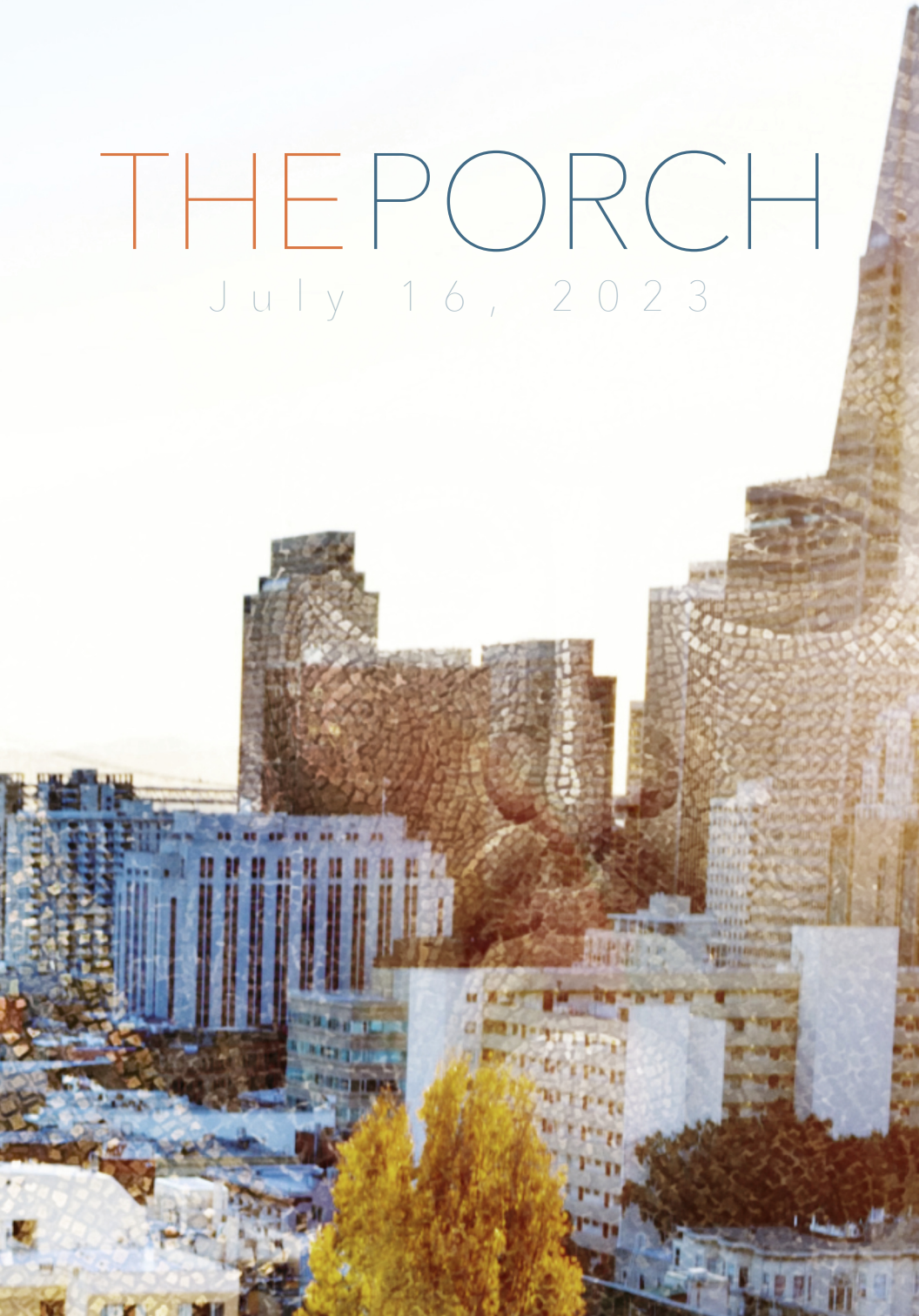


THE PORCH

July 16, 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.





