

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

November 23, 2025

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!

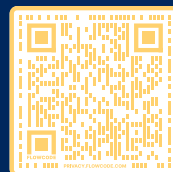
True Life Cards | We encourage you to pick up some True Life Cards in the foyer and give out a few every week. Pray for an opportunity of Gospel conversation with and the salvation of people in the following categories: Family, Friends, Neighbors, Coworkers, Community. Go to truelife.org for more information.

Announcements:

- » **Wednesday Nights at 6p**
 - NO Wednesday Bible Study this week due to Thanksgiving Holiday. Bible study on end times will resume Wednesday, December 3rd at 6p.
- » **Night to Shine SETX Upcoming Dates**
 - Online Registration for Guests and Volunteers is OPEN! Register today at www.nighttoshinesetx.com
 - Prom Dress Boutique - 12/7/25 from 2-5p
 - Save the Date: "Passport to Paris" Night to Shine SETX - 2/13/26
- » **TODAY - Fried Turkey and Thanksgiving Luncheon at 12noon**
- » **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 "Once for All"

Welcome

Catechism/Responsorial - Doctrine - Heaven & Hell

132. What will happen to the wicked in the day of judgment? They shall be cast into hell.

133. What is hell? A place of dreadful and endless punishment.

134. What will happen to the righteous in the day of judgment? They shall live with Christ for ever, in a new heaven and new earth.

135. What is heaven? A glorious and happy place, where the righteous shall be forever with the Lord.

Memory Verse: 2 Peter 3:13, "But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

Pray for our Church Body (James 5:16)

Ida Como

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

Local | Tyler Fitzgerald | County Agriculture Agent

State | Ryan Gillian | TX House Chair Agriculture Committee

National | GT Thompson | US House Chair Agriculture Committee

Pray for the Great Commission (Luke 10:2)

New Testament Scripture

Romans 9:6-13, page 945

Congregational Singing

"Standing on the Promises"

"Solid Rock"

"Not What My Hands have Done"

Old Testament Scripture

Song of Solomon 5, page 562

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: Children of Promise Gal.4:21-31 p974

Confession/Repentance

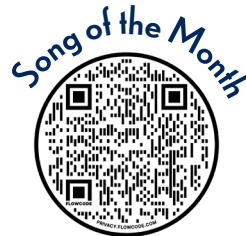
Lord's Supper

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)"

Dismissal/Offering

"Doxology"

Fellowship Luncheon



UNIT 8 – SECTION 2

Heaven and Hell

QUESTIONS TO LEARN:

130. What happens to men when they die?

The body returns to dust, and the soul goes into the world of spirits.

131. Will the bodies of the dead be raised to life again?

Yes. "There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust."

132. What will happen to the wicked in the Day of Judgment?

They shall be cast into hell.

133. What is hell?

A place of dreadful and endless punishment.

134. What will happen to the righteous in the Day of Judgment?

They shall live with Christ forever, in a new heaven and a new earth.

135. What is heaven? A glorious and happy place, where
* the righteous shall live forever with the Lord.

When Jesus raised Martha's brother Lazarus from the dead, she saw that Jesus has authority over life and death, and she began to understand what he meant when he told her that he was her life – life to all who believe in him. Many years after Jesus had died and risen again, God gave the disciple John a vision of the end times. Christ will then return and resurrect believers to eternal life with him, condemning all others to eternal punishment and separation from God. John's recorded vision is known as the Revelation – the last book of the Bible.

The Resurrection and the Life

Martha sat in a corner and numbly watched the many guests who filled the outer room of the house she had shared all her life with her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus. Into her dark thoughts came the persistent little voice that had nagged at Martha for four days. "If Jesus had been here, Lazarus would not have died," it said. But of course, she and Mary had probably notified Jesus too late. Or maybe Jesus had guessed that her brother was already gone, and that was why he hadn't come sooner. Surely he would have come if there had been time, wouldn't he?

Martha shook her head, trying to dislodge the regrets and fears that haunted her. She looked up as a friend pushed through the crowd of mourners and approached her. He grasped her shaking shoulders, and whispered excitedly in her ear, "Martha, Jesus comes! He is a half mile outside of town, on his way to your house."

A bright spot she could cling to! "I will go and first talk to Jesus alone," she thought. And with that, she roused herself from her grieving and hurried down the road toward Jerusalem. She had not gone far when she saw Jesus and his disciples in the distance and ran to meet them.

