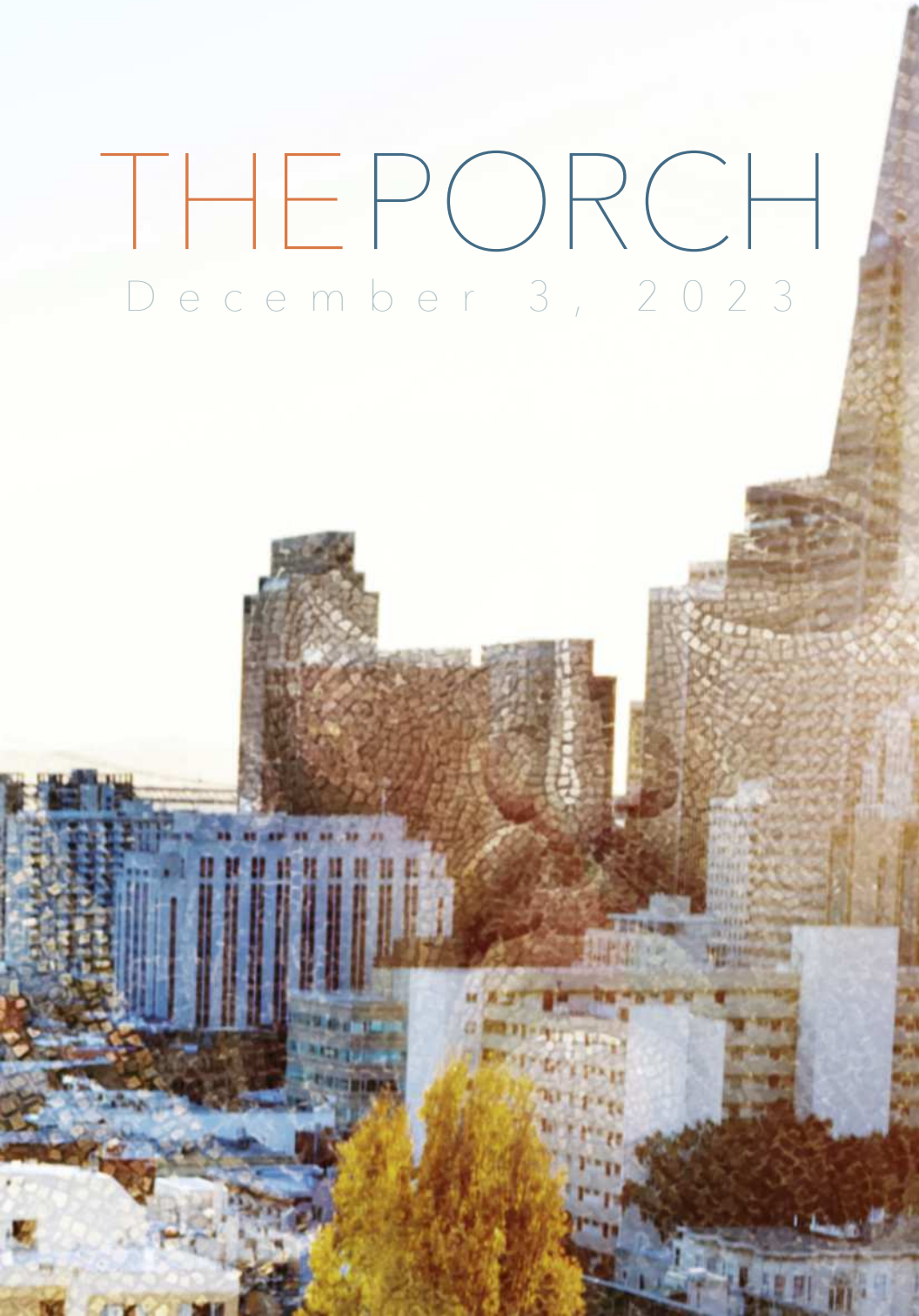


# THE PORCH

December 3, 2023



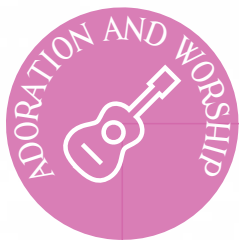
## About Our Liturgy

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.





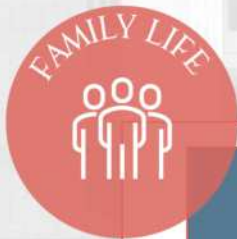
## Call To Worship

### 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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\* 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.

FAMILY LIFE



**Stratum Foundation**  
Matching Grant



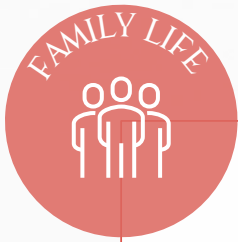
## 2023 Advent Schedule

Lessons and Carols (12/15 @ 7 PM)

Christmas Party (12/9 @ 6 PM)

Joint Service with Trinity First (12/24 and 12/31 @ 10 AM)

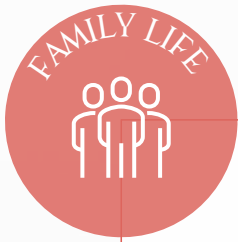




## Missional Family Dinner Schedule

Wednesday Nights | 6:00-8:15 PM

- ① **December 6** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **December 13** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB B1
- ③ **December 20** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB B2
- Ⓖ **December 27** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Homework: HTSTGB B3
- ① **January 3** | *No Wednesday Night Dinner*
- ② **January 10** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB B4
- ③ **January 17** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB C1
- ④ **January 24** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB C2
- Ⓖ **January 31** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Homework: HTSTGB C3



## 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.

## Stretch

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 water and a snack and say hello to someone you haven't met yet.