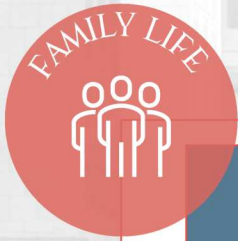
Call To Worship

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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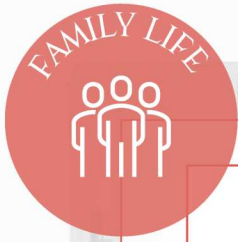
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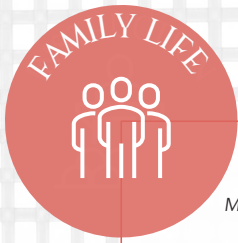


* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth. We pray for each other. We chat while getting coffee 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 32: What do justification and sanctification mean?

Answer: Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us.

Scripture Reading *Psalms 119:105-112 (CSB)*

Your word is a lamp for my feet

and a light on my path.

I have solemnly sworn to keep your righteous judgments.

I am severely afflicted;

Lord, give me life according to your word.

Lord, please accept my freewill offerings of praise,

and teach me your judgments.

My life is constantly in danger,

yet I do not forget your instruction.

The wicked have set a trap for me,

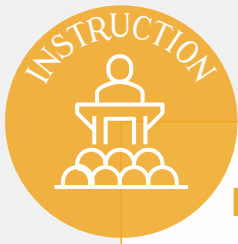
but I have not wandered from your precepts.

I have your decrees as a heritage forever;

indeed, they are the joy of my heart.

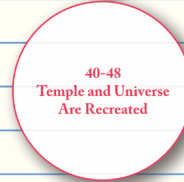
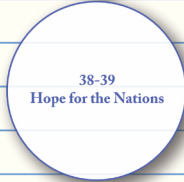
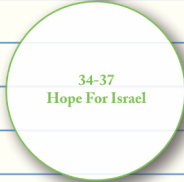
I am resolved to obey your statutes to the very end.

* 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 29-31 | Nations Part 3 Egypt

Ezekiel 12-48 Outline



God Opposes the Pride of Egypt

Ezekiel 29:1 In the tenth year, in the tenth month on the twelfth day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, face Pharaoh king of Egypt and prophesy against him and against all of Egypt. 3 Speak to him and say, 'This is what the Lord God says: Look, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great monster lying in the middle of his Nile, who says, "My Nile is my own; I made it for myself."

The Crocodile

4 I will put hooks in your jaws and make the fish of your streams cling to your scales. I will haul you up from the middle of your Nile, and all the fish of your streams will cling to your scales.



5 I will leave you in the desert,
you and all the fish of your streams.
You will fall on the open ground
and will not be taken away
or gathered for burial.
I have given you to the wild creatures of the earth
and the birds of the sky as food.

God's Glory in the Judgement

6 " 'Then all the inhabitants of Egypt
will know that I am the Lord,
for they have been a staff made of reed
to the house of Israel.

7 When Israel grasped you by the hand,
you splintered, tearing all their shoulders;
when they leaned on you,
you shattered and made all their hips unsteady.

The Sword

8 " 'Therefore, this is what the Lord God says: I am going
to bring a sword against you and cut off both people and
animals from you. 9 The land of Egypt will be a desolate
ruin. Then they will know that I am the Lord. Because you
said, "The Nile is my own; I made it," 10 therefore, I am
against you and your Nile. I will turn the land of Egypt into
ruins, a desolate waste from Migdol to Syene, as far as the
border of Cush. 11 No human foot will pass through it,
and no animal foot will pass through it. It will be
uninhabited for forty years. 12 I will make the land of
Egypt a desolation among desolate lands, and its cities
will be a desolation among ruined cities for forty years. I
will disperse the Egyptians among the nations and scatter
them throughout the lands.



