

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](http://truelife.org) for more information.

April 20, 2025

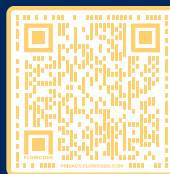
**Ridgewood**  
**CHURCH**

### Announcements:

- » **Wednesday Nights at 6p**
  - Wednesday Night Bible Study continues this Wednesday at 6p with our continued study on the Doctrine of the Church: The Church Defined.
- » **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 5/31/25 from 10a-1p.
  - NTS SETX Board Meeting for Shine On planning, May 14th at 6p.
  - Shine On Work Night will be held on Wednesday, May 28th at 6p.
- » **TODAY - Easter Sunday**
  - We will have our normal Fellowship Luncheon at 12 noon.
  - Take a free copy of "The Story of Jesus: A Guided Journey through the Gospel of John" and give away to someone this week.
- » **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: \$54,000.00      Actual Tithe Income: \$53,109.48

409.729.6000 • [ridgewoodchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:ridgewoodchurch@yahoo.com) • [www.ridgewoodchurch.us](http://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 20, 2025

## Sermon Notes:

**Song** "Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"

### Welcome

### Catechism/Responsorial - Doctrine - The Holy Spirit

52. Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power? No. I can do nothing good without God's Holy Spirit.

53. How can you receive the Holy Spirit? God has told us that we must pray to Him for the Holy Spirit.

Memory Verse: John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."

### Pray for our Church Body (James 5:16)

Mark Davis Family

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

Local | Gene Winston | Constable Precinct 8

State | Mike Banks | Texas Boarder Czar

National | Todd Lyons | Director of ICE

### Pray for the Great Commission (Luke 10:2)

### New Testament Scripture

Acts 2:22-36, page 910

### Songs

"Christ the Lord is Risen - He Is Not Dead"

"Jesus is Alive"

"Because He Lives"

### Old Testament Scripture

Exodus 14, page 56

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

"And Can It Be? That I Should Gain" Charles Wesley - 1738

### Message

The Darkness of Betrayal | Matthew 26:14-25, page 832

### Confession/Repentance

### Lord's Supper

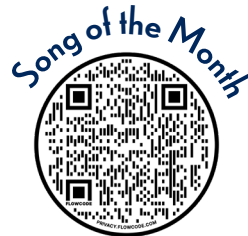
"Jesus Paid It All"

### Dismissal/Offering

"Doxology"

### Fellowship Luncheon

Please join us in the gym for fellowship and food!



## UNIT 4 – SECTION 2

# The Holy Spirit

### QUESTIONS TO LEARN:

**52. Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?**

No. I can do nothing good without God's Holy Spirit.

**53. How can you receive the Holy Spirit?**

God has told us that we must pray to him for the Holy Spirit.

\* \* \*

*God's Holy Spirit enables us to repent and believe. The Holy Spirit led Paul to Philippi to proclaim the truth about Christ to Lydia and her household, and thereafter opened Lydia's heart to understand her need for a Savior. Over the years, however, many overzealous preachers have not trusted in God's Spirit to accomplish a genuine, inward work of grace in people's lives. One such man was the famous nineteenth-century revivalist Charles Finney, whose preaching often worked people into an emotional fervor that they sadly mistook for salvation.*

# The Opened Heart

Claudius admired the selection of sheer linens that his supplier had spread across the floor of his gift stall in the Philippi marketplace. "Lydia, you must have every color imaginable, but my favorite is still the 'royal purple.' And it's my best seller too. The wealthy Roman officials are especially fond of it."

Lydia accepted Claudius' compliment with a smile. She imported the "royal purple" from her business contacts back in Thyatira, and had already noticed how much it was in demand among the Roman soldiers and dignitaries who were now living in Philippi. She had certainly made her move to this bustling town at just the right moment, financially speaking.

