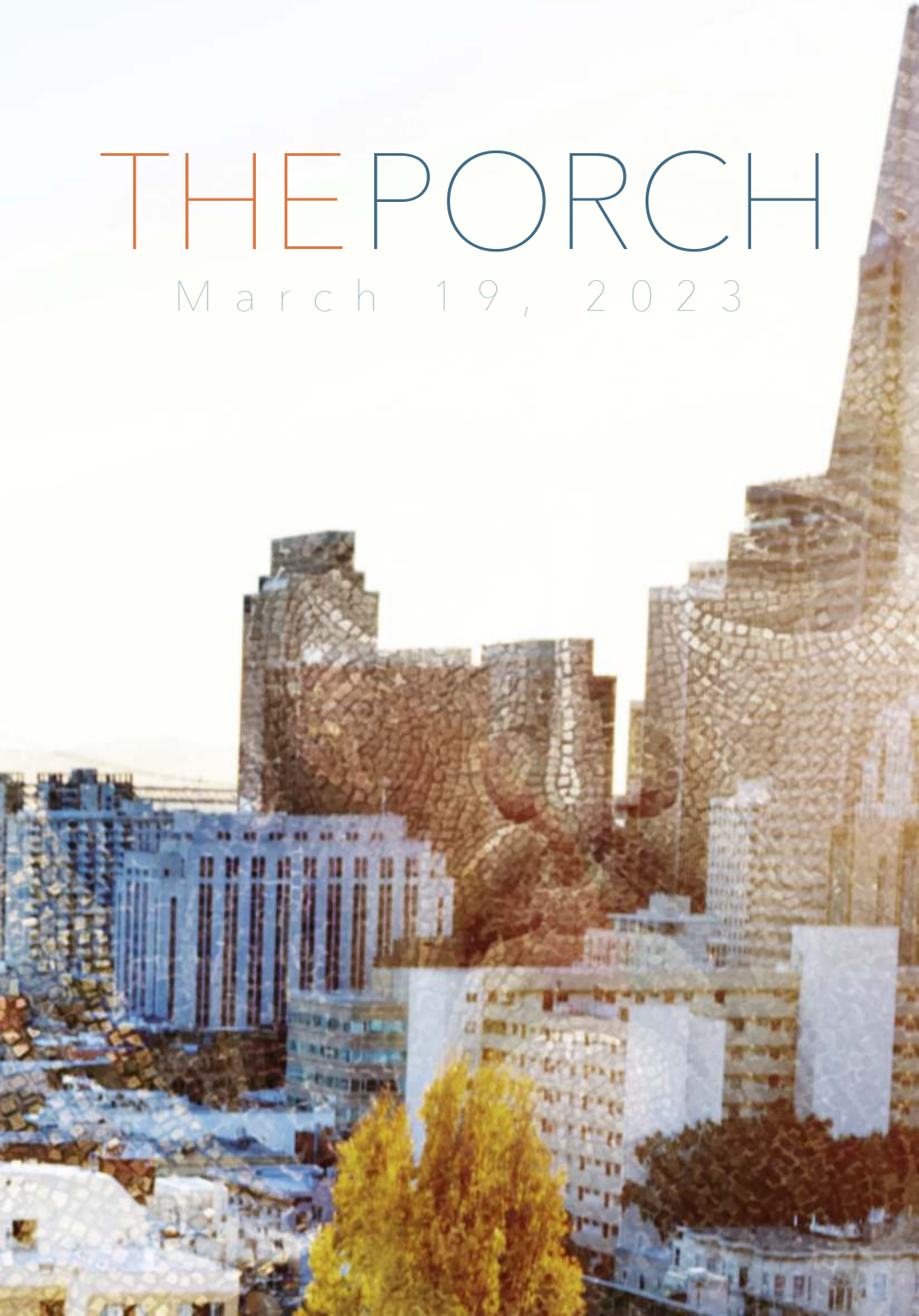


# THE PORCH

March 19, 2023



## 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.





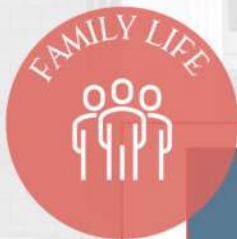
## Call To Worship

### 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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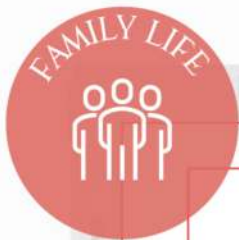
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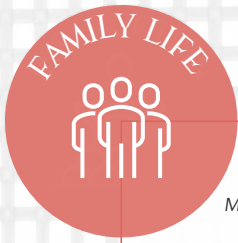


\* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth. We pray for each other. We chat while getting coffee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



Chapter 4 & Morality Articles on  
Wednesday, March 29





## 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 you haven't met yet.





## New City Catechism

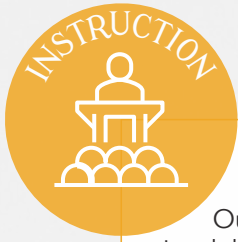
**Question 11:** What does God require in the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments?

**Answer:** Sixth, that we do not hurt, or hate, or be hostile to our neighbor, but be patient and peaceful, pursuing even our enemies with love. Seventh, that we abstain from sexual immorality and live purely and faithfully, whether in marriage or in single life, avoiding all impure actions, looks, words, thoughts, or desires, and whatever might lead to them. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else, nor withhold any good from someone we might benefit.

**Question 12:** What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

**Answer:** Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive, but speak the truth in love. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone or resenting what God has given them or us.

\* 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.



## Scripture Reading *Psalm 130:1-8 (CSB)*

Out of the depths I call to you, Lord!

Lord, listen to my voice;

**let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for help.**

Lord, if you kept an account of iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?

**But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that you may be revered.**

I wait for the Lord;

**I wait and put my hope in his word.**

I wait for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning —  
**more than watchmen for the morning.**

Israel, put your hope in the Lord.

**For there is faithful love with the Lord,  
and with him is redemption in abundance.**

**And he will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

## Ezekiel 6-7 | The Drama of Judgement II

Ezekiel 6–7 (CSB)

