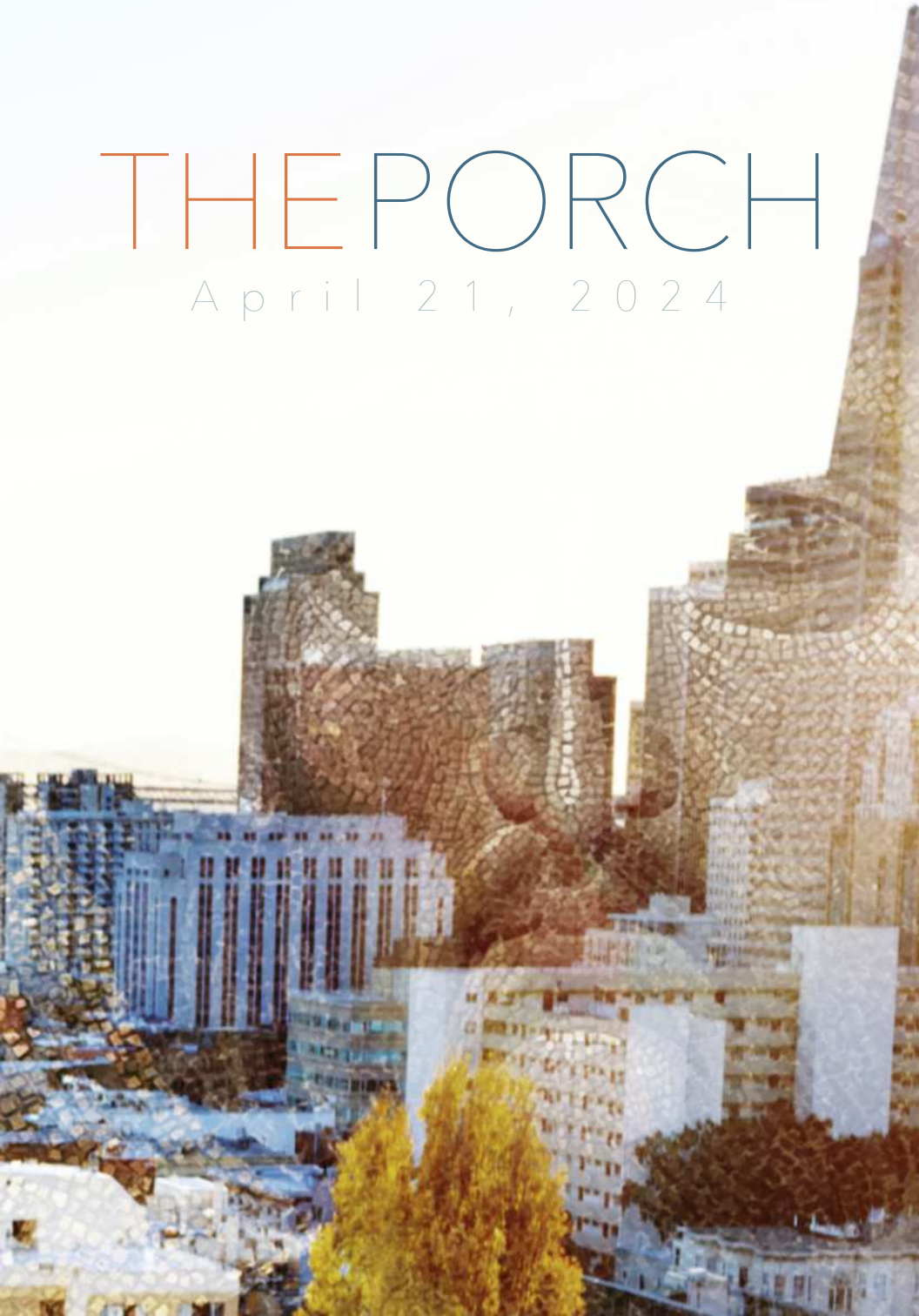


# THE PORCH

April 21, 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.





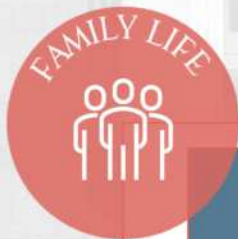
## Call To Worship

### 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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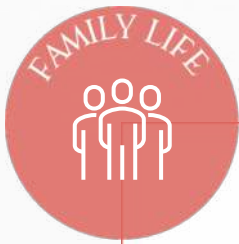


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\* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth.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

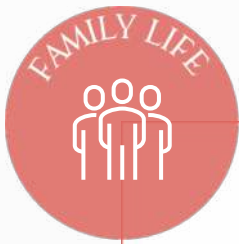




## Missional Family Dinner Schedule

Wednesday Nights | 6:00-8:15 PM

- ① **April 24** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Homework: HTSTGB C2
- ① **May 1** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **May 8** | *No Wednesday Dinner*
- ③ **May 15** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB C3
- ④ **May 22** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB C4
- ① **May 29** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Homework: HTSTGB C5
- ① **June 5** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **June 12** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB C6
- ③ **June 19** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB D1



## 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 15:** Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

**Answer:** That we may know the holy nature and will of God, and the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior. The law also teaches and exhorts us to live a life worthy of our Savior.