But money had not really been her motive. She still was not quite sure why she had decided to uproot her household and move to a new province. After all, it was especially hard for her to practice her religion here, since there were so few Jews in Philippi. They didn't even have a synagogue in which to meet. She herself was not a Jew, but she had come to see that the God of the Jewish Scriptures was the only true God. Somehow she felt that he had drawn her here, that he was trying to show her something she had been unable to see before.

Ten miles east, in the coastal town of Neapolis, Paul was getting off the ship from Troas. He and his companions—Silas, Luke and Timothy—were on a mission trip from Antioch.

Before sailing, the group had tried to go into two other provinces, but the Holy Spirit had shut the door on those attempts. Then Paul had had a dream about a man from Macedonia, the province that included Philippi. In the dream the man had begged Paul to come there and help the Macedonians. So Paul and his companions had traveled from Troas to Neapolis, and the door was open wide. They had only to seek out those whose hearts the Holy Spirit was opening to Christ.

The missionaries made their way first to Philippi, arriving just before the Sabbath. Early in the morning of their day of worship, they left the city through the west gate and made their way to the Gangites River, where they had planned to find a quiet place to pray.



Lydia, too, headed toward the river at the first signs of dawn. She had all the women of her household in tow—the personal servants, the weavers, those who cleaned and dyed the fabrics. They would join the group of God-fearing worshipers at the Gangites.

The women were already in prayer at the riverbank when Paul's group arrived. Seeing them, Paul urgently felt their need for Jesus.

"Have any of you heard about Jesus of Nazareth, the one who was crucified in Jerusalem and on the third day was resurrected to eternal life?" he began.

At the mention of the name, Lydia's heart beat a little faster. "We heard talk of him before we moved here from Thyatira," she conceded, "Who was he?"

"He is the one who sent me to you," Paul said. "His Holy Spirit led me to come to Macedonia and find those whose hearts the Lord was preparing to receive salvation. Before he was crucified, Jesus promised to send his Spirit to reveal the truth about himself to those who would recognize him as their Savior."

As Paul spoke, that same Spirit of God opened Lydia's heart to all that Paul said so that she understood and joyfully embraced the good news about Christ. This was what she had been yearning for. The women of her household also believed, and all were baptized there on the banks of the Gangites by the four missionaries.

From that moment on, Lydia supported Paul's Macedonian ministry in whatever ways she could. She no longer considered herself her own, but put her home and wealth at God's disposal with great thankfulness for the work he had done in her heart.

*Taken from: Acts 16:6-15.*

## FROM THE BIBLE:

*One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. (Acts 16:14)*

*If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (Luke 11:13)*

### TALKING IT OVER:

1. *Who was responsible for Lydia's belief in Jesus Christ as her Savior?*
2. *What were some of the many ways that the Holy Spirit acted in her life and Paul's to bring this about?*
3. *Was it only for Lydia that the Holy Spirit gave her the gift of faith? After God gives us faith, how might he use us to encourage faith in others?*

# The Man Who Tried to Save Evans Mills

On an evening late in the spring of 1824, a sizable crowd filled the schoolhouse in Evans Mills, New York. Tonight Charles Grandison Finney would light a revivalist fire that would blaze across the American frontier.

But that night, Finney was not happy with what went on. As he warmed to his preaching—explaining yet again about God's judgment and about salvation through Christ—Finney observed his audience. One man in the third row was dozing while his wife smiled and nodded her head now and then at what Finney said. The others also looked pleased with his sermon, when they weren't whispering back and forth making plans for Sunday dinner.

"Why, I've been preaching to them every night for weeks, and they are still staring at me with the same glazed-over serenity. They just don't get it," Finney thought. "I believe it's time to light a fire under their carefree hides."

He stopped mid-sentence and glared at his congregation for a long moment. The woman in the third row nudged her husband awake. Then Finney shouted loudly, "Do you admit that what I've been preaching is the truth? Well, *do you?*"

Rows of sinners gazed back at him, speechless.