(6:1) The word of the LORD came to me: (2) "Son of man, face the mountains of Israel and prophesy against them. (3) "You are to say: Mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! This is what the Lord GOD says to the mountains and the hills, to the ravines and the valleys: I am about to bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places. (4) "Your altars will be desolated and your shrines smashed. I will throw down your slain in front of your idols. (5) "I will lay the corpses of the Israelites in front of their idols and scatter your bones around your altars. (6) "Wherever you live the cities will be in ruins and the high places will be desolate,





so that your altars will lie in ruins and be desecrated, your idols smashed and obliterated, your shrines cut down, and what you have made wiped out. (7) "The slain will fall among you, and you will know that I am the LORD.

(8) "Yet I will leave a remnant when you are scattered among the nations, for throughout the countries there will be some of you who will escape the sword. (9) "Then your survivors will remember me among the nations where they are taken captive, how I was crushed by their promiscuous hearts that turned away from me and by their eyes that lusted after their idols. They will loathe themselves because of the evil things they did, their detestable actions of every kind. (10) "And they will know that I am the LORD; I did not threaten to bring this disaster on them without a reason.

(11) "This is what the Lord GOD says: Clap your hands, stamp your feet, and cry out over all the evil and detestable practices of the house of Israel, who will fall by the sword, famine, and plague. (12) "The one who is far off will die by plague; the one who is near will fall by the sword; and the one who remains and is spared will die of famine. In this way I will exhaust my wrath on them. (13) "You will all know that I am the LORD when their slain lie among their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, and under every green tree and every leafy oak -- the places where they offered pleasing aromas to all their idols. (14) "I will stretch out my hand against them, and wherever they live I will make the land a desolate waste, from the wilderness to Diblah. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

(7:1) The word of the LORD came to me: (2) "Son of man, this is what the Lord GOD says to the land of Israel: An end! The end has come on the four corners of the earth. (3) "The end is now upon you; I will send my anger against you and judge you according to your ways. I will punish you for all your detestable practices.



