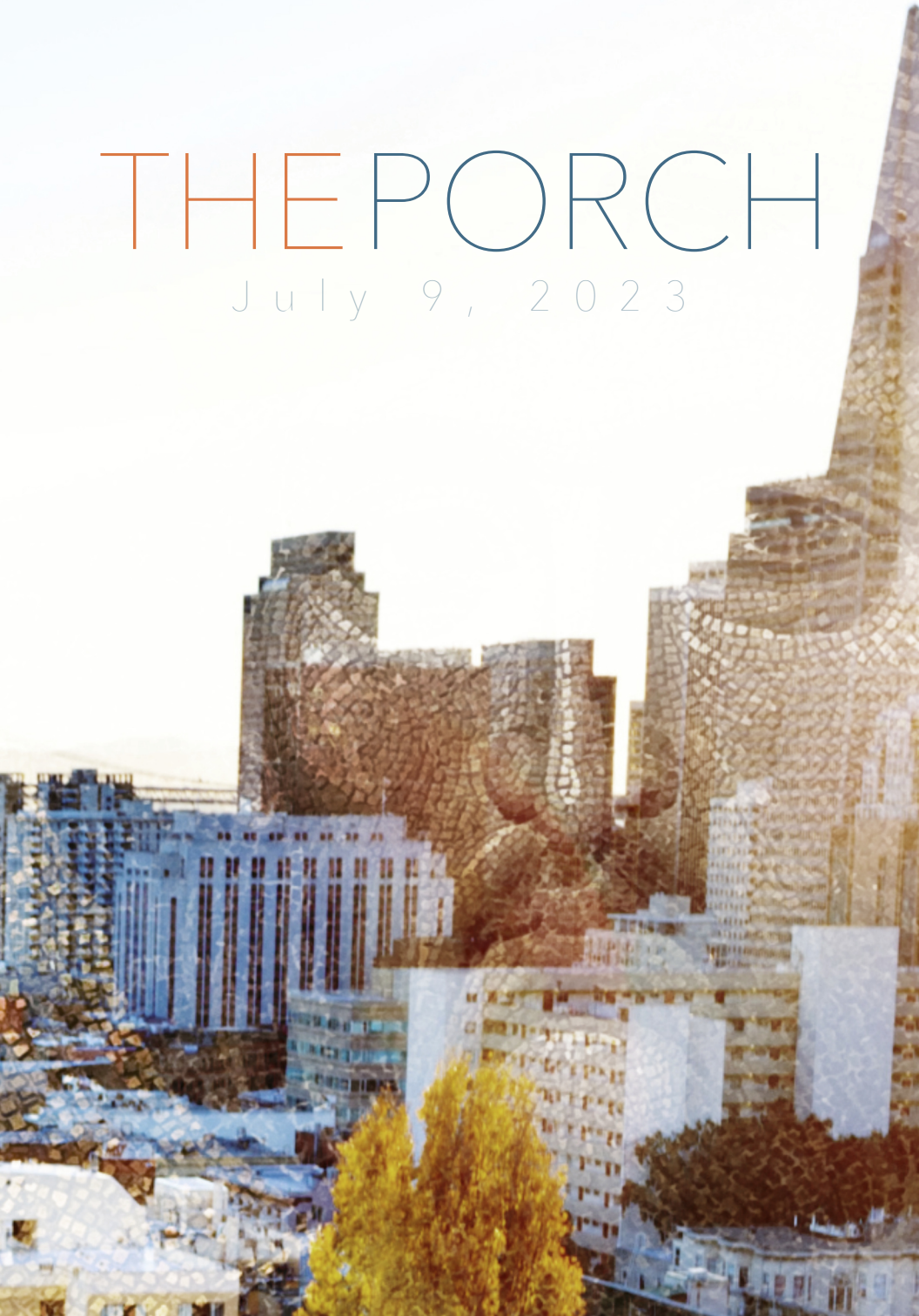


THE PORCH

July 9, 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.





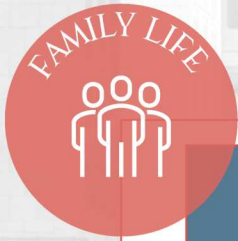
Call To Worship

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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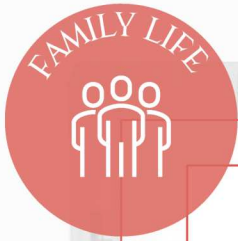
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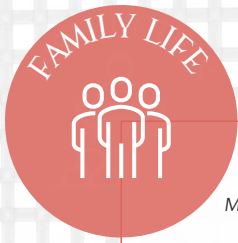


* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth. We pray for each other. We chat while getting coffee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



Chapters 12, 15, 17 on Wednesday, July 19





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.

Coffee

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 coffee and say hello to someone you haven't met yet.





New City Catechism

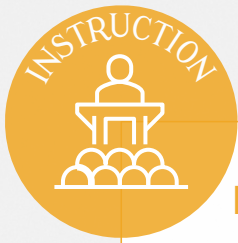
Question 31: What do we believe by true faith?

