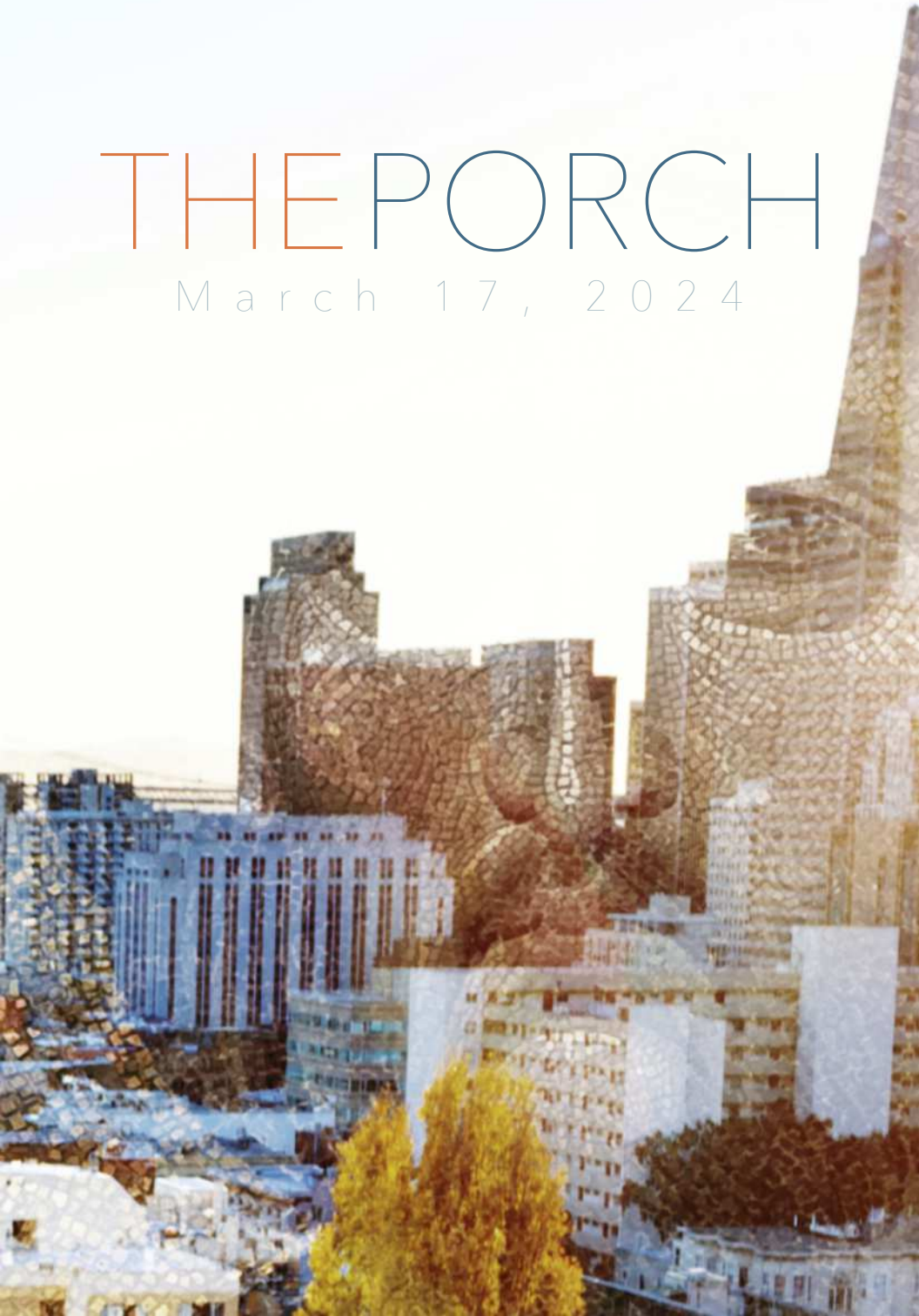


THE PORCH

March 17, 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.





