

What Can I Expect When I Visit Your Church?

When you come and visit with us here at Ridge Avenue, you can expect to find a group of warm, friendly Christians trying to do what God would have us to do. The Bible is our only guide in our worship. God has told us exactly what He wants from our worship, and we follow His desires.

Throughout each service, we lift our voices in song to the Lord. Our singing is always done a cappella, that is, without the aide of musical instruments. The Bible tells us to sing to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Because the New Testament does not include instrumental music in worship, we do not use them.

Also, throughout each worship service, we pray to the Father. Prayer is very important to the Christian, and it is important for us when we come together. The early church was a prayerful church (Acts 2:42; 4:23-31; 12:5).

On the first day of each week, we partake of the Lord's Supper. Just before Jesus went to the cross, He met with His disciples and gave them a memorial that they were to partake of after His death (Matthew 26:26-30). After the death of Jesus, Paul reminds us of this memorial (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). We take of the unleavened bread, which represents the body of Christ that was broken on the cross. We also take of the fruit of the vine, which represents the blood that Jesus shed on the cross. Both of these are done in remembrance of the death of Christ. Although Jesus never told us when to take of this memorial, the early church took of it on every first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Therefore, we follow their authorized example and partake of the Lord's Supper each Sunday.

Also, on the first day of the week, we give back to God a portion of the material things that He has blessed us with. Paul told the church in Corinth to do this on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Therefore, we do the same. This money is used to spread the word of God in this community and throughout the world.

Each time we come together, we study the word of God. On Sunday, we have sermons that are founded in the Scripture. On Wednesday, we have Bible classes that deal with the word of God. It is our goal to preach "*Jesus Christ and Him crucified*" (1 Corinthians 2:2). We do not teach from man's philosophy or wisdom. We teach only from the word of God.

Each lesson is concluded with the invitation of our Lord. During this time, those who want to be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) or those who need forgiveness for sin in their life (Acts 8:22) can come forward and make that need known. Of course, these things can be done privately as well, at any time during the week. This is simply the opportunity that we give to those who need, or wish, to respond publicly.

As a visitor, we want you to feel as comfortable as possible. If you have any questions about anything that we do, please feel free to ask. We hope that you will be able to visit with us soon.