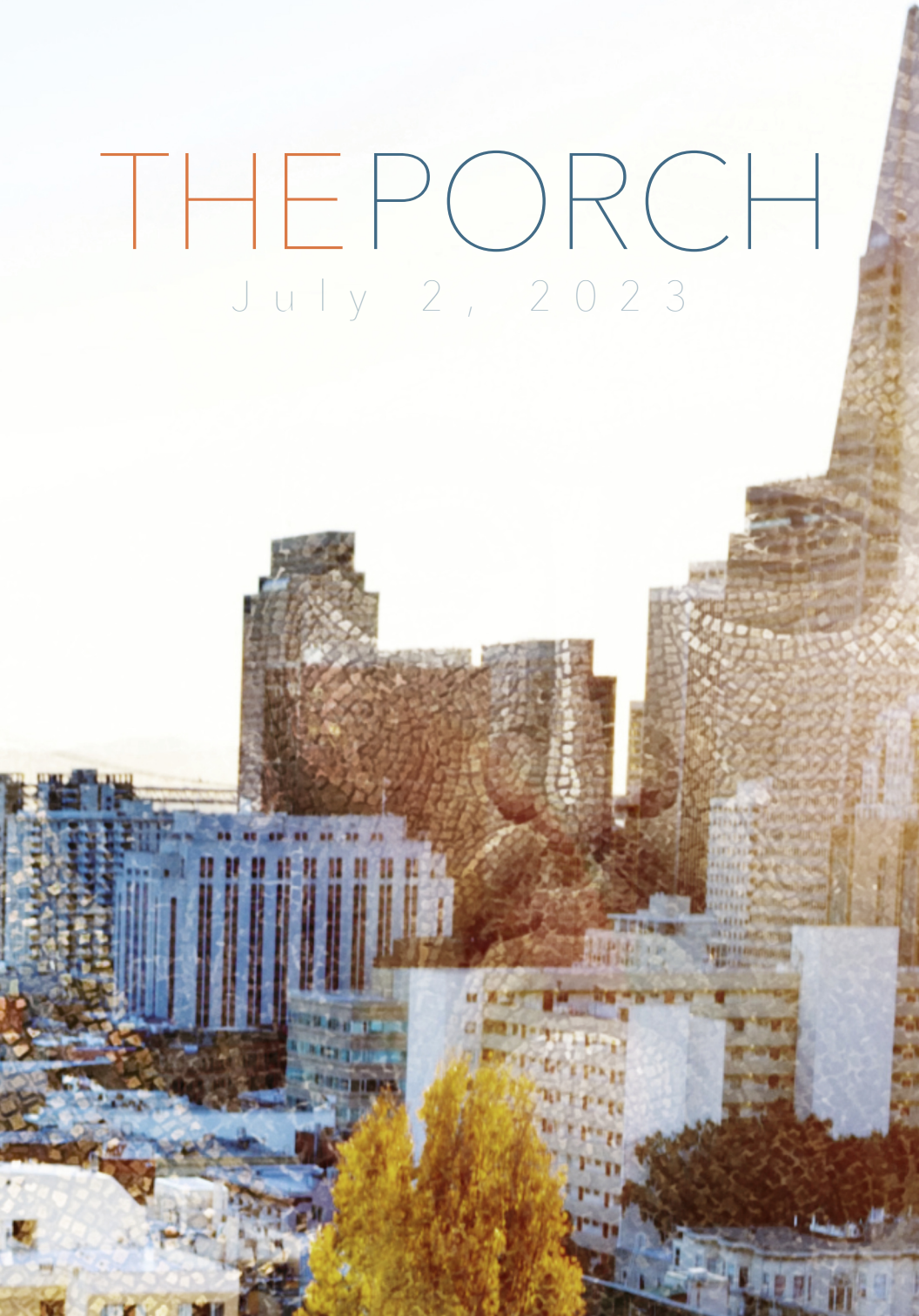


THE PORCH

July 2, 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.





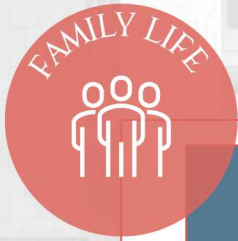
Call To Worship

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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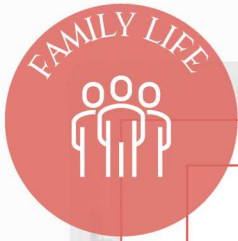
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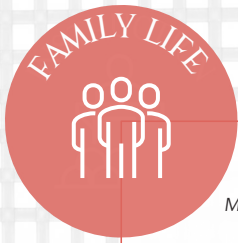


* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth. We pray for each other. We chat while getting coffee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



Chapters 11, 13, 19 on Wednesday, July 5





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 29: How can we be saved?