"Most or all of you profess to believe it. But do you really? Know that if you do not repent and believe this moment, then you are rejecting the Lord's gospel. Who is ready to do what he ought to do? A horse may trample you to death tonight and you may never get another chance. Now what will it be?" He raised his voice even louder, and reached far over the lectern pointing his finger around the room. "Those of you who are ready right now to commit to God, stand up. Those of you who are not interested in salvation, just sit there."

For what seemed like many minutes, not a head was turned or a breath exhaled. But all eyes discreetly flitted around the room to see what the others would do. No one moved an inch.

"Very well," Finney declared, "you have made your choice! You have rejected the Savior. Now go home. I will only preach one more night here, and then I'll move on to a town where people are willing to turn from their sins and follow Christ. I just hope you are all able to come back here tomorrow night." Then Finney watched silently as the congregation, stunned and bewildered, filed out of the schoolhouse.

The next night, Finney tells us in his memoirs, the anxious townspeople followed him through the streets and packed the schoolhouse "to its utmost capacity." Would this really be their last chance to repent? Who would do it? No one wanted to miss out on the hubbub. Some didn't want to miss out on salvation. Almost everyone was there.

That night, Finney told the people of Evans Mills everything he knew about hell. He preached for more than an hour, describing in great detail the misery of eternity apart from God. By the end of his sermon, the children were weeping into their mothers' laps, all the men were pale, and some of the women had fainted away at the prospect of what lay before them. Just as Finney had planned, the congregation was now a powder keg of emotions.

Finney looked down on them fiercely. "I'll be right here tomorrow night," he said, and again abruptly walked out of the schoolhouse. He had given them no chance to repent! The stage was set.

Over the next several nights, the people poured into the schoolhouse in a state of high agitation. Those of every religious and moral persuasion squeezed in. One man brought his gun and threatened to kill Finney for working his wife up into a terrified fervor. Finney took no notice, but preached his heart out and commanded them, "Now, sinners, do your duty and repent of your transgressions. It will be told tonight in heaven and hell what you decide to do. Here is the window you can jump through to salvation. It's open just a bit. Come to the front right now if you choose the way of Christ!"

Revival had come to Evans Mills. Or so it seemed.

As Finney honed his revival style, the people of Evans Mills and nearby towns in which he preached were powerfully moved. On many nights, as he threatened and shamed them, dozens leapt up and made their way to the front. Some came groaning and yelling. Some got only a few steps before they fell to the ground weeping or bawling. Others joined the fray not wanting to be left behind, struggling to the front just to see what would happen. In the end, Finney was quite satisfied that the people in and around Evans Mills had come to their senses and grabbed hold of salvation.

Although few doubted that Charles Finney knew the Lord himself, many in his day and since have condemned his methods. He preached as if people could repent of their sins and believe in Christ in their own power, simply by deciding to. It was true that some genuinely came to Christ during these services, but many who thought they had been converted during Finney's revival meetings had only had their feelings stirred up. Lacking the Holy Spirit's conviction, they were not truly sorry

for their sins and did not really trust in Christ. They went forward only because their emotions were inflamed—they feared hell, or they thought they wouldn't get another chance. Some went forward just because everyone else did. Sadly, some of them never recovered from the confusion and disappointment of their "revival" experiences.

#### FROM THE BIBLE:

*Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (1 Corinthians 2:12)*

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" (Matthew 7:21-23)*

#### TALKING IT OVER:

1. Remember that repentance means being sorry for sin and forsaking it because it displeases God. Do you think all of the people who came forward in Charles Finney's revival in Evans Mills really became Christians? Why?
2. What does God give us to help us repent of sin and believe in Christ for forgiveness? Can we repent and believe without the Holy Spirit's help?
3. Do you think there are people who appear to believe in Christ when they really don't? How do you know if you are truly a Christian? (A true Christian will want to do God's will, and will have some evidence of the Holy Spirit in his life. See Matthew 7 above.)