"Lord," cried Martha, as she fought back her reproachful tears, "*if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.*"

"*You brother will rise again,*" Jesus said, tenderly taking her hands and looking directly into her eyes. She saw that he too was near weeping, though his sorrow seemed somehow different from her own.

"Yes, Lord, I know what God's prophets have taught about the resurrection of our bodies on the last day. Lazarus will rise in the resurrection," she agreed.

"*I am the resurrection and the life,*" Jesus responded, holding her gaze in a way that told her he was saying something new. "*He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?*"

Martha considered these words. She was not sure she understood all that Jesus had said, but of one thing she was sure. "*I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world,*" she cried.

Martha returned to tell Mary and the others that Jesus had come. After Jesus had comforted Mary, the whole crowd followed him to the cave in which Lazarus' body had already lain for four hot desert days. A stone covered the entrance.

When Jesus reached the tomb, he raised his hands, and commanded, *"Take away the stone."*

Martha was bewildered. Before she could stop herself, she blurted out, *"But, Lord, by his time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."*

Jesus gazed back at her. "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" he asked, reminding her of his earlier words.

There he stood before Lazarus' tomb, his eyes radiating with love and power. What had he said before? Oh, yes, that whoever believes in him will live even though he dies! What would her friend and master do? Martha slowly backed away from the rock that sealed Lazarus' tomb and watched as several men heaved the stone away from the entrance. Nothing moved inside.

But Jesus looked up and prayed, *"Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you have sent me."*

Then Jesus looked toward the dark opening and called out in a loud voice, *"Lazarus, come out!"*

Every eye was fixed on the tomb. Many in the crowd had surely heard about or seen the healing miracles Jesus had performed all over Judea, but calling forth a dead man was something else entirely. Some of them shuffled about uneasily as they waited.

Martha, however, fixed her hope on the promises Jesus had given her. She wanted to trust that Jesus was all that he had told her he was. And to her own surprise, she found that she fully expected her brother to appear in the entrance to the cave.

Soon she heard a rustling from within. No one dared take a breath when – moments later – Lazarus struggled out into the light, his movements hampered by the strips of linen in which his body had been wrapped. He was alive! Her beloved brother lived!

"Take off the grave clothes and let him go," Jesus ordered and looked at Martha, his eyes shining.

Martha's face also shone as she looked back at Jesus. Not only had her brother been restored to life, but Martha now understood that her dear friend Jesus was the resurrection – he was life itself.

Taken from: John 11:1-44.

FROM THE BIBLE:

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:3-4)

"And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (John 17:3)

"For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will." (John 5:21)

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. . . . For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:14, 16-17)

TALKING IT OVER:

- 1. What did Jesus promise Martha about the death of those who believe in him? Does this mean that our bodies will live forever? Does it mean that our souls will live forever?*
- 2. What do you think Jesus meant when he said he is the resurrection and the life? (See John 17:3 and Colossians 3:3-4, above.) What kind of life do you think you would have if you had to exist apart from God forever?*
- 3. What did Jesus demonstrate to Martha and the others when he raised Lazarus from the dead?*

And He Shall Reign Forever and Ever!

John brought his horse to a stop and labored to regain his breath. His younger brethren pulled up behind him reverently, pretending that they too needed a rest. As they all sat discussing the day's plans, John gazed down at the withered, wrinkled hands with which he grasped the saddle horn. He wondered how this body would survive the rest of what God had for him to do. Still, he longed to stay and finish his work almost as much as he longed to see his Savior again.

What were those words that the apostle Paul, his dear co-worker, had written to the young Philippian church not too long before he had died a martyr's death? Oh, yes, *"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith."*

John knew that he himself could not quit until he had told as many as possible about the revelations with which God had recently entrusted him – the glorious description of Christ's return to claim his resurrected children for eternity. Just as important, John must warn people of what he had seen would happen to those who did not belong to Christ – that they would be resurrected to an eternity spent in misery apart from God.

John spurred his horse into a gallop and his band of zealous Christians soon came to a small town where an old friend of John's was an elder of the church. There a young boy met him and escorted him to his friend's home. Something about the lad caught John's attention right away. Perhaps it was his sincerity and intelligence, or maybe it was the unusual energy and enthusiasm that John sensed would one day blossom into a keen ability to lead others.

"Look here," John told his friend when he arrived at his house, "this boy you have is surely to belong to Christ. The Lord can use his gifts mightily. We must do all we can to help him find the way. Do you understand?"

"Yes, my friend, I think I do," answered the elder.

"Good. Now, you must train him up in all God's ways. Teach him to love Christ, to love what Christ loves, and to hate what Christ hates. One

day perhaps he will step into the shoes of those of us who are growing too old to lead the Church, or who have already been martyred for Christ. I alone of the original Twelve am left, you know."