Promise of Restoration

13 "For this is what the Lord God says: At the end of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the peoples where they were dispersed. 14 I will restore the fortunes of Egypt and bring them back to the land of Pathros, the land of their origin. There they will be a lowly kingdom. 15 Egypt will be the lowliest of kingdoms and will never again exalt itself over the nations. I will make them so small they cannot rule over the nations. 16 It will never again be an object of trust for the house of Israel, drawing attention to their iniquity of turning to the Egyptians. Then they will know that I am the Lord God.' "

Plunder Egypt

17 In the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: 18 "Son of man, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon made his army labor strenuously against Tyre. Every head was made bald and every shoulder chafed, but he and his army received no compensation from Tyre for the labor he expended against it. 19 Therefore, this is what the Lord God says: I am going to give the land of Egypt to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and he will carry off its wealth, seizing its spoil and taking its plunder. This will be his army's compensation. 20 I have given him the land of Egypt as the pay he labored for, since they worked for me." This is the declaration of the Lord God. 21 "In that day I will cause a horn to sprout for the house of Israel, and I will enable you to speak out among them. Then they will know that I am the Lord."



The Day of the Lord Against Egypt Woe

Ezekiel 30:1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2

“Son of man, prophesy and say, ‘This is what the Lord God says: Wail, “Woe because of that day!”

3 For a day is near;
a day belonging to the Lord is near.

It will be a day of clouds,
a time of doom for the nations.

4 A sword will come against Egypt,
and there will be anguish in Cush
when the slain fall in Egypt,
and its wealth is taken away,
and its foundations are demolished.

Judgement Against the Cities

5 Cush, Put, and Lud,
and all the various foreign troops,
plus Libya and the men of the covenant land
will fall by the sword along with them.

6 This is what the Lord says:
Those who support Egypt will fall,
and its proud strength will collapse.

From Migdol to Syene
they will fall within it by the sword.
This is the declaration of the Lord God.

7 They will be desolate
among desolate lands,
and their cities will lie
among ruined cities.

8 They will know that I am the Lord
when I set fire to Egypt
and all its allies are shattered.

9 On that day, messengers will go out from me in ships to
terrify confident Cush. Anguish will come over them on
the day of Egypt's doom. For indeed it is coming.

10 “This is what the Lord God says:
I will put an end to the hordes of Egypt
by the hand of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.



11 He along with his people,
ruthless men from the nations,
will be brought in to destroy the land.

They will draw their swords against Egypt
and fill the land with the slain.

12 I will make the streams dry
and sell the land to evil men.

I will bring desolation
on the land and everything in it
by the hands of foreigners.

I, the Lord, have spoken.

13 " 'This is what the Lord God says:

I will destroy the worthless idols
and put an end to
the false gods in Memphis.

There will no longer be
a prince from the land of Egypt.

And I will instill fear in that land.

14 I will make Pathros desolate,
set fire to Zoan,

and execute judgments on Thebes.

15 I will pour out my wrath on Pelusium,
the stronghold of Egypt,
and will wipe out the hordes of Thebes.

16 I will set fire to Egypt;
Pelusium will writhe in anguish,
Thebes will be breached,
and Memphis will face foes in broad daylight.

17 The young men of On and Pi-beseth
will fall by the sword,
and those cities will go into captivity.

18 The day will be dark in Tehaphnehes,
when I break the yoke of Egypt there
and its proud strength

comes to an end in the city.
A cloud will cover Tehaphnehes,
and its surrounding villages will go into captivity.

19 So I will execute judgments against Egypt,
and they will know that I am the Lord.' "



Broken Arms

20 In the eleventh year, in the first month, on the seventh day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: 21 "Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Look, it has not been bandaged—no medicine has been applied and no splint put on to bandage it so that it can grow strong enough to handle a sword. 22 Therefore, this is what the Lord God says: Look! I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt. I will break his arms, both the strong one and the one already broken, and will make the sword fall from his hand. 23 I will disperse the Egyptians among the nations and scatter them among the countries. 24 I will strengthen the arms of Babylon's king and place my sword in his hand. But I will break the arms of Pharaoh, and he will groan before him as a mortally wounded man. 25 I will strengthen the arms of Babylon's king, but Pharaoh's arms will fall. They will know that I am the Lord when I place my sword in the hand of Babylon's king and he wields it against the land of Egypt. 26 When I disperse the Egyptians among the nations and scatter them among the countries, they will know that I am the Lord."

