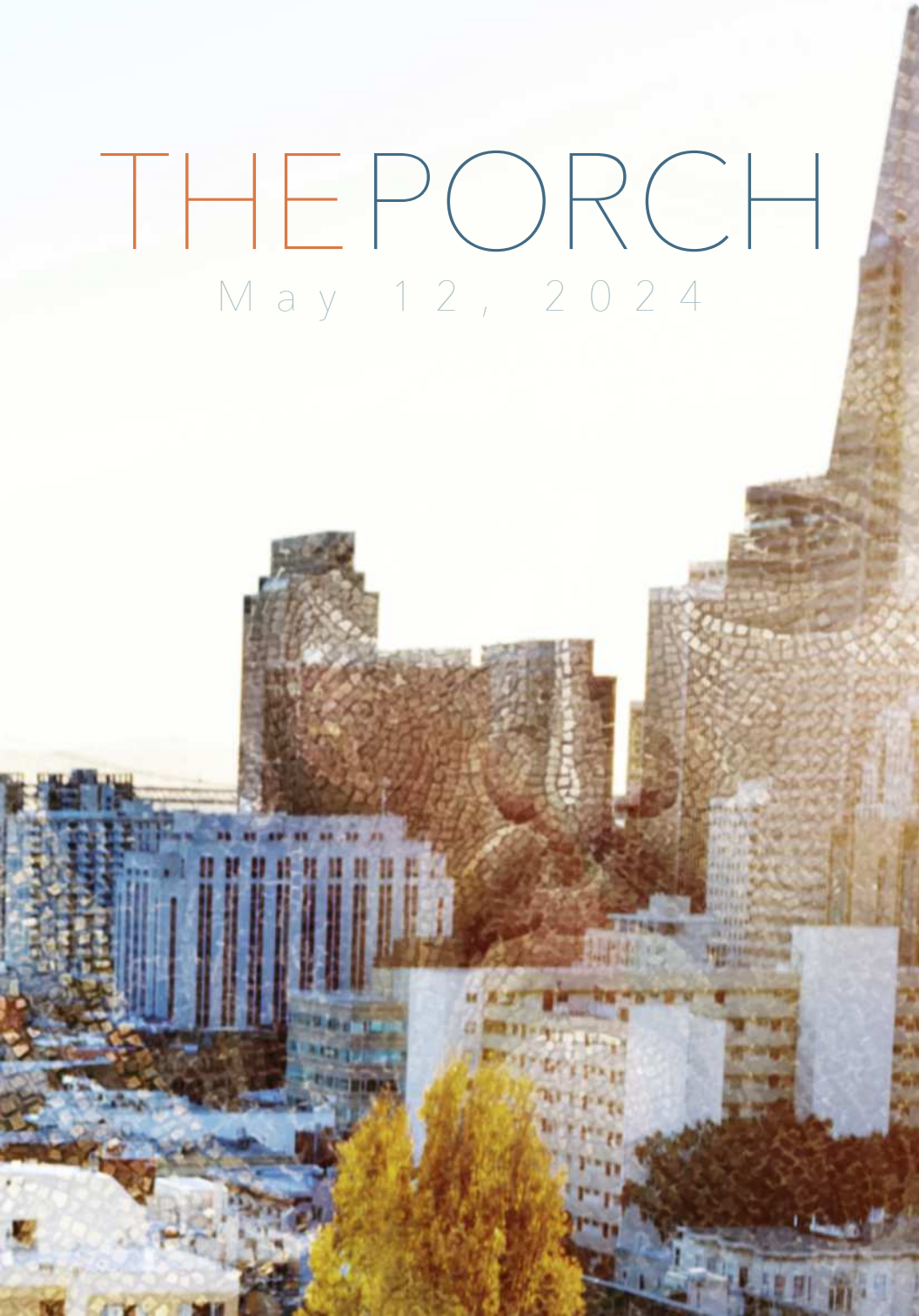


# THE PORCH

May 12, 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.



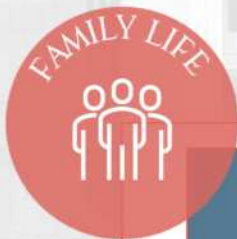


## Call To Worship

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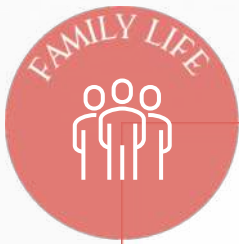
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\* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth.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



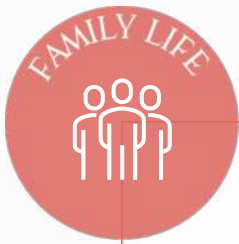




## Missional Family Dinner Schedule

Wednesday Nights | 6:00-8:15 PM

- ③ **May 15** | Brackett Home | Chef Joseph  
Homework: HTSTGB C3
- ④ **May 22** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: SD Reflection
- Ⓘ **May 29** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Homework: HTSTGB C4
- ① **June 5** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **June 12** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB C4
- ③ **June 19** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB C5
- Ⓘ **June 26** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Homework: HTSTGB C6
- ① **July 3** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **June 12** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB C4



## 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 21:** What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

**Answer:** One who is truly human and also truly God.

**Question 22:** Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

**Answer:** That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses.

**Question 23:** Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

**Answer:** That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.

### Scripture Reading *Psalm 1:1-3 (ESV)*

Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
**nor stands in the way of sinners,**  
**nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**  
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
**and on his law he meditates day and night.**

He is like a tree  
**planted by streams of water**  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
**and its leaf does not wither.**

\* 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 5: Daily Liturgies

#### #1 Scripture

##### Foundation

NCC Question 42: How is the Word of God to be read and heard?

Answer: With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith, store it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

##### The What

Scripture before phone.