Answer: Everything taught to us in the gospel. The Apostles' Creed expresses what we believe in these words: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Scripture Reading *Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)*

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, **and I will give you rest.** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, **for I am gentle and lowly in heart,** and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, **and my burden is light.**"

* 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.



Ezekiel 28 & 32 | Secular Leaders

Oracle Against the King of Tyre

Ezekiel 28:1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre, 'This is what the Lord God says: Your heart is proud, and you have said, "I am a god; I sit in the seat of gods in the heart of the sea." Yet you are a man and not a god, though you have regarded your heart as that of a god. 3 Yes, you are wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you! 4 By your wisdom and understanding you have acquired wealth for yourself. You have acquired gold and silver for your treasuries. 5 By your great skill in trading you have increased your wealth, but your heart has become proud because of your wealth.

6 " 'Therefore, this is what the Lord God says: Because you regard your heart as that of a god, 7 I am about to bring strangers against you, ruthless men from the nations.

They will draw their swords against your magnificent wisdom and will pierce your splendor.

8 They will bring you down to the Pit, and you will die a violent death in the heart of the sea.

9 Will you still say, "I am a god," in the presence of those who slay you? Yet you will be only a man, not a god, in the hands of those who kill you.

10 You will die the death of the uncircumcised at the hands of strangers.

For I have spoken.

This is the declaration of the Lord God.' "



Funeral Song for the King of Tyre

11 The word of the Lord came to me: 12 "Son of man, lament for the king of Tyre and say to him,

'This is what the Lord God says:

You were the seal of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God.
Every kind of precious stone covered you:
carnelian, topaz, and diamond,
beryl, onyx, and jasper,
lapis lazuli, turquoise and emerald.

Your mountings and settings were crafted in gold;
they were prepared on the day you were created.

14 You were an anointed guardian cherub,
for I had appointed you.

You were on the holy mountain of God;
you walked among the fiery stones.

15 From the day you were created
you were blameless in your ways
until wickedness was found in you.

16 Through the abundance of your trade,
you were filled with violence, and you sinned.

So I expelled you in disgrace
from the mountain of God,
and banished you, guardian cherub,
from among the fiery stones.

17 Your heart became proud because of your beauty;
For the sake of your splendor
you corrupted your wisdom.

So I threw you down to the ground;
I made you a spectacle before kings.

18 You profaned your sanctuaries
by the magnitude of your iniquities
in your dishonest trade.

So I made fire come from within you,
and it consumed you.

I reduced you to ashes on the ground
in the sight of everyone watching you.



19 All those who know you among the peoples are appalled at you. You have become an object of horror and will never exist again.' "

The King's Actions Affect a Lot of People

20 The word of the Lord came to me: 21 "Son of man, face Sidon and prophesy against it. 22 You are to say, 'This is what the Lord God says:

Look! I am against you, Sidon, and I will display my glory within you. They will know that I am the Lord when I execute judgments against her and demonstrate my holiness through her. 23 I will send a plague against her and bloodshed in her streets; the slain will fall within her, while the sword is against her on every side. Then they will know that I am the Lord.

24 " 'The house of Israel will no longer be hurt by prickly briars or painful thorns from all their neighbors who treat them with contempt. Then they will know that I am the Lord God.

God's Purpose – Israel's Benefit

25 " 'This is what the Lord God says: When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples where they are scattered, I will demonstrate my holiness through them in the sight of the nations, and they will live in their own land, which I gave to my servant Jacob. 26 They will live there securely, build houses, and plant vineyards. They will live securely when I execute judgments against all their neighbors who treat them with contempt. Then they will know that I am the Lord their God.' "



Pharaoh Thinks He's a Mighty Animal

Ezekiel 32:1 In the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, lament for Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to him, 'You compare yourself to a lion of the nations, but you are like a monster in the seas. You thrash about in your rivers, churn up the waters with your feet, and muddy the rivers.

God is a Hunter

3 " 'This is what the Lord God says: I will spread my net over you with an assembly of many peoples, and they will haul you up in my net. 4 I will abandon you on the land and throw you onto the open field. I will cause all the birds of the sky to settle on you and let the wild creatures of the entire earth eat their fill of you. 5 I will put your flesh on the mountains and fill the valleys with your carcass. 6 I will drench the land with the flow of your blood, even to the mountains; the ravines will be filled with your gore. 7 " 'When I snuff you out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars. I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light. 8 I will darken all the shining lights in the heavens over you, and will bring darkness on your land. This is the declaration of the Lord God.



People Are Troubled When Pharaoh Falls

9 " 'I will trouble the hearts of many peoples,
when I bring about your destruction
among the nations,
in countries you have not known.
10 I will cause many peoples to be appalled at you,
and their kings will shudder with fear because of you
when I brandish my sword in front of them.
On the day of your downfall
each of them will tremble
every moment for his life.

