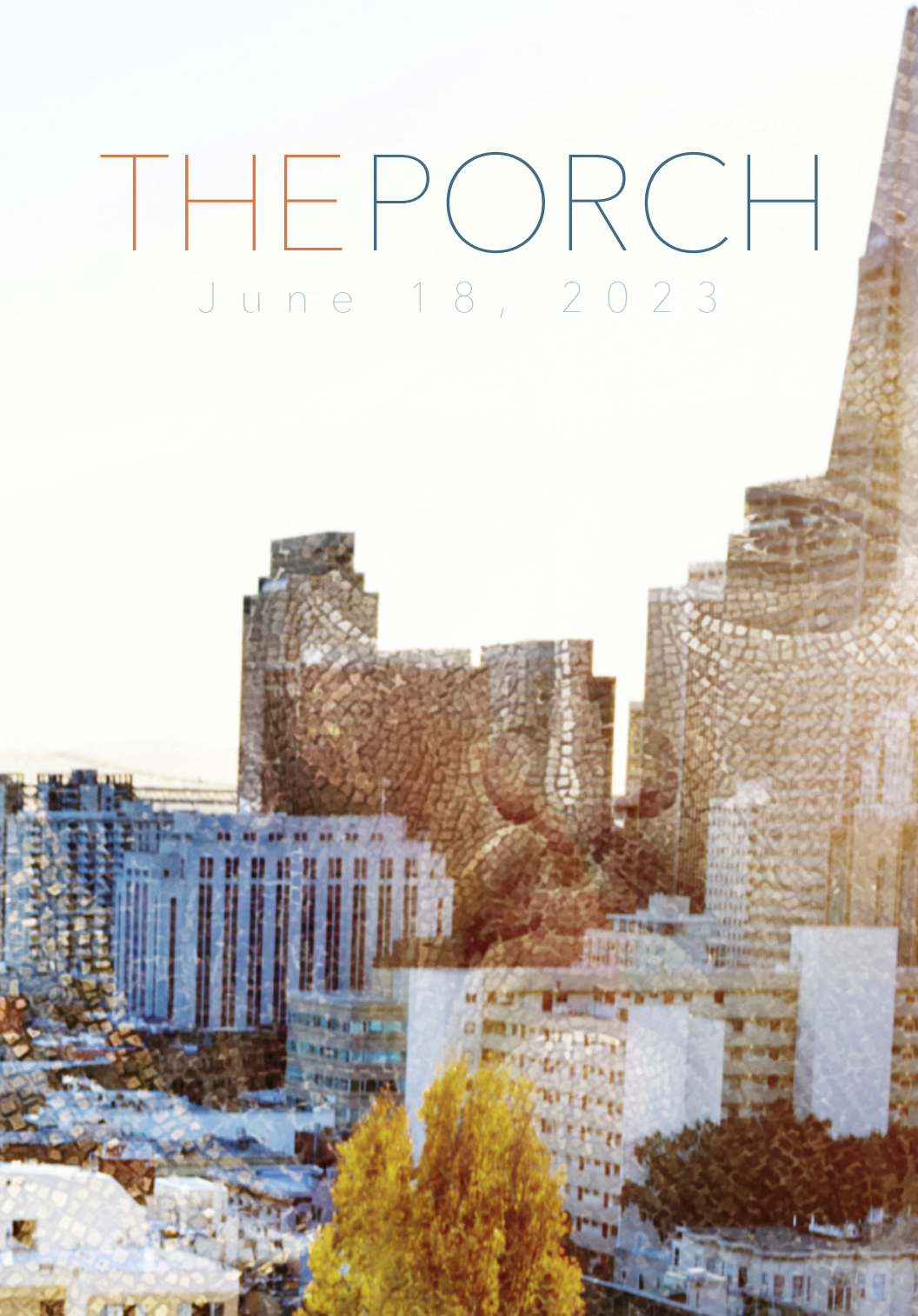


# THE PORCH

June 18, 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.





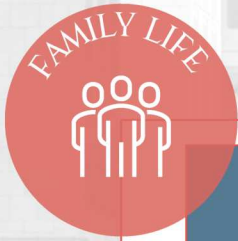
## Call To Worship

### 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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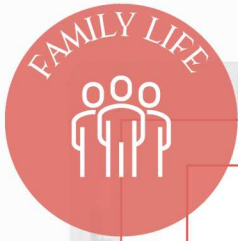
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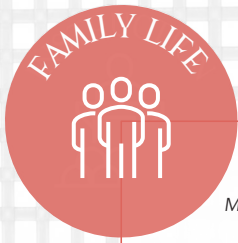


\* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth. We pray for each other. We chat while getting coffee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



Chapters 9 & 10 on Wednesday, June 21





## 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 27:** Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

**Answer:** No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith. Nevertheless God in his mercy demonstrates common grace even to those who are not elect, by restraining the effects of sin and enabling works of culture for human well-being.

