

**DECEMBER 15, 2024**

THIRD OF ADVENT



**RIDGE PARADISE**

*"Til He appeared,  
and the soul felt its worth."*

## Community Highlights |

### **Christmas Caroling**

December 21st @ 4:00pm  
Meet at Kalanquin's (1820 Stark Lane)

### **Ladies Christmas Night**

Wednesday, December 18th @ 6:30pm  
See LinkTree for full details

### **Shaffer's Christmas Eve Service**

Join in the festivities! All are welcome!  
3882 Keefer Rd. | December 24th @ 5:30

### **Family Sunday Before Christmas**

Lessons and Carols with our Kids!  
Sunday, December 22nd

For the thorough list of announcements with links to **GIVING, EMAIL LIST, WORSHIP PLAYLIST, SMALL GROUPS, SERMONS**, etc. check out our Linktree by scanning the QR code to the right or by visiting our website as detailed below!



## Ridge Kids |

### **Pre-school & Elementary**

Kids are encouraged to stay in the service for worship singing, congregational prayer, and confession of faith. After the singing concludes, we'll pray for our kids and dismiss them to the Children's Education Building. They can be picked up right after the Benediction.

### **Note Challenge**

For older kids (9yrs.+), we have sermon notebooks at the back of the sanctuary. If you turn in a note page with a little something you heard from the sermon, you'll get to take your pick from the prize chest.

### **Ridge Presbyterian Church**

RidgeParadise & VespersChico

Find us Online: [www.ridgepresbyterian.org](http://www.ridgepresbyterian.org)

Office: 562 Manzanita Ave. Ste. 3 Chico, 95926

Call/Email: 530.872.8270 | [office.ridgepres@gmail.com](mailto:office.ridgepres@gmail.com)

**Ridge Presbyterian** is a church of people gathered around one thing—Jesus Christ, and his gospel of unlimited grace. As a church, we come from lots of different places: lost, found, burned, cynical, broken, hurting, or some combination of all of these. But what unites us and keeps us coming back together week after week is the reality of a Savior who has given unimaginable hope to any who admit their need and sprawl out before Him. This Jesus is really all we have to offer at RPC. We are convinced that not only is He enough, but that HE alone is true wisdom, life, and fullness of joy.

**If you are new** or newish here, we are so glad that you have joined us! We would love to know more about you, as well as give you the chance to learn a bit more about us. Use the QR code to the right to access our welcome card and let us know you were here.



### Call to Worship from Psalm 47.5-7

God has gone up with a shout

**The Lord with the sound of a trumpet**

Sing praises to God, sing praises!

**Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

For God is the King of all the earth

**Sing praises with a psalm!**

*God calls His people into worship, not the other way around. His Word is the only thing that can truly draw our hearts into worship in Spirit and Truth. And so, we begin here.*

### Songs of Worship and Praise

Please feel free to worship in the way that the Lord is leading. Whether standing or sitting, hands raised or kneeling before the Lord. There is no required posture.

*The Bible tells us to let the Word of Christ dwell within us richly by “singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.” Thus, we sing of what God has done, and about our delight in Him.*

### Third Week of Advent Isaiah 9.6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, **Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Prayer isn't just a private interaction with God, it is also a part of public worship. God calls His people to speak to Him as one unified body. “My” prayers become “Our” prayers as we cry out Him together.*

### An Advent Prayer Everlasting Father

Lord, you tell us that one of the names of Christ is “Everlasting Father” and that he will come to his people with the same care and compassion that a good father watches over his children. We pray that His fatherly affection **would calm our fears and comfort our souls**. We pray that His fatherly discipline **would mend our ways and guide our paths**. We pray that His fatherly protection **would defend our bodies and guard our mind**. In all of this Lord, let us know that His fatherly care is everlasting; **never ceasing, never fading, with us forever**. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

### Tithes & Offerings

Our ushers will pass collection baskets during the final song. If writing a check, please make payable to “Ridge Presbyterian Church,” since both Ridge Paradise and Vespers Chico are sites of Ridge Presbyterian. Thank you for your generosity.

*Tithes and Offerings are part of our worship and response to the gospel. When we grasp that “He who was rich, for our sake became poor” it stirs us to reflect that generosity in our giving.*

### Confession of Faith Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #21

Q: What is true faith?

**A: True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted not only to others, but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ’s merit. Amen.**

*Credo give us a chance to proclaim what we believe while also acknowledging that we are part of something bigger than this local church. We join our voice to Christians around the globe and throughout history who have confessed these same words.*

### Preaching of God’s Word Matthew 1.18-25

“Scandal & Wonder”

Pastor Bryan Laws

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.” (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

*Because God has spoken to us through His Word we strive to proclaim what it says and teach what it means. Through it, the Church receives training, correction, encouragement, and a deeper experience of the gospel of Jesus.*

### Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Please receive your communion elements from our elders up front. Return to your seat and hold them until all have been served so we can eat and drink together.

*Followers of Jesus are invited to His table where He spiritually feeds His people. Though these elements are common bread and wine, they symbolize His body and blood and “preach” to our senses that Christ abides in us and we abide in Him.*

### Benediction Numbers 6.24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

*God gets the final word in the worship service. And with it He chooses to bless His people. That is what the word benediction means: “blessing.” Go in the peace of His blessing!*