Answer: Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the perfect righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in him.

Question 30: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is acknowledging the truth of everything that God has revealed in his Word, trusting in him, and also receiving and resting on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Scripture Reading *Matthew 10:40-42 (CSB)*

"The one who welcomes you welcomes me, and the one who welcomes me **welcomes him who sent me.** Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet **will receive a prophet's reward.** And anyone who welcomes a righteous person because he's righteous **will receive a righteous person's reward.** And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, **truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward.**"

* 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 26-27 | Nations Part 2: Tyre

Ezekiel 26:1

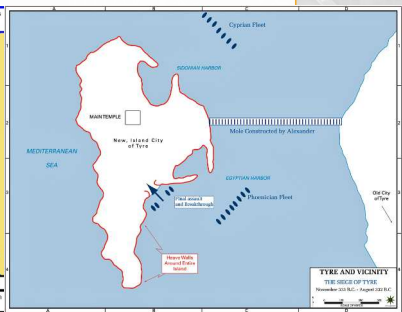
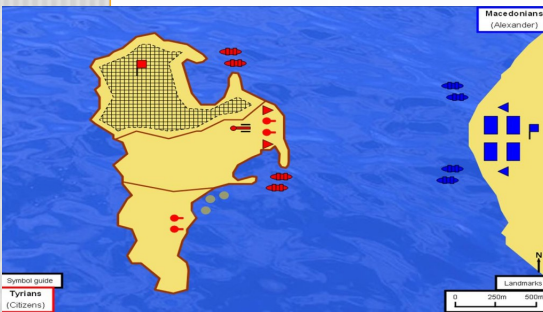
In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me:

The Big Charge

2 "Son of man, because Tyre said about Jerusalem, 'Aha! The gateway to the peoples is shattered. She has been turned over to me. I will be filled now that she lies in ruins,'

"Therefore"

3 therefore this is what the Lord God says: See, I am against you, Tyre!





I will raise up many nations against you, just as the sea raises its waves. 4 They will destroy the walls of Tyre and demolish her towers. I will scrape the soil from her and turn her into a bare rock. 5 She will become a place in the sea to spread nets, for I have spoken." This is the declaration of the Lord God. "She will become plunder for the nations, 6 and her villages on the mainland will be slaughtered by the sword. Then they will know that I am the Lord."

7 For this is what the Lord God says: "See, I am about to bring King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, king of kings, against Tyre from the north with horses, chariots, cavalry, and a huge assembly of troops. 8 He will slaughter your villages on the mainland with the sword. He will set up siege works, build a ramp, and raise a wall of shields against you. 9 He will direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and tear down your towers with his iron tools. 10 His horses will be so numerous that their dust will cover you. When he enters your gates as an army entering a breached city, your walls will shake from the noise of cavalry, wagons, and chariots. 11 He will trample all your streets with the hooves of his horses. He will slaughter your people with the sword, and your mighty pillars will fall to the ground. 12 They will take your wealth as spoil and plunder your merchandise. They will also demolish your walls and tear down your beautiful homes. Then they will throw your stones, timber, and soil into the water. 13 I will put an end to the noise of your songs, and the sound of your lyres will no longer be heard. 14 I will turn you into a bare rock, and you will be a place to spread nets. You will never be rebuilt, for I, the Lord, have spoken." This is the declaration of the Lord God.



Effect on the surrounding nations

15 This is what the Lord God says to Tyre: "Won't the coasts and islands quake at the sound of your downfall, when the wounded groan and slaughter occurs within you? 16 All the princes of the sea will descend from their thrones, remove their robes, and strip off their embroidered garments. They will clothe themselves with trembling; they will sit on the ground, tremble continually, and be appalled at you. 17 Then they will lament for you and say of you,

'How you have perished, city of renown,
you who were populated from the seas!
She who was powerful on the sea,
she and all of her inhabitants
inflicted their terror.

18 Now the coastlands tremble
on the day of your downfall;
the islands in the sea
are alarmed by your demise.' "

Ultimate Fall of Tyre

19 For this is what the Lord God says: "When I make you a ruined city like other deserted cities, when I raise up the deep against you so that the mighty waters cover you, 20 then I will bring you down to be with those who descend to the Pit, to the people of antiquity. I will make you dwell in the underworld like the ancient ruins, with those who descend to the Pit, so that you will no longer be inhabited or display your splendor in the land of the living. 21 I will make you an object of horror, and you will no longer exist. You will be sought but will never be found again." This is the declaration of the Lord God.

Tyre's Arrogance

27:1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Now, son of man, lament for Tyre. 3 Say to Tyre, who is situated at the entrance of the sea, merchant of the peoples to many coasts and islands, '



This is what the Lord God says:
Tyre, you declared,
"I am perfect in beauty."