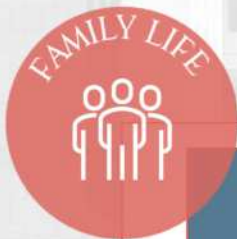
Call To Worship

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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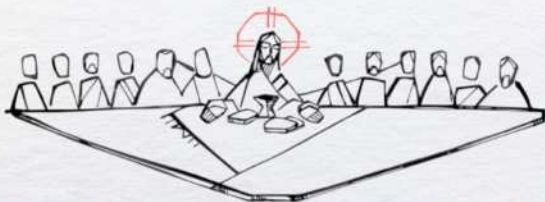


* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth. We pray for each other. We chat while getting coffee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

FAMILY LIFE



MAUNDY THURSDAY March 28 6:30 PM
756 Union St



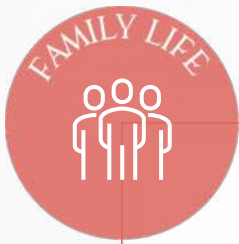
GOOD FRIDAY
March 29 6:30
2555 San Bruno Ave



PORCH SWAG

Hoodie \$30
Pullover \$25
T-Shirt \$20

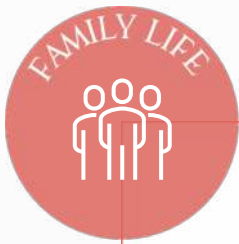




Missional Family Dinner Schedule

Wednesday Nights | 6:00-8:15 PM

- ③ **March 20** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa
Homework: HTSTGB C1
- Ⓛ **March 27** | *Holy Week*
- ① **April 3** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **April 10** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef
Homework: HTSTGB C2
- ③ **April 17** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa
Homework: HTSTGB C3
- Ⓛ **April 24** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner
Homework: HTSTGB C4
- ① **May 1** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **May 8** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef
Homework: HTSTGB C5
- ③ **May 15** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa
Homework: HTSTGB C6



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.





New City Catechism

Question 7: What does the law of God require

Answer: Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done.

Scripture Reading *1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (CSB)*

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, **but it is the power of God to us who are being saved.** For it is written,

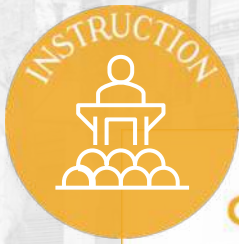
I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and I will set aside the intelligence of the intelligent.

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the debater of this age? **Hasn't God made the world's wisdom foolish?**

For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, **God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is preached.**

For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. **Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God,** because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

* 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 6:1-7 | Deacons and Church Care

Acts 6:1-7 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

John Stott "The devil's next attack was the cleverest of the three. Having failed to overcome the church by either persecution or corruption, he now tried distraction. If he could preoccupy the apostles with social administration, which though essential was not their calling, they would neglect their God-given responsibilities to pray and to preach, and so leave the church without any defense against false doctrine"

Matt Smethurst "The seven weren't merely deployed to solve a food problem. Food was the occasion, sure, but it wasn't the deepest problem. The deepest problem was a sudden threat to church unity."



1 Timothy 3:8–13 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 11 Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. 13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Matt Smethurst "...Deacons were God's idea. He loves deacons, and he wants us to also. But in order to rightly love the office we must understand the Bible's glorious vision for it. No, we shouldn't elevate deacons to an executive board of pseudo-elders. It is an office of service, not oversight. But let us not reduce the role to savvy businessmen or skilled handymen either. Deacons are so much more. They are an influential cavalry of servants, called by the King and deputized by his church to target and meet tangible needs. To protect and promote church unity. To enhance the ministry of the elders. And, in doing so, to accelerate the mission of the church."

IX Marks: Deacons by Matt Smethhurst

1. Spotting and Meeting Tangible Needs
2. Protecting and Promoting Church Unity
3. Serving and Supporting the Ministry of the Elders

1 Timothy 3:13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.





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

²⁴ 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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