

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

January 12, 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!

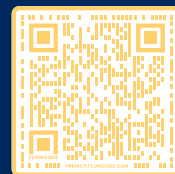
**True Life Cards** | We encourage you to pick up some True Life Cards in the foyer and give out a few every week. Pray for an opportunity of Gospel conversation with and the salvation of people in the following categories: Family, Friends, Neighbors, Coworkers, Community. Go to [truelife.org](http://truelife.org)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

### Announcements:

- » Wednesday Night Bible Study @ 6p Resumes February 12
  - Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, 2/12 with a study on the Doctrine of the Church.
- » Night to Shine SETX 2/7/25
  - Register as a Volunteer TODAY at [www.nighttoshinesetx.com](http://www.nighttoshinesetx.com).
  - Wednesday NTS SETX Worknights will be held in January leading up to Night to Shine SETX including this week 1/15/25 from 6p-8p. Pizza will be provided along with activities and work for all ages.
  - TODAY - Prom Dress Boutique #2 from 2-4p.
  - Volunteer Training Dates, 1/23, 1/26, & 1/29
- » Church Board Budget Meeting Today @12:30p
- » 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
  - Annual Meeting Budget Approval, Sunday, 1/26/25

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: January 12, 2025

# Sermon Notes:

Song "Behold Our God"

## Welcome

## Catechism/Responsorial - Doctrine-Glorifying God

4. How can you glorify God? By loving Him and doing what he commands.
5. Why should you glorify God? Because He made me and takes care of me.

Memory Verses:

Matthew 22:37-39, "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

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

James & Tammy Roberts

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

Local |

State | \*\*Pray for California wild fire situation\*\*

National |

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

## New Testament Scripture

James 1:19-25, page 1011

## Songs

"Rejoice the Lord is King"

"Yet Not I, But Christ in Me"

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

## Old Testament Scripture

Genesis 49, page 42

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

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" by George Dunfield - 1858

## Message

The Antidote to Hypocrisy | Matthew 23:1-12, page 828

## Confession/Repentance

## Lord's Supper

"I Surrender All"

## Dismissal/Offering

"Doxology"

## Fellowship Luncheon

Please join us in the gym for fellowship and food!



## UNIT 1 – SECTION 2

# Glorifying God

### QUESTIONS TO LEARN:

#### 4. How can you glorify God?

By loving him and doing what he commands.

#### 5. Why should you glorify God?

Because he made me and takes care of me.

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*The right response to God's glory is one of wholehearted devotion and obedience. John the Baptist rejoiced to see Jesus growing in popularity, even though it meant his own ministry would wane. The sixteenth-century reformer Bernard Gilpin showed unwavering and loving obedience to God throughout difficult personal trials. In these ways, their lives brought glory to God.*

# Only a Voice in the Wilderness

The shore and shallow waters of the Jordan River outside of Bethany were teeming with repentant Judeans waiting their turns to confess their sins.

John the Baptist, wearing his trademark camel's hair tunic and leather belt, stood in water up to his waist, waiting for an old man to wade out to him.

"What sins do you confess, friend?" John asked the old man.

"I am a tax collector, and have often collected more money than I was entitled to, even from the poor. I . . . I kept much money for myself," he admitted solemnly.

"And do you now repent of these sins and seek God's forgiveness?" John asked.

"Yes. I want to be right with God and to obey Him."

John eased the old man backwards, dipped him briefly under the water, and lifted him up again. John then turned to the crowd and addressed them in a loud voice, "I am baptizing you only with water to signify your repentance from your selfish, ungodly ways. But there is already one among you who you do not yet know, the sandals of whom I am not worthy to untie. *He will baptize you with the Spirit and with fire.*" He said this because he knew that many of them mistakenly thought he himself might possibly be the Christ for whom all the Jews were waiting.

After the old man waded off, John glanced up to see who was next. As he did, he noticed a stranger coming toward them along the riverbank from the direction of Galilee.

At the sight of him, John's heart leapt in his breast and beat furiously until the man arrived on the nearby shore. It was Jesus. John ran out of the water to meet him.

"You must baptize me, John," Jesus said.

"Oh, Lord, but I need to be baptized by *you* who are without sin!" John exclaimed. "*And do you come to me?*"

"*Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness,*" Jesus assured him. So John consented and escorted Jesus down into the Jordan and baptized him. As Jesus emerged from the water, John saw heaven open up and the Holy Spirit descend and light upon Jesus like a dove. God had told John that he would know the Christ because he would see the dove descend and remain on him.



Then John heard a voice from heaven say, *"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."* John fell on the bank and worshipped Jesus, while the people crowded around them, baffled.

"This is the one I've been telling you about," John told them. "He is the one about whom I said, *'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'*" (By this he meant that Jesus' earthly ministry would begin after John's had, but that because Jesus is God he has always existed and therefore was before John.) "He is *the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! The reason I came baptizing with water was so that he might be revealed to Israel. He is the Son of God.*"

Two of John's followers had listened intently to this testimony. As Jesus emerged from the river, they made their way through the warm sand and waiting crowd to reach him. When Jesus saw them, he turned and asked, *"What do you want?"*

"Teacher," they said, *"where are you staying?"*

*"Come and you will see."* So they followed Jesus to the house where he was staying and became his disciples.

Not long after this, John was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because the water there was deep and the people were eager to repent. He was disappointed when some of his followers interrupted him to settle an argument for them.

"Why are you disputing among yourselves at a time like this? Look at all those people waiting for our encouragement. Receive them!" John demanded.