Tyre Pictured As A Beautiful Merchant Ship

4 Your realm was in the heart of the sea;
your builders perfected your beauty.

5 They constructed all your planking
with pine trees from Senir.

They took a cedar from Lebanon
to make a mast for you.

6 They made your oars of oaks from Bashan.

They made your deck of cypress wood
from the coasts of Cyprus,
inlaid with ivory.

7 Your sail was made of
fine embroidered linen from Egypt,
and served as your banner.

Your awning was of blue and purple fabric
from the coasts of Elishah.

8 The inhabitants of Sidon and Arvad
were your rowers.

Your wise men were within you, Tyre;
they were your captains.

9 The elders of Gebal and its wise men
were within you, repairing your leaks.

" 'All the ships of the sea and their sailors
came to you to barter for your goods.

10 Men of Persia, Lud, and Put
were in your army, serving as your warriors.

They hung shields and helmets in you;
they gave you splendor.

11 Men of Arvad and Helech
were stationed on your walls all around,
and Gammadites were in your towers.

They hung their shields all around your walls;
they perfected your beauty.



Tyre Is An Important Center of Trade

12 " 'Tarshish was your trading partner because of your abundant wealth of every kind. They exchanged silver, iron, tin, and lead for your merchandise. 13 Javan, Tubal, and Meshech were your merchants. They exchanged slaves and bronze utensils for your goods. 14 Those from Beth-togarmah exchanged horses, war horses, and mules for your merchandise. 15 Men of Dedan, were also your merchants; many coasts and islands were your regular markets. They brought back ivory tusks and ebony as your payment. 16 Aram was your trading partner because of your numerous products. They exchanged turquoise, purple and embroidered cloth, fine linen, coral, and rubies for your merchandise. 17 Judah and the land of Israel were your merchants. They exchanged wheat from Minnith, meal, honey, oil, and balm, for your goods. 18 Damascus was also your trading partner because of your numerous products and your abundant wealth of every kind, trading in wine from Helbon and white wool. 19 Vedan and Javan from Uzal, dealt in your merchandise; wrought iron, cassia, and aromatic cane were exchanged for your goods. 20 Dedan was your merchant in saddlecloths for riding. 21 Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your business partners, trading with you in lambs, rams, and goats. 22 The merchants of Sheba and Raamah traded with you. For your merchandise they exchanged the best of all spices and all kinds of precious stones as well as gold. 23 Haran, Canneh, Eden, the merchants of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad traded with you. 24 They were your merchants in choice garments, cloaks of blue and embroidered materials, and multicolored carpets, which were bound and secured with cords in your marketplace.

The Ship Sinks

25 Ships of Tarshish were the carriers for your goods.
" 'So you became full and heavily loaded
in the heart of the sea.



26 Your rowers have brought you
onto the high seas,
but the east wind has wrecked you
in the heart of the sea.

27 Your wealth, merchandise, and goods,
your sailors and captains,
those who repair your leaks,
those who barter for your goods,
and all the warriors on board,
with all the other people within you,
sink into the heart of the sea
on the day of your downfall.

28 " 'The countryside shakes
at the sound of your sailors' cries.

The World Mourns the Loss of Tyre

29 All the oarsmen
disembark from their ships.
The sailors and all the captains of the sea
stand on the shore.

30 Because of you, they raise their voices
and cry out bitterly.
They throw dust on their heads;
they roll in ashes.

31 They shave their heads because of you
and wrap themselves in sackcloth.
They weep over you
with deep anguish and bitter mourning.

32 " 'In their wailing they lament for you,
mourning over you:
"Who was like Tyre,
silenced in the middle of the sea?

33 When your merchandise was unloaded from the seas,
you satisfied many peoples.
You enriched the kings of the earth
with your abundant wealth and goods.



34 Now you are wrecked by the sea
in the depths of the waters;
your goods and the people within you
have gone down.

35 All the inhabitants of the coasts and islands
are appalled at you.
Their kings shudder with fear;
their faces are contorted.

36 Those who trade among the peoples scoff, at you;
you have become an object of horror
and will never exist again." " "

Proverbs 21:24 "Scoffer" is the name of the arrogant,
haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

Esther 5:10–11 Yet Haman controlled himself and went
home. He sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh to join
him. 11 Then Haman described for them his glorious
wealth and his many sons. He told them all how the king
had honored him and promoted him in rank over the
other officials and the royal staff.

Esther 6:12 Then Mordecai returned to the King's Gate,
but Haman hurried off for home, mournful and with his
head covered.

Matthew 16:24–25 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If
anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to
save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because
of me will find it.





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

Numbers 6:24-26

2

⁴ 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 people so that they see him in our lives.



THE PORCH

FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

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