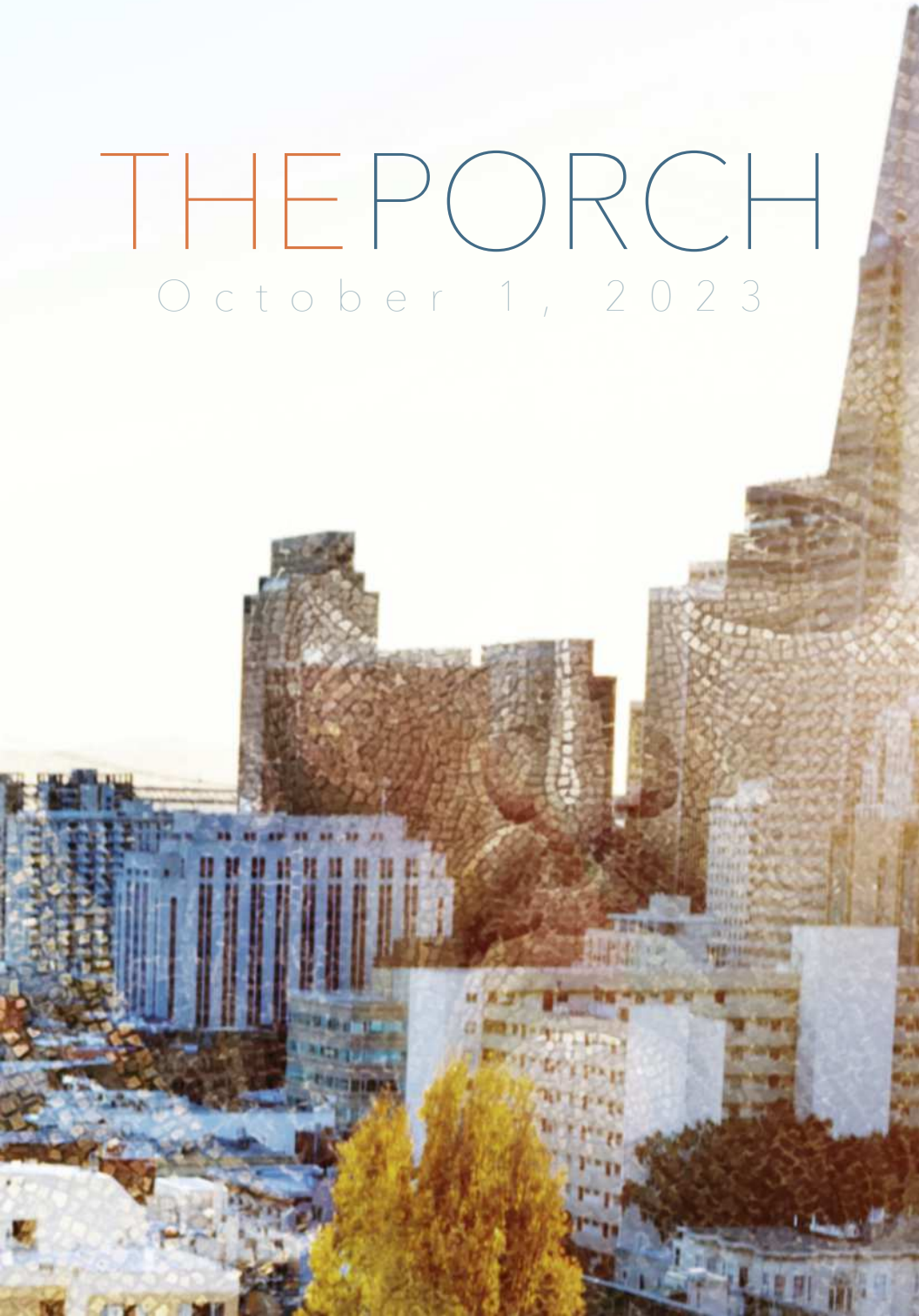


THE PORCH

October 1, 2023



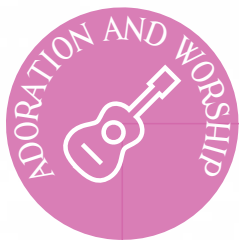
About Our Liturgy

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.





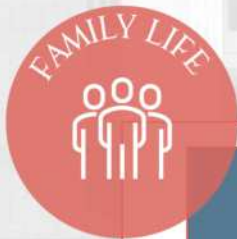
Call To Worship

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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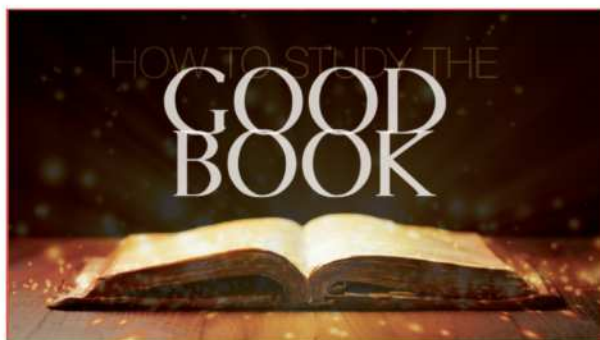
Message

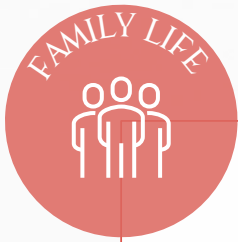


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* One of the beautiful facets of the gospel is how it brings all kinds of people together (Galatians 3:28). We are God's people. We are called to live our lives together and to love one another. In this part of our gathering, we celebrate this truth.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

