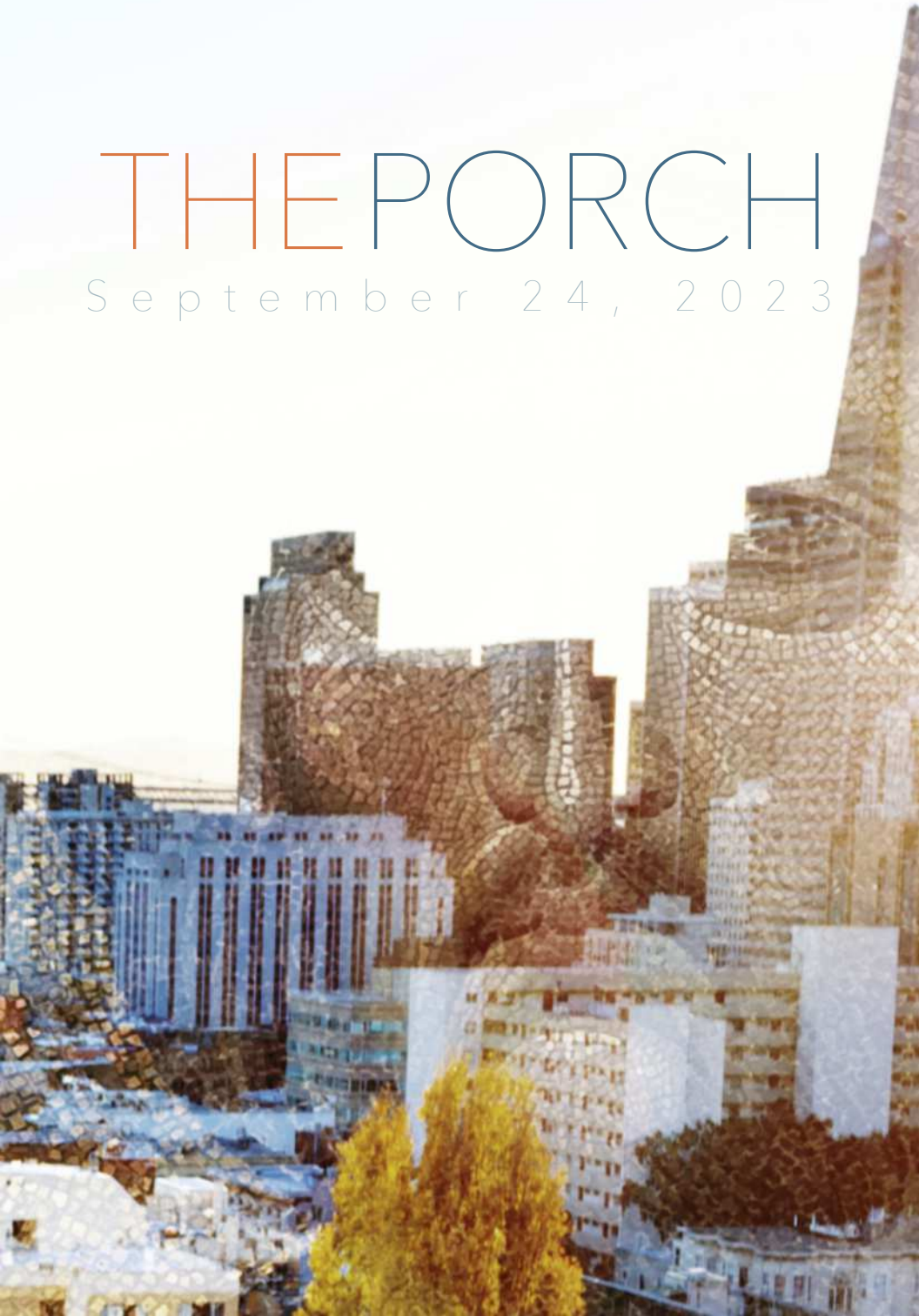


# THE PORCH

September 24, 2023



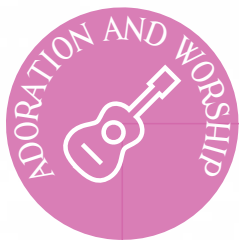
## About Our Liturgy

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.





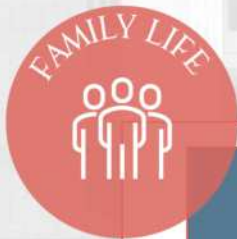
## Call To Worship

### 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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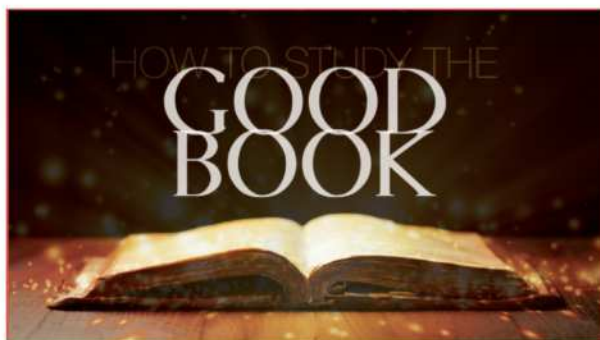
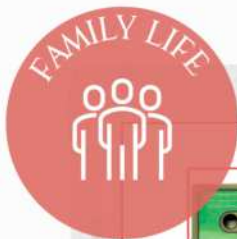
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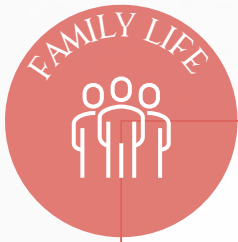


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\* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth. 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.

