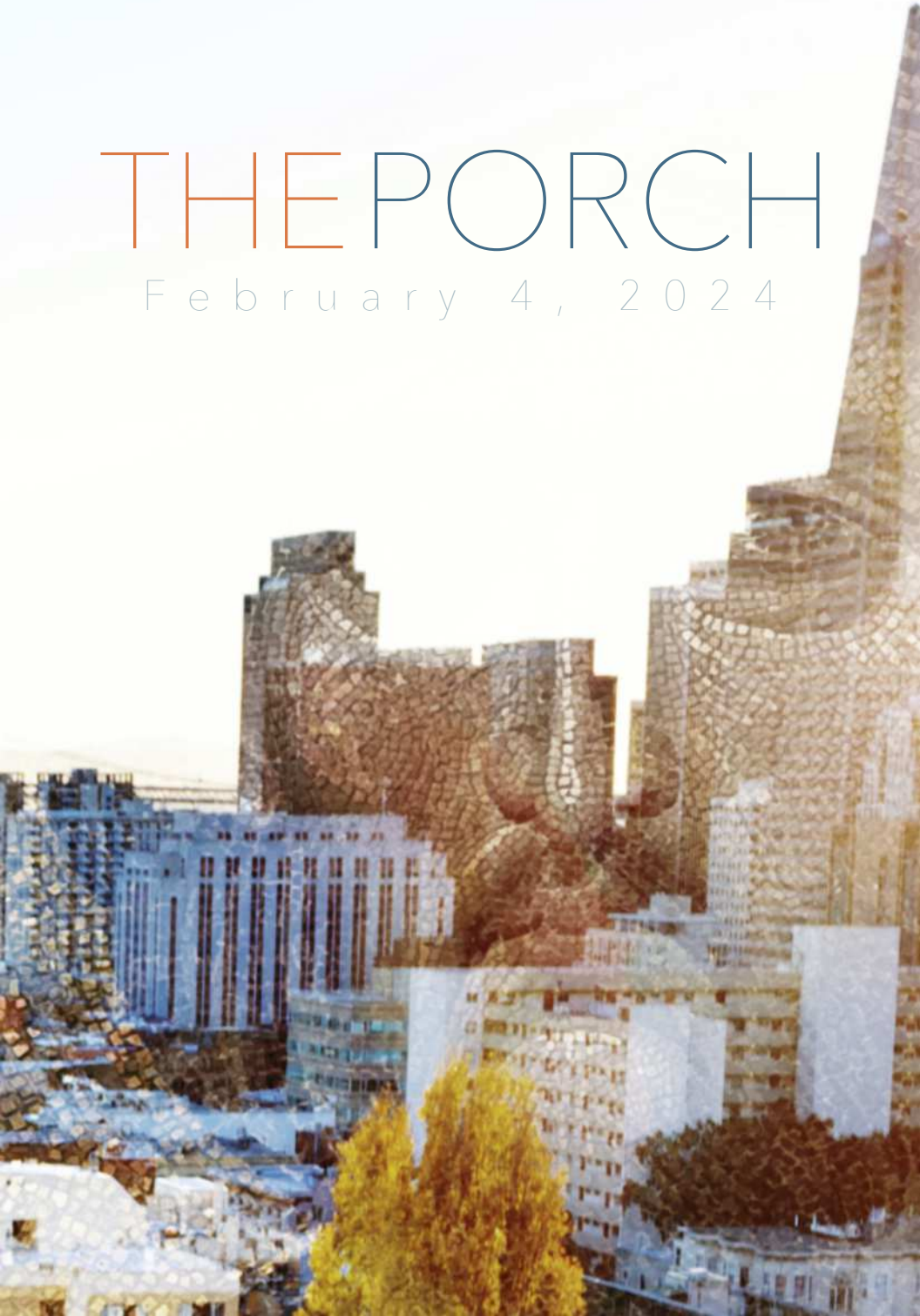


THE PORCH

February 4, 2024



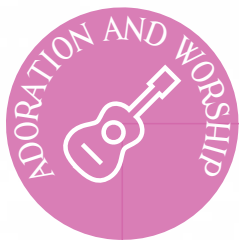
About Our Liturgy

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.





