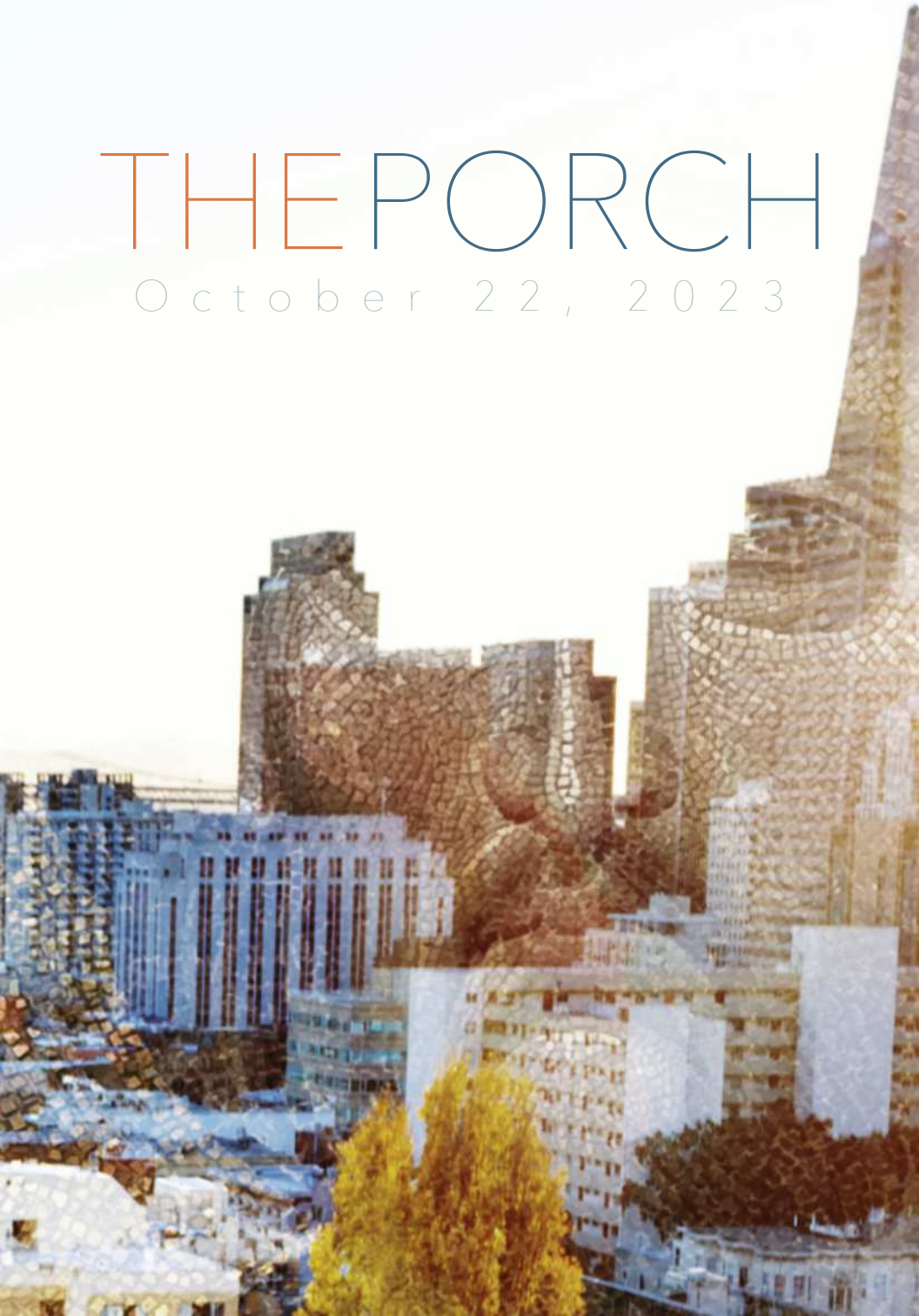


# THE PORCH

October 22, 2023



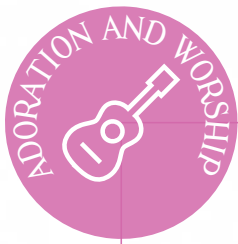
## About Our Liturgy

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.