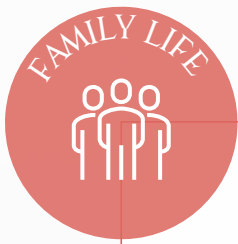




## Missional Family Dinner Schedule

Wednesday Nights | 6:00-8:15 PM

- ① **September 27** | *No Wednesday Night Dinner*
- ① **October 4** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **October 11** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef Dennis  
Homework: HTSTGB A2
- ③ **October 18** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB A3
- ① **October 25** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Homework: HTSTGB B1
- ① **November 1** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **November 8** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB B2
- ③ **November 15** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB B3



## 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 42:** How is the Word of God to be read and heard?

**Answer:** With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith, store it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

### Scripture Reading *Psalm 25:1–2, 4-9 (CSB)*

Lord, I appeal to you.

**My God, I trust in you.**

Do not let me be disgraced;

**do not let my enemies gloat over me.**

Make your ways known to me, Lord;

**teach me your paths.**

Guide me in your truth and teach me,

**for you are the God of my salvation;**

I wait for you all day long.

**Remember, Lord, your compassion  
and your faithful love,**

for they have existed from antiquity.

Do not remember the sins of my youth

**or my acts of rebellion;**

in keeping with your faithful love, remember me

**because of your goodness, Lord.**

The Lord is good and upright;

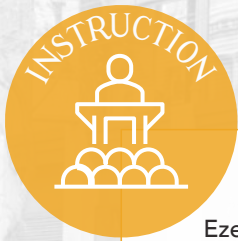
**therefore he shows sinners the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right

**and teaches them his way.**

\* 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.





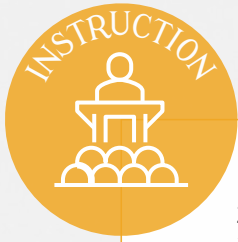
## Ezekiel 40-46 | A Better Temple

**Ezekiel 44:1-12** The man then brought me back toward the sanctuary's outer gate that faced east, and it was closed. 2 The Lord said to me, "This gate will remain closed. It will not be opened, and no one will enter through it, because the Lord, the God of Israel, has entered through it. Therefore it will remain closed. 3 The prince himself will sit in the gate to eat a meal before the Lord. He is to enter by way of the portico of the gate and go out the same way."

4 Then the man brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple. I looked, and the glory of the Lord filled his temple. And I fell facedown. 5 The Lord said to me, "Son of man, pay attention; look with your eyes and listen with your ears to everything I tell you about all the statutes and laws of the Lord's temple. Take careful note of the entrance of the temple along with all the exits of the sanctuary.

6 "Say to the rebellious people, the house of Israel, 'This is what the Lord God says: I have had enough of all your detestable practices, house of Israel. 7 When you brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in both heart and flesh, to occupy my sanctuary, you defiled my temple while you offered my food—the fat and the blood. You broke my covenant by all your detestable practices. 8 You have not kept charge of my holy things but have appointed others to keep charge of my sanctuary for you.'

9 "This is what the Lord God says: No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart and flesh, may enter my sanctuary, not even a foreigner who is among the Israelites. 10 Surely the Levites who wandered away from me when Israel went astray, and who strayed from me after their idols, will bear the consequences of their iniquity. 11 Yet they will occupy my sanctuary, serving as guards at the temple gates and ministering at the temple. They will slaughter the burnt offerings and other sacrifices for the people and will stand before them to serve them. 12 Because they ministered to the house of Israel before their idols and became a sinful stumbling block to them, therefore I swore an oath against them"—this is the declaration of the Lord God—"that they would bear the consequences of their iniquity.