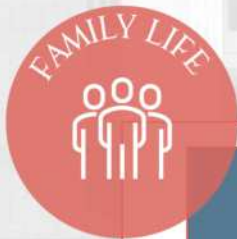
Call To Worship

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.

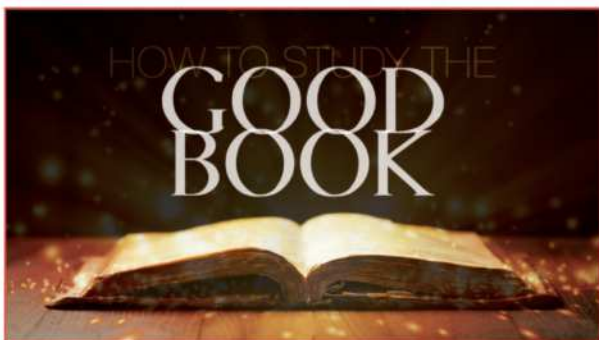
FAMILY LIFE

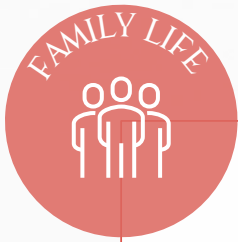


Ash Wednesday



February 14 at 6:30
2850 Alemany Blvd

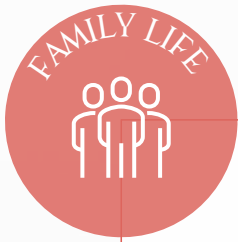




Missional Family Dinner Schedule

Wednesday Nights | 6:00-8:15 PM

- ① **February 7** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **February 14** | *Ash Wednesday*
- ③ **February 21** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa
Homework: HTSTGB B3
- Ⓛ **February 28** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner
Homework: HTSTGB B4
- ① **March 6** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **March 13** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef
Homework: HTSTGB C1
- ③ **March 20** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa
Homework: HTSTGB C2
- Ⓛ **March 27** | *Holy Week*
- ① **April 3** | Brackett Home | Friends Night



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.





Petra SF



* 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.



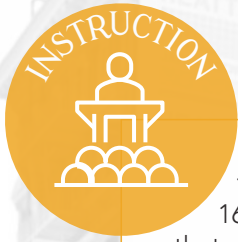
Acts 4:1-22 | Before the Sanhedrin

Acts 4:1-22 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.



15 But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, 16 saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." 18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." 21 And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. 22 For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

Tim Keller "People say, 'Look, you can't do that anymore. You can't say that anymore, Christians. You can believe in Jesus. Great. Just don't say he's the only or the best or the superior way to find God. Don't say he's better than other great teachers and other great leaders like Plato or Moses or Muhammad or Buddha or Gandhi. You can believe in Jesus; just don't believe he's better than or superior to any of these other great religious founders or teachers.'"

#1 All religions basically teach the same thing.

Tim Keller "The fact/value distinction is that science gives us facts, and those are things we can talk about in public, but values and religion and morals are private, because nobody can decide what is right. It's all subjective. Where did that come from? It came from the Enlightenment. It came from the European Enlightenment of the eighteenth century. It came from Immanuel Kant and people like that.



Most of the world doesn't believe it. Most of the world does not believe that facts are objective and values are subjective. White people believe it, by and large. It came from white people. It came from the European Enlightenment. Now when I hear in New York people say, 'Hey, the world is getting more secular, more pluralistic. Christians need to get with the program... ' Only white people are getting more secular, and they're shrinking in number. In percentage, they're shrinking."

#2 Each religion has part of the truth but none can see it all.

#3 Religions are too culturally and historically conditioned to be true.

Peter Berger "If you infer from the social conditionedness of all belief that no belief can be held as universally true for everyone, that itself is a comprehensive claim about everyone that is the product of social conditions—so it cannot be true, on its own terms. Relativity relativizes itself, so we can't have relativism 'all the way down.'"

#4 God is too big to for us to make claims about who he is.

#5 Making exclusive claims is arrogant. Nobody should make exclusive claims.

#6 Trying to convert people and expecting them to think like you is arrogant.



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 Corinthians 15:58

⁵⁸ Therefore, beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.



*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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