## Advent Week 1: Hope



[scottericksonart.com](http://scottericksonart.com)

\* 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 2:36-41 | Pentecost Part 4: The Response

**Acts 2:36-41** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

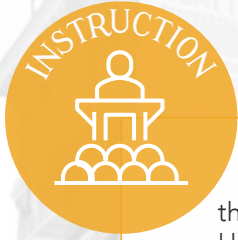
### Ordo Salutis

**Romans 8:28–30** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

### #1 Election/Predestination

#### Definition

J.I. Packer, "The biblical doctrine of election is that before Creation God selected out of the human race, foreseen as fallen, those whom he would redeem, bring to faith, justify, and glorify in and through Jesus Christ."



### Biblical Support

**Ephesians 1:4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

**2 Timothy 1:9** who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

**John 6:44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

**Acts 13:48** And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

## **#2 Gospel Call**

### **#3 Regeneration**

#### Definition

**Wayne Grudem**, "Regeneration is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us. This is sometimes called "being born again."

#### Biblical Support

**Acts 16:14** One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

**Ephesians 2:1; 4-5** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—



## #4 Conversion

### Definition

**Gregg Allison**, "Conversion is the human response to the gospel, consisting of repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ."

**Ephesians 2:8–9** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

### Biblical Support

**Acts 3:19** Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,

**Mark 1:14–15** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, - and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**Romans 1:16–17** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. - For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."



## #5 Justification

### Definition

**Gregg Allison**, "Justification is the mighty act of God by which he declares sinful people not guilty but righteous instead by imputing the perfect righteousness of Christ to them."

**New City Catechism**, "Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us."

**Gregg Allison**, "With the rediscovery of Augustine's doctrine during the Reformation, justification once again came to the center of theological attention. Indeed, the material principle of Protestantism was the doctrine of justification. In contrast with Roman Catholic theology, which viewed justification as a process of divine grace being infused into people to make them actually righteous, Protestant theology insisted that justification is a legal act of God who, as Judge, declares sinners not guilty but righteous instead. He does so by crediting the righteousness of Christ to their account, so while they are not actually righteous, God views them as being so because of Christ's righteousness. And all of this is appropriated by faith in Christ alone. The Catholic Church vehemently denounced this view of justification, condemning it as heresy."

### Biblical Support

**Romans 3:24–26** and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



**Luke 18:14** I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

**Hebrews 10:14** For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

## #6 Adoption

### Definition

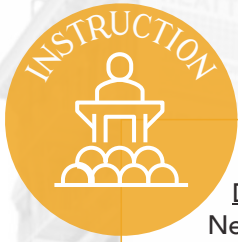
**Gregg Allison**, "Adoption is the mighty act of God to take sinful people—enemies who are alienated and separated from him—and incorporate them as beloved children into his family forever. Adoption brings with it an inheritance, and Christians are fellow heirs with their brother, Jesus Christ. Adoption as children into the family of God means further that Christians are brothers and sisters, united with one another."

**Luke 8:20–21** And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

### Biblical Support

**Ephesians 1:5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

**Romans 8:29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.



## #7 Sanctification

### Definition

**New City Catechism**, “Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit’s work in us.”

Sanctification—specifically progressive sanctification—is the cooperative work of God and Christians by which ongoing transformation into greater Christlikeness occurs.

### Biblical Support

**John 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth

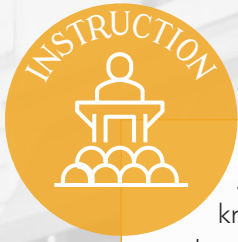
**1 Peter 2:2** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

**Philippians 2:12–13** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## #8 Perseverance

### Definition

**Gregg Allison**, “Perseverance is the mighty act of God to preserve Christians by his power through their ongoing faith, until their salvation is complete. Assurance of salvation is the subjective confidence that is the privilege of all genuine believers that they will remain Christians throughout their life.”



### Biblical Support

**John 10:27–29** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

**Revelation 3:11** I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

## **#9 Glorification**

### Definition

**Wayne Grudem**, "Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns, raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like his own."

**Michael Horton**, "Instead of making us something more than human, grace saves and liberates humans to become more human: finally to glorify and to enjoy God forever."

### Biblical Support

**Job 19:26** And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,

**1 Corinthians 15:51–53** Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.



**Philippians 3:20–21** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**Revelation 7:9–10** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

### The Purpose of Our Salvation

**Jonathan Edwards**, "You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary."

**John Calvin**, "We see that our whole salvation and all its parts are comprehended in Christ. We should therefore take care not to derive the least portion of it anywhere else. If we seek salvation, we are taught by the very name of Jesus that it is "of him."

**Romans 1:5–6** through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

### Why this is amazing

1. Because this is what happened to you
2. Because when the great commission seems hopeless from our perspective, from this perspective there is lot of hope.







## 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

### I Thes 5:23

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming 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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