(4) "I will not look on you with pity or spare you, but I will punish you for your ways and for your detestable practices within you. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

(5) This is what the Lord GOD says: Look, one disaster after another is coming! (6) An end has come; the end has come! It has awakened against you. Look, it is coming! (7) Doom has come on you, inhabitants of the land. The time has come; the day is near. There will be panic on the mountains and not celebration. (8) I will pour out my wrath on you very soon; I will exhaust my anger against you and judge you according to your ways. I will punish you for all your detestable practices. (9) I will not look on you with pity or spare you. I will punish you for your ways and for your detestable practices within you. Then you will know that it is I, the LORD, who strikes.

(10) Here is the day! Here it comes! Doom is on its way. The rod has blossomed; arrogance has bloomed. (11) Violence has grown into a rod of wickedness. None of them will remain: none of that crowd, none of their wealth, and none of the eminent among them. (12) The time has come; the day has arrived. Let the buyer not rejoice and the seller not mourn, for wrath is on her whole crowd. (13) The seller will certainly not return to what was sold as long as he and the buyer remain alive. For the vision concerning her whole crowd will not be revoked, and because of the iniquity of each one, none will preserve his life.

(14) They have blown the trumpet and prepared everything, but no one goes to war, for my wrath is on her whole crowd. (15) The sword is on the outside; plague and famine are on the inside. Whoever is in the field will die by the sword, and famine and plague will devour whoever is in the city. (16) The survivors among them will escape and live on the mountains. Like doves of the valley, all of them will moan, each over his own iniquity. (17) All their hands will become weak, and all their knees will run with urine.



(18) They will put on sackcloth, and horror will overwhelm them. Shame will cover all their faces, and all their heads will be bald.

(19) They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will seem like something filthy. Their silver and gold will be unable to save them in the day of the LORD's wrath. They will not satisfy their appetites or fill their stomachs, for these were the stumbling blocks that brought about their iniquity. (20) He appointed his beautiful ornaments for majesty, but they made their detestable images from them, their abhorrent things. Therefore, I have made these into something filthy to them. (21) I will hand these things over to foreigners as plunder and to the wicked of the earth as spoil, and they will profane them. (22) I will turn my face from them as they profane my treasured place. Violent men will enter it and profane it.

(23) Forge the chain, for the land is filled with crimes of bloodshed, and the city is filled with violence. (24) So I will bring the most evil of nations to take possession of their houses. I will put an end to the pride of the strong, and their sacred places will be profaned. (25) Anguish is coming! They will look for peace, but there will be none. (26) Disaster after disaster will come, and there will be rumor after rumor. Then they will look for a vision from a prophet, but instruction will perish from the priests and counsel from the elders. (27) The king will mourn; the prince will be clothed in grief; and the hands of the people of the land will tremble. I will deal with them according to their own conduct, and I will judge them by their own standards. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

**Leviticus 26:25** And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute vengeance for the covenant. And if you gather within your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.



**Leviticus 26:33** And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.

**Numbers 33:52** ...then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places."

**Deuteronomy 18:9-12** When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer 11 or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, 12 for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you.

**James Hamilton** Salvation and judgment balance one another. The reality of judgment should keep us from thinking of God in purely sentimental terms as though he were a grandfatherly buddy who just lets things go. The reality of salvation should likewise keep us from thinking of God as merely a terrifying, vengeful judge. Those who flee to him will be saved, but those who do not fear him will be judged. Paradoxically, it is the reality of his terrifying judgment that is meant to send us fleeing to him.