### Scripture Reading *1 John 3:16-18 (CSB)*

This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. **We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.** If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need, but withholds compassion from him — **how does God's love reside in him?** Little children, let us not love in word or speech, **but in action and in truth.**

\* 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.





## Let's All Be Monks

### Week 2: Habits and Liturgy

**John Mark Comer**, "Do you ever feel that nagging thought tug at the back of your mind: Is the life I'm living the life I most deeply desire? Is this it?"

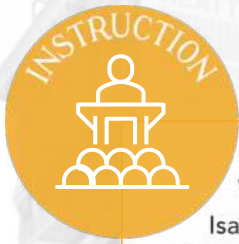
#### How Habits Work

**Charles Duhigg**, "When a habit emerges, the brain stops fully participating in decision making. It stops working so hard, or diverts focus to other tasks. So unless you deliberately fight a habit—unless you find new routines—the pattern will unfold automatically."

**Tish Harrison Warren**, *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, "Our way of being-in-the-world works its way into us through ritual and repetition...We are shaped every day, whether we know it or not, by practices—rituals and liturgies that make us who we are. We receive these practices—which are often rote—not only from the church or the Scriptures but from the culture, from the "air around us."

**Justin Whitmel Earley**, *The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction*, "A liturgy is a pattern of words or actions repeated regularly as a way of worship. The goal of a liturgy is for the participant to be formed in a certain way. For example, I say the Lord's Prayer every night with my sons because I want the words of Jesus' prayer to sink down into their bones. I want that prayer to form the contours of their lives."

Notice how similar the definition of liturgy is to the definition of habit. They're both something repeated over and over, which forms you; the only difference is that a liturgy admits that it's an act of worship. Calling habits liturgies may seem odd, but we need language to emphasize the non-neutrality of our day-to-day routines. Our habits often obscure what we're really worshiping, but that doesn't mean we're not worshiping something. The question is, what are we worshiping?"



## **Creation – God made us and so he knows how we work**

**Isaiah 44:24** Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,

### **Liturgy in the Scripture**

Old Testament Festivals

Sabbath

Sacrifices

Jesus and Prayer

**Luke 4:16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.

### **Liturgy and the Porch (Community Level)**

**Mike Cospers**, "The church gathering is an echo from the future, a foretaste of something we'll see come to fruition when Christ returns and all things are made new, a not-yet life that we taste in part already. Today, we gather in exile, in the world but not of it, but one day the exile will end. God will rebuild creation, and not one corner of it will be stained by sin and rebellion. Until then, we have these momentary and imperfect glimpses and foretastes as we gather, hear the Word, and respond together. As flawed and imperfect as these gatherings are, they're the most truthful moment of our week, an outpost of the kingdom of God and a foretaste of eternity."



## Porch SF Sunday Liturgy

Adoration and Worship

Call to Worship

Singing

Family Life

Welcome and Updates

Prayer

Stretch/Not-a-break

Instruction

New City Catechism

Scripture Reading

Sermon

Response and Reflection

Singing

Gospel Remembrance

Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Communion

Singing

Benediction



## Rule of Life (Personal Level)

**John Mark Comer**, "'How we spend our days' doesn't just determine what we do with our one, precious, fleeting life, but who we become. Picking up your phone first thing upon waking and checking social media isn't just a bad habit—it's a choice to let yourself become formed into a certain kind of person. Spending more time reading the news than reading Scripture isn't just 'wrong'—it's a choice to become more like your favorite news commentators than like Jesus. Spending your money on yet another thing you don't need isn't just playing around with 'disposable income'—it's feeding an appetite within you that will grow only more ravenous.

All these things we do, do something to us. They form us... Choose your own constraints, or they will be chosen for you, not by the Spirit of God stirring your own heart toward love, but by a programmer in Silicon Valley working to steal your time and shape your behavior. The choice is yours: Rule, or be ruled."

**John Mark Comer**, "A Rule of Life is a schedule and set of practices and relational rhythms that create space for us to be with Jesus, become like him, and do as he did, as we live in alignment with our deepest desires."

**Peter Scazzero**, "A Rule of Life is an intentional, conscious plan to keep God at the center of everything we do. . . . The starting point and foundation of any Rule is a desire to be with God and to love him."

**Justin Whitmel Earley**, *The Common Rule*, "When we act out the 'no-limits-none-ever' freedom liturgy, we assume that the good life comes from having the freedom to do whatever we want. So to ensure the good life, we have to ensure our ability to choose in each moment. But what if the good life doesn't come from having the ability to do what we want but from having the ability to do what we were made for? What if true freedom comes from choosing the right limitations, not avoiding all limitations?"





## 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

### Heb 13:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

\*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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