'm ready to quit and become a preacher." There, he'd admitted it.

John resisted the urge to laugh. Clearly, the boy was quite serious about his dilemma. "William, one thing you will discover is that God can use us anywhere. We can't always know how he intends to fit us into his plan. He often has to do a lot of work in us before he can use us anyway. Let me tell you a story.

"When I was a young man roughly your age, I was a slave trader. I was captain of a ship that I sailed to Africa, where we bought people who had been kidnapped from their homes, and then took them to America and sold them for a huge profit.

"This was actually a step up for me, as I had spent the ten years previous doing as much damage to myself and God's name as he would graciously permit. For you see, God knew he would eventually get my attention, and so in his infinite mercy he tolerated my endless blasphemies

and crimes and even suicidal despair. I believe he saved my life many times over, and finally he saved my soul too.

"But, I was still just a babe in Christ. For years after I first believed in him, I ran that slave ship. Perhaps the conditions on my ship were better than most, but we still kept them bound like cattle in the hold of the ship for weeks, and then sold them like so much meat in the marketplace of human corruption.

"Over time, God showed me that the slave trade, which the world had come to accept as necessary and thus righteous enough, was in fact abhorrent to my Lord. Slowly, he made it abhorrent to me as well. Nevertheless, God himself had to deliver me from the profession. In my twenty-ninth year, a few days before I was to set sail on my fourth voyage as captain, I suffered a mild stroke and was unable to go. The captain who took my place lost his life on board that ship. I never went to sea again.

"The Lord provided me with a job on land. In addition, as I studied his word, he instilled in me a passion to preach of Christ. I realized I was especially fit to tell people all that the Lord can do because of all he'd had to do in me. It pleased him, however, to wait several years before giving me a church in which to preach. Though I often felt frustrated about my situation, I see now how he increased my knowledge and love for him as a result of those circumstances.

"That was over twenty years ago. You can see that my heart has grown much since I first believed. Even in just the past few years, for example, he has given me a great desire to see my former profession abolished. His grace is truly amazing!

"All this is to say, William, that you must grow in Christ wherever you are. And if he has led you to Parliament, you may be assured that he means to use you there. In fact, he can use you more and more there as your heart becomes more holy. Perhaps, as he purifies your heart, he will use you in your post to abolish such evils as the slave trade itself."

William Wilberforce left St. Mary's Woolnoth Church with his head held higher and his tender heart free of worry. He became one of England's most respected statesmen, known by all as a devout evangelical Christian. Before his death in 1833, he had pushed through Parliament the laws necessary to forever abolish the sale of slaves. Like John Newton before him, William learned all about the amazing grace of Christ Jesus, by which God brings men to himself and makes them holy in heart and deed.

FROM THE BIBLE:

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

[W]e have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy. . . (Colossians 1:9b-11)

TALKING IT OVER:

1. *What is sanctification? When does it take place? How long does it take?*
2. *Tell some of the ways God sanctified John Newton.*
3. *How do you think God is working to sanctify you right now (if you are a Christian)? Are you fully cooperating with him?*