Assyria the Mighty Tree

Ezekiel 31:1 In the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his hordes,
'Who are you like in your greatness?
3 Think of Assyria, a cedar in Lebanon,
with beautiful branches and shady foliage
and of lofty height.
Its top was among the clouds.
4 The waters caused it to grow;
the underground springs made it tall,
directing their rivers all around
the place where the tree was planted
and sending their channels
to all the trees of the field.



5 Therefore the cedar became greater in height than all the trees of the field.

Its branches multiplied,
and its boughs grew long
as it spread them out
because of the abundant water.

6 All the birds of the sky
nested in its branches,
and all the animals of the field
gave birth beneath its boughs;
all the great nations lived in its shade.

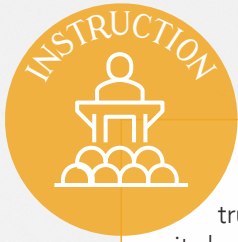
7 It was beautiful in its size,
in the length of its limbs,
for its roots extended to abundant water.

8 The cedars in God's garden could not eclipse it;
the pine trees couldn't compare with its branches,
nor could the plane trees match its boughs.
No tree in the garden of God
could compare with it in beauty.

9 I made it beautiful with its many limbs,
and all the trees of Eden,
which were in God's garden, envied it.

Foreigners Cut the Tree Down

10 " Therefore, this is what the Lord God says: Since it towered high in stature and set its top among the clouds, and it grew proud on account of its height, 11 I determined to hand it over to a ruler of nations; he would surely deal with it. I banished it because of its wickedness. 12 Foreigners, ruthless men from the nations, cut it down and left it lying. Its limbs fell on the mountains and in every valley; its boughs lay broken in all the earth's ravines. All the peoples of the earth left its shade and abandoned it.



The Ruin

13 All the birds of the sky nested on its fallen trunk, and all the animals of the field were among its boughs. 14 This happened so that no trees planted beside water would become great in height and set their tops among the clouds, and so that no other well-watered trees would reach them in height. For they have all been consigned to death, to the underworld, among the people who descend to the Pit.

15 " 'This is what the Lord God says: I caused grieving on the day the cedar went down to Sheol. I closed off the underground deep because of it: I held back the rivers of the deep, and its abundant water was restrained. I made Lebanon mourn on account of it, and all the trees of the field fainted because of it. 16 I made the nations quake at the sound of its downfall, when I threw it down to Sheol to be with those who descend to the Pit. Then all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all the well-watered trees, were comforted in the underworld. 17 They too descended with it to Sheol, to those slain by the sword. As its allies they had lived in its shade among the nations.

Curse of Pharaoh

18 " 'Who then are you like in glory and greatness among Eden's trees? You also will be brought down to the underworld to be with the trees of Eden. You will lie among the uncircumcised with those slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his hordes. This is the declaration of the Lord God.' "



Revelation 18:1-3 After this I saw another angel with great authority coming down from heaven, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. 2 He called out in a mighty voice:

It has fallen,
Babylon the Great has fallen!
She has become a home for demons,
a haunt for every unclean spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
and a haunt for every unclean and despicable beast.,
3 For all the nations have drunk
the wine of her sexual immorality,
which brings wrath.
The kings of the earth
have committed sexual immorality with her,
and the merchants of the earth
have grown wealthy from her sensuality and excess.

Revelation 18:21 Then a mighty angel picked up a stone like a large millstone and threw it into the sea, saying,
In this way, Babylon the great city
will be thrown down violently
and never be found again.

Revelation 19:1-2 After this I heard something like the loud voice of a vast multitude in heaven, saying,
Hallelujah! Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God,
2 because his judgments are true and righteous,
because he has judged the notorious prostitute
who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality;
and he has avenged the blood of his servants





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

Jude 24-25

²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. 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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