Over the months that followed, the elder did all he had promised. While John traveled into the surrounding cities giving the Revelation to the churches, the elder nurtured the boy, baptized him, and gently taught him all the ways of the faith.

But as time passed, the elder relaxed his careful vigil over the boy's soul and left him to himself. When he had grown nearly to manhood, the boy fell in with a gang of rebellious youth and grew wild and reckless in his ways.

One day the gang members committed a crime more horrible than any the boy had ever participated in before. Knowing that if he or the others ever got caught, they would pay for it dearly, the boy decided he had no choice but to forever abandon the righteous path, and instead do all he could to protect his new companions. He found within himself the very leadership qualities that John had been so quick to see in him, and the gang readily followed him into the hills, where he presided over their mischief and robberies with rarely a thought for Christ.

Months later, John returned to the home of the elder in whose care he had left the boy. "Where is the lad I gave you to train?" he asked. "I am ready to claim him in the Lord's service."

"The boy?" cried the old elder, crumpling under John's demand, for he knew that he had failed to fulfill the apostle's charge to him. "Why, the boy is dead!"

"Dead!" exclaimed John. "What happened?"

"He is dead to all good purposes," the elder groaned. "For after I had given him all I had, he turned away from the faith and fled into the hills with a gang of ruffians. Now he and his followers terrorize the countryside."

"Well, you were a fine guardian of that boy's soul!" John rebuked him. "Don't you understand that we are living in the last days? We must all be ready for the time Christ appears, and we must help others to be also!" And with that, the aged disciple ordered a horse and rode off into the hills to find the boy.

Alone, John was easy prey for one of the boy's raiding parties. They quickly surrounded him and took him prisoner, and at his own request they then delivered him into the hands of their ruthless captain. But when the boy saw John – the one who had been in the presence of Jesus himself,

guilt and shame so overwhelmed him that he fled into the woods, leaving his followers too stunned to restrain John further.

The old apostle pursued the youth on foot, but quickly lost his breath and cried out, "Wait, don't run from me. I am your old father, and I come to restore you. Though you are dead in the eyes of the church, in Christ you have the hope of forgiveness. Look at me," John commanded, "I will pray for you, frail as I am. I will gladly give my own life for you, as Christ did for us. Heaven is worth it. I have seen it myself! Come!"

And although the young man was at first afraid that his sins were too great for God to forgive, John helped him to understand the sufficiency of Christ's atonement for the sins of all those who the Father would give him. He began to see a gleam of hope, a gleam that John helped fan into a blazing passion for Christ as he told the young man all the astounding revelations of Christ's return that the Savior had shown John while he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos.

"The end times will be unspeakably marvelous for those who belong to Christ," John assured the young man. "Our hope in this promised eternity with Jesus is a hope by which to set the course of your life, a hope to cling to when tempted with earthly pleasures or fears, a hope that will fix you forever on the one true thing – the Son of God."

What could the boy do, but fall to his knees and cry out to God for mercy and forgiveness? Surely this was too great a gift for him to refuse! He had a Savior whose sacrifice was greater than all his sins, and a firm hope in an eternity in which every knee would bow before his Savior's throne.

This young man, due to the zeal of one who had seen heaven from earth, was restored to the fellowship of believers. And as the early church historian Eusebius tells us, he became a visible trophy of Christ's cross and resurrection.¹⁴

According to Church tradition, the tenderhearted John was the only one of the original twelve disciples to escape a violent death. Soon after he presented the early church with the book of Revelation that he had received from Christ while imprisoned on Patmos, John too laid down his mantle of service and went to meet the risen Savior he had so longed for.

Taken from Eusebius Pamphilus (The Ecclesiastical History 3.23), in a treatise written by the second-century Christian author Clement of Alexandria. Eusebius felt that it was a particularly delightful narrative as well as one that would edify his readers. We feel the same, though we recognize that this story could be mere legend.

FROM THE BIBLE:

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. . . . "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:12-14, 20b)

[This will happen] . . . when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, . . . (1 Thessalonians 1:7b-10a)

TALKING IT OVER:

1. John received an amazing vision from God about heaven, hell, and judgment in the book of Revelation. How did this vision affect his actions regarding the boy in the above story? (He was zealous and urgent in the cause of Christ.)
2. Look over Revelation chapters 1, 2, 21, and 22. What can we look for in the future?
3. How did this knowledge affect the boy in the story? How will this knowledge affect the way you live today?