### Outer Gates and Courtyard

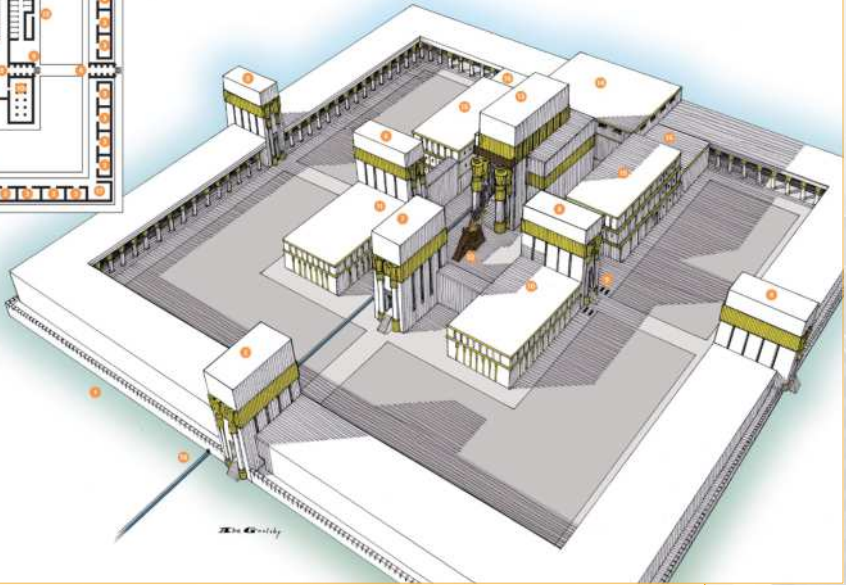
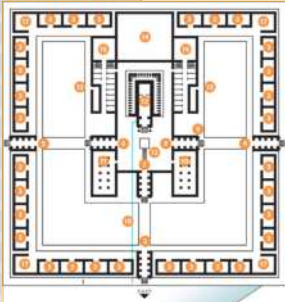
1. Outer Wall 40:5
2. Eastern (Main) Outer Gate 40:6–16; 42:15–43:5
3. Chambers of Outer Court (30) 40:17
4. Northern Outer Gate 40:20–22
5. Southern Outer Gate 40:24–26

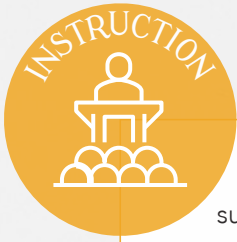
### Three Inner Gates

6. Southern Inner Gate 40:27–31
7. Eastern Inner Gate / "The Prince's Gate"  
40:32–34; 44:1–3; 46:1–8
8. Northern Inner Gate 40:35–37

### Outer Temple Area and Surrounding Buildings

9. Sacrificial Tables (4 outside gate, 4 inside) 40:38–43
10. Singers'/Priests' Chamber (south-facing door) 40:44–45
11. Singers'/Priests' Chamber (north-facing door) 40:44, 46
12. Altar 40:47; 43:13–27





## Temple

13. Temple (including portico, sanctuary, and surrounding rooms) 40:48–41:26

### Outer Western Buildings

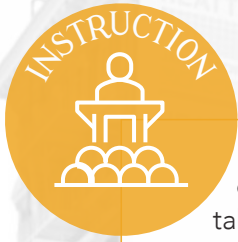
14. Building Toward West  
(purpose not mentioned) 41:12, 15
15. Priests' Chambers 42:1–14
16. Priests' Kitchens 46:19–20
17. People's Kitchens 46:21–24

### Rules For Temple Worship

- How to sacrifice animals 43:18-27
- Sacrifices and the uniform to wear 44:15-27
- Holy District 45:1-6
- More Offering Rules 45:13-24
- Rules for Feasts 46:1-15
- Rules for the Prince and Inheritance 46:16-18

### Blessings

- For Priests 44:28-31
- Land/Holy District 44:1-6
- To the Prince what? 45:7-9
- Just Dealings with one another 44:10-12



**Exodus 40:34-38** The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 Moses was unable to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud rested on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

36 The Israelites set out whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle throughout all the stages of their journey. 37 If the cloud was not taken up, they did not set out until the day it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and there was a fire inside the cloud by night, visible to the entire house of Israel throughout all the stages of their journey.

**2 Chronicles 7:1-3** When Solomon finished praying, fire descended from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. 2 The priests were not able to enter the Lord's temple because the glory of the Lord filled the temple of the Lord. 3 All the Israelites were watching when the fire descended and the glory of the Lord came on the temple. They bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground. They worshiped and praised the Lord: For he is good, for his faithful love endures forever.

**Psalms 78:69** He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever.

**1 Corinthians 3:16** Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

**1 Corinthians 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,



**Revelation 21:1–5** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**Revelation 21:22–27** And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.



**Sam Storms** "This prophecy, therefore, is designed to tell the disciples then (and us now) that the temple is no longer, and never shall be again, where you go to meet God. The temple is no longer, and never shall be again, the place of God's dwelling.

The temple is no longer, and never shall be again, the place where blood sacrifice is offered. The temple is no longer, and never shall be again, the place where forgiveness of sins is found. The temple is no longer, and never shall be again, the place where you go to hear God's voice and to learn about who he is. All these things now are found in Jesus alone. He is the true temple of God. He is the person and place of sacrifice where forgiveness is found and God's voice is heard and God's glory and presence are encountered."





## 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

<sup>24</sup> The Lord bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> 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.



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