### **Scripture Reading** *Psalm 100:1-5 (ESV)*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!  
Serve the Lord with gladness!

**Come into his presence with singing!**

Know that the Lord, **he is God!**

It is he who made us, **and we are his;**  
we are his people, **and the sheep of his pasture.**

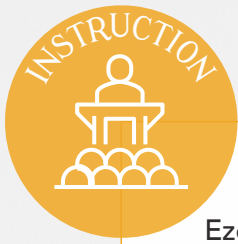
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
**and his courts with praise!**

Give thanks to him; **bless his name!**

For the Lord is good;

**his steadfast love endures forever,**  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

\* 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.



## Ezekiel 24 | Two Losses

**Ezekiel 24:1-27** The word of the Lord came to me in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month: 2 "Son of man, write down today's date, this very day. The king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day. 3 Now speak a parable to the rebellious house. Tell them, 'This is what the Lord God says:

Put the pot on the fire—  
put it on,  
and then pour water into it!  
4 Place the pieces of meat in it,  
every good piece—  
thigh and shoulder.  
Fill it with choice bones.  
5 Take the choicest of the flock  
and also pile up the fuel under it.  
Bring it to a boil  
and cook the bones in it.

**2 Kings 25:1-4** And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it. 2 So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. 3 On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. 4 Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, and the Chaldeans were around the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah.





6 " 'Therefore, this is what the Lord God says:

Woe to the city of bloodshed,  
the pot that has corrosion inside it,  
and its corrosion has not come out of it!  
Empty it piece by piece;  
lots should not be cast for its contents.

7 For the blood she shed is still within her.  
She put it out on the bare rock;  
she didn't pour it on the ground  
to cover it with dust.

8 In order to stir up wrath and take vengeance,  
I have put her blood on the bare rock,  
so that it would not be covered.

9 " 'Therefore, this is what the Lord God says:

Woe to the city of bloodshed!  
I myself will make the pile of kindling large.

10 Pile on the logs and kindle the fire!  
Cook the meat well

and mix in the spices!,  
Let the bones be burned!

11 Set the empty pot on its coals  
so that it becomes hot and its copper glows.  
Then its impurity will melt inside it;  
its corrosion will be consumed.

12 It has frustrated every effort;  
its thick corrosion will not come off.  
Into the fire with its corrosion!

13 Because of the depravity of your uncleanness—  
since I tried to purify you,  
but you would not be purified from your  
uncleanness—



you will not be pure again  
until I have satisfied my wrath on you.  
14 I, the Lord, have spoken.

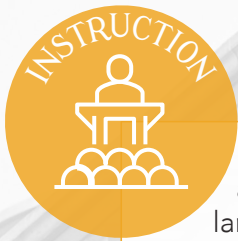
It is coming, and I will do it!  
I will not refrain, I will not show pity,  
and I will not relent.  
I will judge you  
according to your ways and deeds.  
This is the declaration of the Lord God.' "

15 Then the word of the Lord came to me: 16 "Son of man, I am about to take the delight of your eyes away from you with a fatal blow. But you must not lament or weep or let your tears flow. 17 Groan quietly; do not observe mourning rites for the dead. Put on your turban and strap your sandals on your feet; do not cover your mustache or eat the bread of mourners.",

18 I spoke to the people in the morning, and my wife died in the evening. The next morning I did just as I was commanded. 19 Then the people asked me, "Won't you tell us what these things you are doing mean for us?"

20 So I answered them, "The word of the Lord came to me:

21 Say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Lord God says: I am about to desecrate my sanctuary, the pride of your power, the delight of your eyes, and the desire of your heart. Also, the sons and daughters you left behind will fall by the sword.  
22 Then you will do just as I have done: You will not cover your mustache or eat the bread of mourners.



23 Your turbans will remain on your heads and your sandals on your feet. You will not lament or weep but will waste away because of your iniquities and will groan to one another. 24 Now Ezekiel will be a sign for you. You will do everything that he has done. When this happens, you will know that I am the Lord God.'

25 "As for you, son of man, know that on that day I will take from them their stronghold—their pride and joy, the delight of their eyes, and the longing of their hearts—as well as their sons and daughters. 26 On that day a fugitive will come to you and report the news. 27 On that day your mouth will be opened to talk with him; you will speak and no longer be mute. So you will be a sign for them, and they will know that I am the Lord."

**Hebrews 2:18** For since he himself has suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

**Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without 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

### Psalm 29:10-11

<sup>10</sup> The Lord sits enthroned as king forever.  
<sup>11</sup> May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with 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 people so that they see him in our lives.





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