"But Teacher," one of them said, "the one you baptized and said is the Lamb of God . . . well, he is baptizing just up the river, and more people are going to him than are coming to you! You must do something."

Again John felt his heart jump within his breast and then pound with joy. "Ah," he thought, "he finally has begun his work! The kingdom of God is at hand, and my job is done."

To his jealous followers, John said gently, "I told you all along that I was sent only to prepare the way for him. Now that he has come, *he must become greater; I must become less.*

"Jesus is from above and is above all. He speaks the very words of God. The Father has placed all things into his hands. *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God will not forgive him. Now go. Join the others who have already left me to follow him and find life.*"

*Taken from Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:4-13; Luke 3:1-22; John 1:15,19-39; 3:22-36.*

## FROM THE BIBLE:

*When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, . . .  
"I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do."  
(John 17:1a, 4)*

*May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony  
with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one  
voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:5-6)*

## TALKING IT OVER:

1. *In the above story, what are the ways that John the Baptist glorified God?*
2. *When we believe and obey God with all our hearts, and tell others about him, how do the people around us respond to God? How did they respond when John the Baptist did these things? How does this response glorify God?*
3. *Why wasn't John the Baptist upset when his followers left him to follow Jesus?*

# The True Story of a Blessed Broken Leg

November 23, 1558

My Dearest Sister Cecily:

I write to you not from the stockades, as you probably expected, but as a free man, and I will soon be on my way back to you and all my dear parishioners in Houghton. The Lord has delivered me from my enemies in a most dramatic fashion! You must tell the story, as I can't bear for another hour to go by without my friends and family hearing all that God has done.

As you know, I was recently on my way to a martyr's death, to be tried for heresy in London before the infamous Bishop Bonner. He, of course, was, until a week ago, the puppet of Queen Mary, who had pledged herself an enemy of our "reformed" Christianity. She was determined that none would publicly acknowledge that the Bible is supreme over Church doctrine, and that salvation from sin is through Christ alone.

Because I love you, though, I have tried to faithfully preach biblical truth to all of you whom the Lord has entrusted to my spiritual care. Of course, it was this preaching, along with my disagreement with many practices of the Catholic Church to which Queen Mary was devoted, that got me into trouble with Bonner.

When I first got word that I was to be tried for "heresy," it frankly took my breath away. I knew that what Bonner termed heresy was in fact the truth given to us by the Lord in his Holy Scripture. Still, it stung to be publicly accused of the very thing I am so dedicated to fighting against—distortions and lies about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I took this to my Father in prayer instantly, and he showed me that I might do more to reveal the deceptions of the Catholic Church by publicly dying for the truth he has set out in Scripture, than by proclaiming it from a pulpit for the rest of a long life. And so I quickly came to welcome the idea of being beheaded or burned at the stake for my Lord Jesus. And if it would glorify God more for me to live, then he could and would accomplish that too, in whatever manner he chose. For this reason, I rejected the pleading of many friends to flee Houghton before Bonner's guards came for me.

I clung to the Lord's promise in Romans 8:28, which says, "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*" This I had preached in our parish time

and again. I knew that God had graced me with love for himself and that God had called me according to his purpose, first to know him, then to become rector there in Houghton, and finally to be accused of heresy during Queen Mary's persecution of the growing number of reformed believers. And I knew the Lord fulfills his promises. Thus, I rested in the assurance that whatever happened to me in this crisis would be his working for my good and for the good of others who loved or would love him. I clung to this promise constantly, with thanksgiving and growing anticipation of what he would do.

I prayed it when the guards came to the church to arrest me on October 29. I prayed it during the long and difficult days of the journey to London when I was bound in ropes and fed too little. I prayed this when on the ninth day of our journey—not too far outside London—I fell from the wagon and broke my leg. And I prayed it when the guards cursed me after my accident, angry at the delay. Indeed, they overheard my prayers and ridiculed me for thinking that God had allowed me to break my leg for my own good. Yet they seemed to grow a bit frightened at this and to wonder what this God I was so sure of might do next.

I was still clinging to this glorious promise when two other guards rode into our camp on November 21st to give us the amazing news that Queen Mary had died on November 17th. Most importantly, the new queen, Mary's sister Elizabeth, is sympathetic to reformed thinking and promptly upon inheriting the throne declared the martyrdom of reformed believers at an end. Shaken and surprised, my guards gently untied my ropes that morning, obviously reverent of what the Lord had done. I pray that they will be the first among those for whose good God performed these mighty acts on that road to London.

So you see, dear sister, my broken leg kept me from arriving in London until Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne. As soon as I am sufficiently healed, I will return to you. But you must tell the story now so that the greatest good for the greatest number results from these events. To his Glory!

Your joyful brother,  
Bernard Gilpin

For 26 more years the Lord did indeed use Bernard Gilpin to his glory. This beloved rector of Houghton went on many mission journeys throughout northern England to preach the truth of salvation by grace alone. He gave very generously to the poor until his death, opening his home to shelter boys in need, and establishing a foundation to build and operate a grammar school in Houghton.

## FROM THE BIBLE:

*"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." (John 15:8)*

*No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. (Romans 4:20-21)*

## TALKING IT OVER:

- 1. Why did Bernard Gilpin go with Bishop Bonner's guards instead of fleeing so that they could not find him?*
- 2. In what ways do you think God intervened in the events of the above story to take care of Bernard Gilpin? Why do you think God did these things?*
- 3. Do you think Bernard Gilpin "bore fruit" that glorified God? (John 15:8) What was it?*