Babylon is Coming

11 " 'For this is what the Lord God says:
The sword of Babylon's king
will come against you!
12 I will make your hordes fall
by the swords of warriors,
all of them ruthless men from the nations.
They will ravage Egypt's pride,
and all its hordes will be destroyed.
13 I will slaughter all its cattle
that are beside many waters.
No human foot will churn them again,
and no cattle hooves will disturb them.
14 Then I will let their waters settle
and will make their rivers flow like oil.
This is the declaration of the Lord God.
15 When I make the land of Egypt a desolation,
so that it is emptied of everything in it,
when I strike down all who live there,
then they will know that I am the Lord.
16 " 'The daughters of the nations will chant that lament.
They will chant it over Egypt and all its hordes. This is the
declaration of the Lord God.' "



Egypt in Sheol

17 In the twelfth year, on the fifteenth day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: 18 “Son of man, wail over the hordes of Egypt and bring Egypt and the daughters of mighty nations down to the underworld, to be with those who descend to the Pit:

19 Who do you surpass in loveliness?

Go down and be laid to rest with the uncircumcised!

20 They will fall among those slain by the sword.

A sword is appointed!

They drag her and all her hordes away.

21 Warrior leaders will speak

from the middle of Sheol

about him and his allies:

‘They have come down;

the uncircumcised lie

slain by the sword.’

22 “Assyria is there with her whole assembly;

her graves are all around her.

All of them are slain, fallen by the sword.

23 Her graves are set in the deepest regions of the Pit,

and her assembly is all around her burial place.

All of them are slain, fallen by the sword—

those who once spread terror

in the land of the living.

24 “Elam is there

with all her hordes around her grave.

All of them are slain, fallen by the sword—

those who went down to the underworld uncircumcised,

who once spread their terror

in the land of the living.

They bear their disgrace

with those who descend to the Pit.

25 Among the slain

they prepare a bed for Elam

with all her hordes.

Her graves are all around her.



All of them are uncircumcised,
slain by the sword,
although their terror was once spread
in the land of the living.

They bear their disgrace
with those who descend to the Pit.

They are placed among the slain.

26 "Meshech and Tubal are there,
with all their hordes.

Their graves are all around them.

All of them are uncircumcised, slain by the sword,
although their terror was once spread
in the land of the living.

27 They do not lie down
with the fallen warriors of the uncircumcised,
who went down to Sheol
with their weapons of war,
whose swords were placed under their heads
and their shields
rested on their bones,

although the terror of these warriors
was once in the land of the living.

28 But you will be shattered
and will lie down among the uncircumcised,
with those slain by the sword.

29 "Edom is there, her kings and all her princes,
who, despite their strength, have been placed
among those slain by the sword.

They lie down with the uncircumcised,
with those who descend to the Pit.

30 All the leaders of the north
and all the Sidonians are there.

They went down in shame with the slain,
despite the terror their strength inspired.

They lie down uncircumcised
with those slain by the sword.

They bear their disgrace
with those who descend to the Pit.



31 “Pharaoh will see them
and be comforted over all his hordes—
Pharaoh and his whole army,
slain by the sword.”

This is the declaration of the Lord God.

32 “For I will spread my terror
in the land of the living,
so Pharaoh and all his hordes
will be laid to rest among the uncircumcised,
with those slain by the sword.”

This is the declaration of the Lord God.

#1 – Your citizenship is in heaven

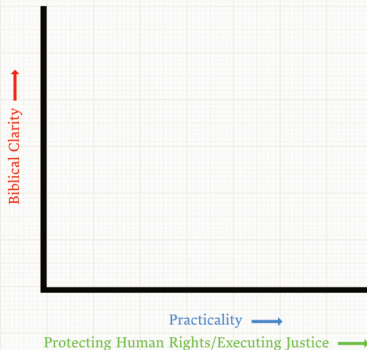
2 Timothy 3:16–17 (CSB) 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

#2 – Kingdom people use what power and influence they possess to serve and love society.

#3 – While the Bible shapes our worldview, we are still required to make wise decisions.

Faith/Politics Graph

Issue:





Resources - Sermons

Tim Keller sermon, "Jesus and Politics"

<https://gospelinlife.com/downloads/jesus-and-politics-5486/>

Tim Keller sermon, "Arguing About Politics"

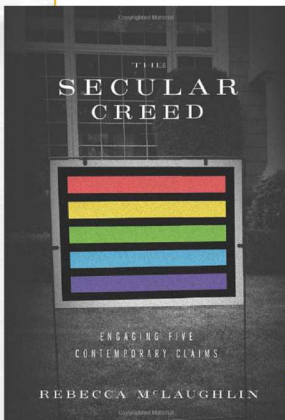
<https://youtu.be/U79Eef6U9nw>

Resources - Books



Compassion and Conviction
(Justin Giboney, Michael Wear,
Chris Butler)

This is a great overview of faith and political engagement.



The Secular Creed: Engaging Five Contemporary Claims
(Rebecca McLaughlin)

This is the best book I've read on how to be formed by scripture and engage in current issues with grace and love. Rebecca McLaughlin is without a doubt one of the most important Christian authors and thinkers of our time.





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

Revelation 5:13

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

*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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