**1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.





## 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.

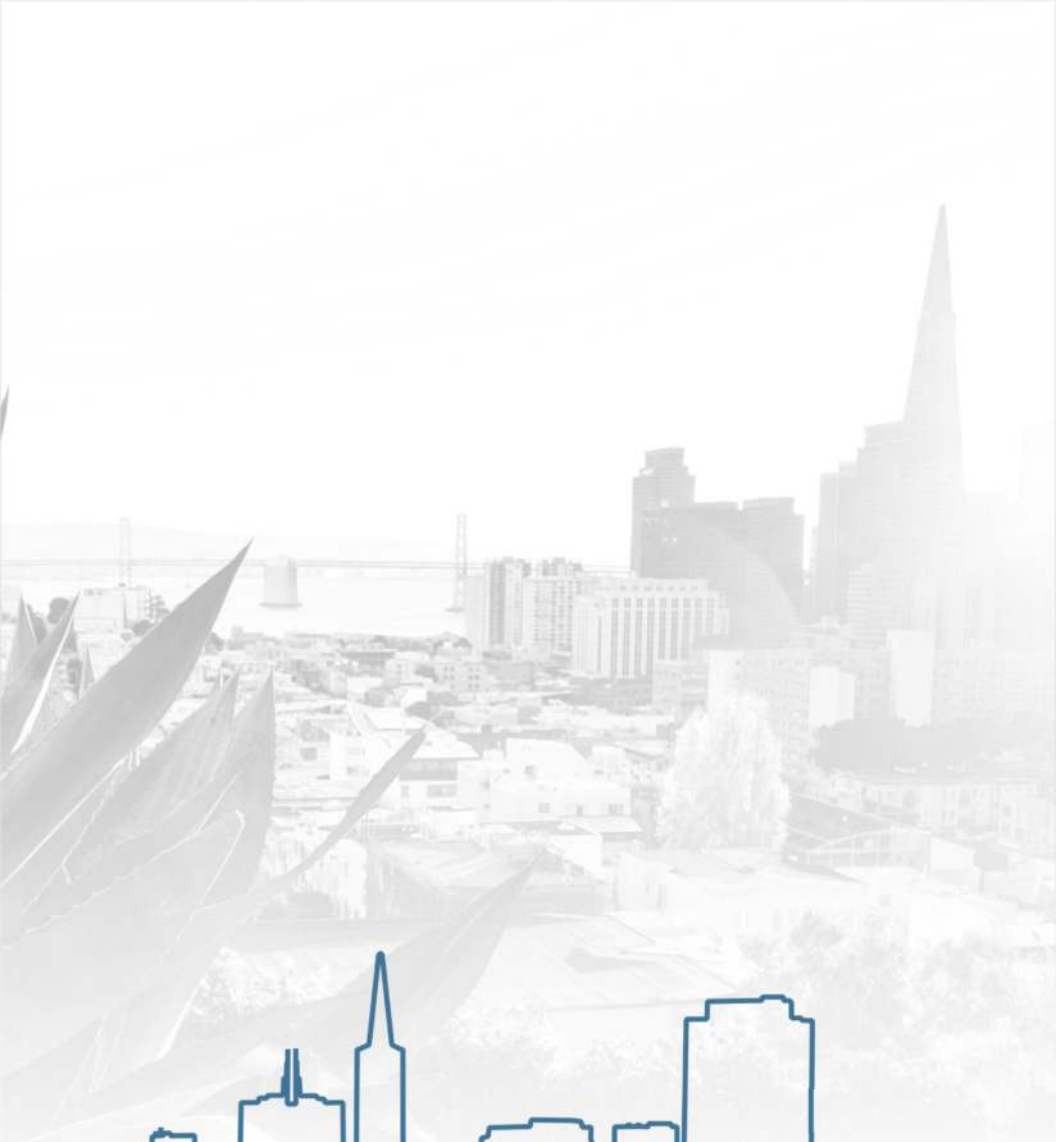


## Benediction

### Eph 3:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,  
<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

\*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 people so that they see him in our lives.



**THE PORCH**  
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