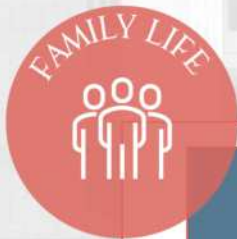
## Call To Worship

### 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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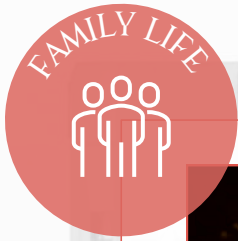
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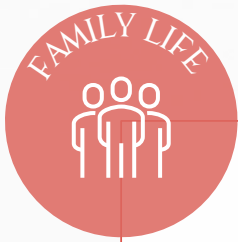


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\* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth.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

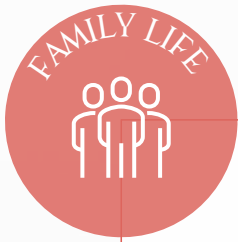




## Missional Family Dinner Schedule

Wednesday Nights | 6:00-8:15 PM

- ① **October 25** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Homework: HTSTGB A3
  
- ① **November 1** | Brackett Home | Friendsgiving
  
- ② **November 8** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB B1
  
- ③ **November 15** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa -  
Friends Night
  
- ④ **November 22** | *No Wednesday Night Dinner*
  
- ① **November 29** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Homework: HTSTGB B2
  
- ① **December 6** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
  
- ② **December 13** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB B3
  
- ③ **December 20** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB B4



## 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 44:** What is baptism?

**Answer:** Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to his church.

**Question 45:** Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

**Answer:** No, only the blood of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from sin.

### Scripture Reading *Philippians 4:4-8 (CSB)*

Rejoice in the Lord always. **I will say it again: Rejoice!** Let your graciousness be known to everyone. **The Lord is near.** Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, **present your requests to God.** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, **will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, **whatever is honorable,** whatever is just, **whatever is pure,** whatever is lovely, **whatever is commendable** — if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy —  **dwell on these things.**

\* 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.





## Acts 1:1-11 | The Impossible Mission

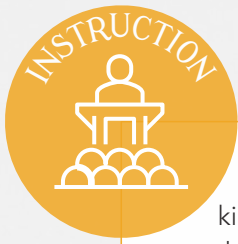
**Matthew 28:19–20** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Acts 1:1-11** In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

**Colossians 1:9–10** And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”



6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**Isaiah 49:6** ...he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

**Matthew 28:18–20, Acts 1:8** (*Frankensteined together*)

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. For you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



*What does this text say about how Jesus equipped his apostles for the mission?*

**#1** Their faith was to be rooted in the real history of the death, resurrection, and ascension.

**Corinthians 15:14–15** And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

**#2** Their task was to pass on what Jesus taught them.

**John 17:18–20** As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. 20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

**2 Corinthians 5:20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Charles Spurgeon**, “We might preach ‘til our tongue rotted, ‘til we exhaust our lungs and die — but never a soul would be converted unless the Holy Spirit uses the Word to convert that soul. So it is blessed to eat into the very heart of the Bible until, at last, you come to talk in scriptural language and your spirit is flavored with the words of the Lord, so that your blood is Biblical and the very essence of the Bible flows from you.”



#3 Their power was to come from God the Holy Spirit.

Three Types of Churches

- The Spiritless Church
- The Spirit Helped Church
- The Spirit Filled Church

#4 Their confidence was to be in the kingdom.

#5 Their hope was to come from looking forward to the second coming.

Acts 1	Luke 24
Jesus teaches the disciples through the Spirit (1:2)	Jesus teaches the disciples after the resurrection, including explicit times (24:25-27, 32, 44-48)
Jesus offers many proofs of his risen state (1:3a)	Jesus demonstrates his risen state (24:13-32, 34, 36-40)
Jesus appears for forty days (1:3b)	Missing in Luke 24*
Jesus speaks of the kingdom (1:3b)	Not explicit in Luke 24, but cf. biblical exposition in Luke 24:27, 45-47†
Jesus eats with his disciples (1:4a)	Cf. Jesus eating in their presence (24:41-43)
Jesus orders them not to leave Jerusalem (1:4b)	Jesus orders them to stay in Jerusalem (24:49b)
Jesus instructs them to wait for the Father's promise (1:4b)	They must stay in the city until they receive the Father's promise (24:49)
Disciples expect the kingdom's restoration to Israel (1:6)	Cf. a similar notion expressed by other disciples, who expected Jesus to redeem Israel (24:21)
Jesus promises the Spirit and that they will be witnesses (1:8)	They are witnesses and will receive promised power (24:48-49)
They will receive power (1:8)	They will be clothed with power (24:49)
Jesus ascends (1:9-11)	Jesus ascends (24:51)
The disciples leave Mount Olivet for Jerusalem (1:12)	They leave Bethany (24:50; this is near the Mount of Olives, 19:29) and return to Jerusalem (24:52)
They pray in the upper room (1:13-14)	They worship in the temple (24:53)‡





## 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

### **Romans 15:5-6**

⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

\*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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