

THE PORCH

December 4, 2022



About Our Liturgy

We are all creatures of habit. Habits and rhythms shape who we are. Our Sunday gatherings are designed to help us press the story of Jesus into our souls and change who we are by repeating that same story over and over again.

Every week we gather to remember and celebrate these same old gospel truths: that we are sinners but we have a great savior. That the death and resurrection of Jesus brought his kingdom here. That we have been adopted into the family of God. That he has called us to love each other and our city. That we were created for a perfect world, and that this world is not all there is.

So we invite you to participate with us as a group of imperfect people who tell the same story over and over again, the story of King Jesus.





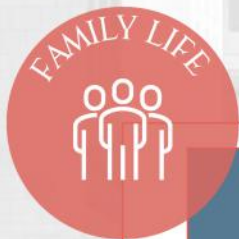
Call To Worship

Singing

* The American author David Foster Wallace wrote, "In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship." This is a powerful statement from a man who was not a follower of Jesus. He was 100% correct. We all have something at the center of our lives. Something that we believe will make us happy. Something that will fulfill us. Even those who follow Jesus often find that we are serving idols, something that ultimately won't fulfill us.

The gospel story tells us what will: Jesus Christ. Only he can fulfill us. Only he can redeem us. Only he can heal our deep spiritual wounds. Only he can give hope. Serving him as king is why we were created. This is why we open our gatherings with worship. Music touches our souls in a way that nothing else can. And so we use music as the people of God have done for thousands of years to remind ourselves that we serve an amazing King and that only he should be at the center of our lives.





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* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth. We pray for each other. We chat while getting coffee and tea. We talk about what's going on in the life of the family.

FAMILY LIFE



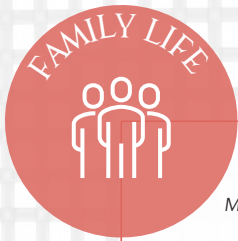
11/27 Hope (Individual Churches)
12/4 Peace (Individual Churches)
12/11 Joy @ Porch
12/18 Love @ Trinity SF
12/25 Christmas @ First Presbyterian
1/1 New Year's Day @ First Presbyterian



FAMILY LIFE







Prayer

Monthly Schedule

Week 1: We read a prayer from church history.

Week 2: We take requests and pray for each other.

Week 3: Congregational Prayer.

Week 4: Praying the Psalms.

Week 5: We take requests and pray for each other.

Coffee

This quick time of greeting isn't a break in the worship but rather a continuation of our worship. Take five minutes to grab a cup of coffee and say hello to someone else in the room.



Advent Week 2: Peace

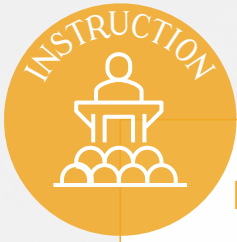
Last Sunday, we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the prophet's candle of hope. We light it again as we remember that Christ, who was born in a manger in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us.

Today we light the candle of peace, also known as the angels' candle, to reflect their declaration of "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men." We are surrounded by a world in which there is very little peace to be found at times. War, injustice, and tragedy are all too common. However, because of our relationship with Jesus, we are promised a peace that passes understanding. Christ gave us peace when He first came to us, and He will bring everlasting peace when He comes again.

The prophet Isaiah called Christ the Prince of Peace. When Jesus came, He taught the importance of being peace makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. We light the candle of peace today to remind us of Jesus. He is the Prince of Peace, and only through Him can real peace be found.



*2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." God's word is precious. This time is less about the words of the preacher and more about the words of God. So here at The Porch we usually go through an entire book of the Bible verse by verse. We want to soak up the truth. We want to see Jesus on every page. We want to know the gospel better than we did yesterday. When that happens, we will be more loving, more humble, more hopeful, more joyful, and more blown away by what we learn about our King.



Sermon: Peacemakers



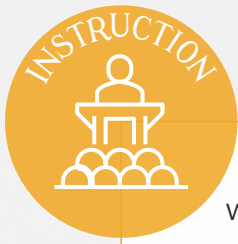
Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Romans 5:1 "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:9-11 "Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more



shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

Matthew 5:1-12 "Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 "Blessed are

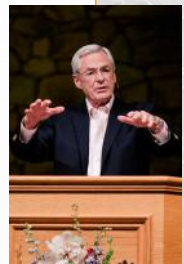


the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

#1 A peacemaker has already made peace with God.

R. Kent Hughes, "No one can become a peacemaker until he has found peace himself."



Graham Cole, "Sin brings strife because it spoils relationships between us."



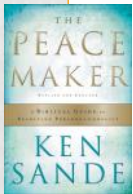
Colossians 1:13 "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,"

#2 A peacemaker leads others to peace with God.

D.T Niles, "Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread."

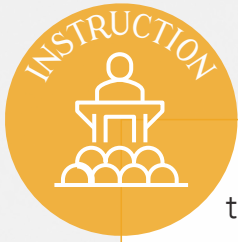


#3 A peacemaker fosters peace with the people around them.



Ken Sande, "Conflict provides opportunities to glorify God, to serve others, and to grow to be like Christ."

John 1:4-5 "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."



Ephesians 4:15 "15 Rather, speaking the truth in love..."

#4 A peacemaker builds on common ground.

1 Corinthians 9:20 "To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law."

#5 A peacemaker is willing to be hurt to bring peace.

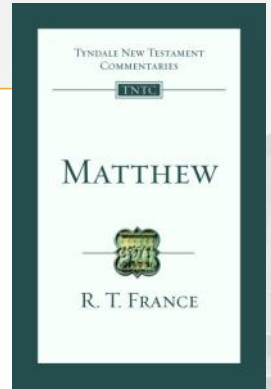
#6 A peacemaker reflects his/her father.

D. A. Carson, "It means we learn to reflect something of the character of God who is the supreme peacemaker, according to the Beatitudes. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God."





R.T. France, "God is the supreme peacemaker (cf. Eph. 2:14–18 ; Col. 1:20) and this quality marks disciples out as his sons, for the son shares the characteristics of the father."





Singing

* In the sermon we listened to the gospel preached. Here, we respond with worship. We sing the praises of the God who has saved us and given us hope.

Confession & Lament Communion Singing

*The gospel is not the story of what we do to earn God's love. The gospel is the story of what God has done to bring us back to life. The problem is that we are forgetful and we all constantly slip into moralism where we think that we need to live a certain way to earn God's love. This is the time in our gathering where we intentionally confess our sin and take communion to remind us of the grace of God. We remember that we are not redeemed by doing anything. We are redeemed by the death of Jesus in our place.



Benediction

Psalm 29:11

11 May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Numbers 6:24–26

24 The Lord bless you and keep you;
25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



*We are not just followers of King Jesus for a few hours on Sunday morning. We are ambassadors of his kingdom everywhere we go. With our families. At work. With our friends and neighbors. So every week, we finish our gatherings by remembering that we represent him everywhere we go and that we are called to radically love



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