At least 15 minutes of scriptural intake.

#### #2 Prayer

##### Foundation

Tim Keller, "Prayer, then, is both awe and intimacy, struggle and reality. These will not happen every time we pray, but each should be a major component of our prayer over the course of our lives."

##### The What

Four Daily Prayers

1. Morning
2. Lunch
3. 4:00PM for our church
4. Evening

#### #3 One Hour with Phone Off

##### Foundation

Idea #1 Be present in the moment.

Idea #2 Love of neighbor. Be present with people.



### The What

- Guideline #1 – Don't get fired.
- Guideline #2 – Be smart about this.
- Guideline #3 – iPads too.
- Guideline #4 – Use focus modes.
- Guideline #5 – "My phone is off while I'm sleeping" doesn't count.
- Guideline #5 – It's okay if it's 55 minutes.

## #4 Listen to One Worship Song Without Distraction.

### Foundation

Matt Boswell, "The Bible has a built-in hymnal, the book of Psalms, comprised of 150 songs, written over a period of about fifteen hundred years. These songs communicate truth about the character and the mighty deeds of the God of Israel. And these songs are responsive expressions of dependence on, reverence before, and delight in God. There are more than five hundred references to singing in the Bible and more than fifty direct commands to sing. Scripture couldn't be more clear. The God we worship delights in the sung praises of His people."

### The What

- Guideline #1 - Listen to one worship song (at least)
- Guideline #2 - Distraction free – so not while you are reading or watching TV or doom scrolling.
- Guideline #3 - Feel free to sing along.
- Guideline #4 - We have a playlist of the songs we sing at the Porch.

### Application

- Do these long enough to build the habit.
- Don't forget that we aren't after earning our salvation through spiritual works.





## 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 Assurance of Pardon 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.

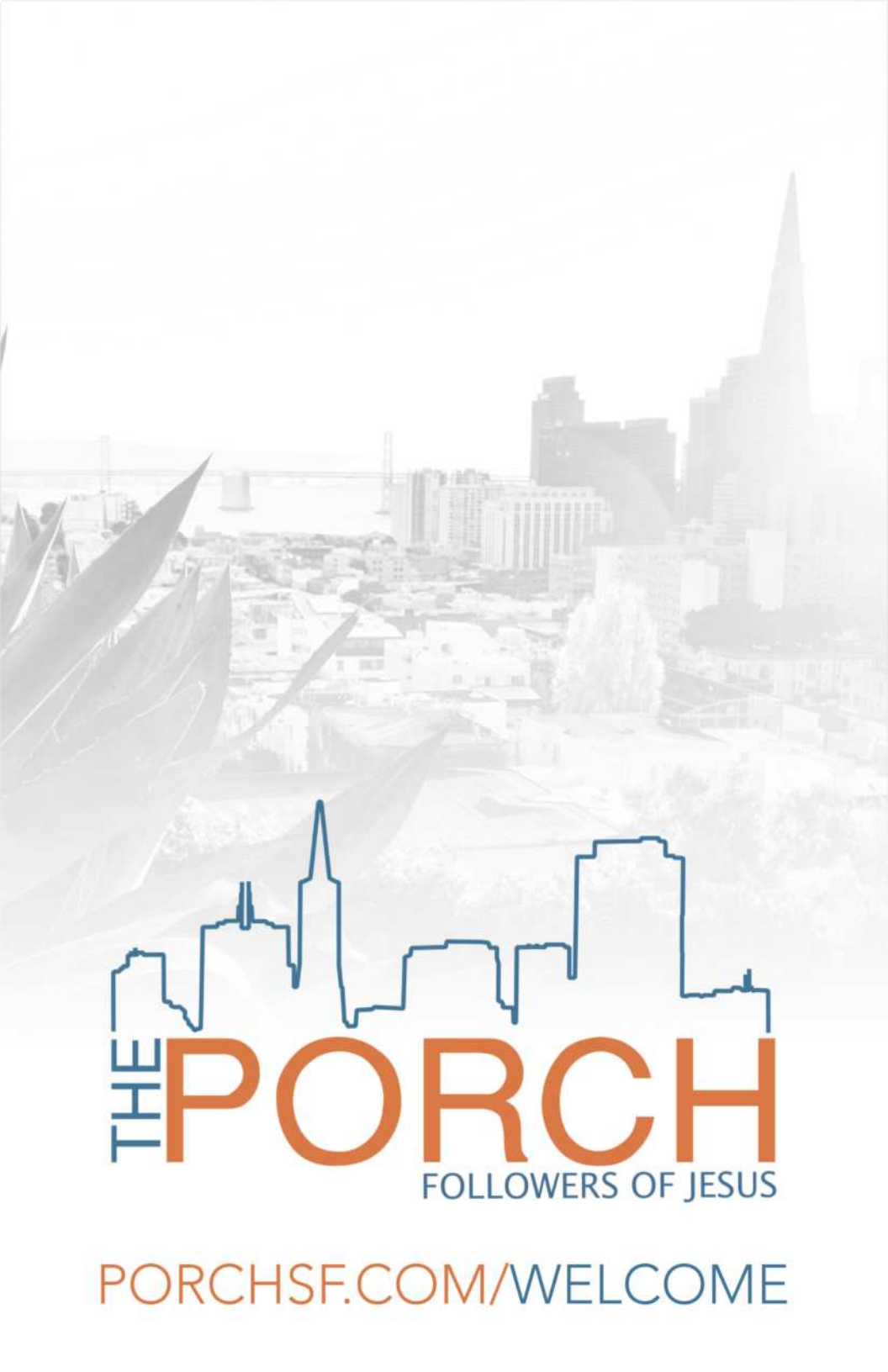


## Benediction

### 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**  
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