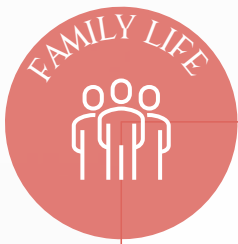




Missional Family Dinner Schedule

Wednesday Nights | 6:00-8:15 PM

- ① **October 4** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **October 11** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef Dennis
Homework: HTSTGB A2
- ③ **October 18** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa
Homework: HTSTGB A3
- ④ **October 25** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner
Homework: HTSTGB B1
- ① **November 1** | Brackett Home | Friendsgiving
- ② **November 8** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef
Homework: HTSTGB B2
- ③ **November 15** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa
Homework: HTSTGB B3
- ④ **November 22** | *No Wednesday Night Dinner*
- ④ **November 29** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner
Homework: HTSTGB B4



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 43: What are the sacraments or ordinances?

Answer: The sacraments or ordinances given by God and instituted by Christ, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper, are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith by his death and resurrection. By our use of them the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.

Scripture Reading *Psalms 19:7-10 (ESV)*

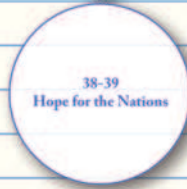
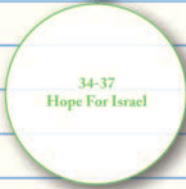
The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
**the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;**
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
**the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;**
the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring forever;
**the rules of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.**
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

* 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 47-48 | A Better Eden

Ezekiel 12-48 Outline



Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

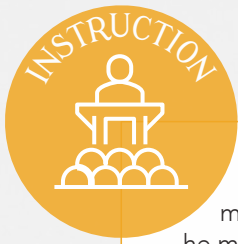
John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

ESV Systematic Theology Study Bible

"Theology for Life — God, the author of all life, alone gives spiritual life to those dead in their sins, and he will renew his whole creation in the new heaven and new earth."

The River Flows

Ezekiel 47:1 Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple and there was water flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the temple faced east. The water was coming down from under the south side of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. 2 Next he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate that faced east; there the water was trickling from the south side.

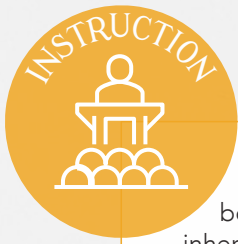


3 As the man went out east with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a third of a mile and led me through the water. It came up to my ankles. 4 Then he measured off a third of a mile and led me through the water. It came up to my knees. He measured off another third of a mile and led me through the water. It came up to my waist. 5 Again he measured off a third of a mile, and it was a river that I could not cross on foot. For the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed on foot.

6 He asked me, "Do you see this, son of man?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river. 7 When I had returned, I saw a very large number of trees along both sides of the riverbank.

Psalm 1:3 He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

8 He said to me, "This water flows out to the eastern region and goes down to the Arabah. When it enters the sea, the sea of foul water, the water of the sea becomes fresh. 9 Every kind of living creature that swarms will live wherever the river flows, and there will be a huge number of fish because this water goes there. Since the water will become fresh, there will be life everywhere the river goes. 10 Fishermen will stand beside it from En-gedi to En-eglaim. These will become places where nets are spread out to dry. Their fish will consist of many different kinds, like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. 11 Yet its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be left for salt. 12 All kinds of trees providing food will grow along both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. Each month they will bear fresh fruit because the water comes from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be used for eating and their leaves for healing."



Outer Borders of the Inheritance

13 This is what the Lord God says: "This is the border you will use to divide the land as an inheritance for the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph will receive two shares. 14 You will inherit it in equal portions, since I swore to give it to your ancestors. So this land will fall to you as an inheritance.

15 This is to be the border of the land:

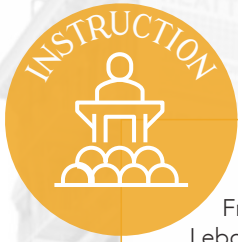
On the north side it will extend from the Mediterranean Sea by way of Hethlon and Lebo-hamath to Zedad, 16 Berothah, and Sibraim (which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath), as far as Hazer-hatticon, which is on the border of Hauran. 17 So the border will run from the sea to Hazar-enon at the border of Damascus, with the territory of Hamath to the north. This will be the northern side.

18 On the east side it will run between Hauran and Damascus, along the Jordan between Gilead and the land of Israel; you will measure from the northern border to the eastern sea. This will be the eastern side.

19 On the south side it will run from Tamar to the Waters of Meribath-kadesh, and on to the Brook of Egypt as far as the Mediterranean Sea. This will be the southern side.

20 On the west side the Mediterranean Sea will be the border, from the southern border up to a point opposite Lebo-hamath. This will be the western side.

21 "You are to divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. 22 You will allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the aliens residing among you, who have fathered children among you. You will treat them like native-born Israelites; along with you, they will be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. 23 In whatever tribe the alien resides, you will assign his inheritance there." This is the declaration of the Lord God.



Inner Borders (Tribal Allotments)

Ezekiel 48:1 "Now these are the names of the tribes:

From the northern end, along the road of Hethlon, to Lebo-hamath as far as Hazar-enon, at the northern border of Damascus, alongside Hamath and extending from the eastern side to the sea, will be Dan—one portion.

2 Next to the territory of Dan, from the east side to the west, will be Asher—one portion.

3 Next to the territory of Asher, from the east side to the west, will be Naphtali—one portion.

4 Next to the territory of Naphtali, from the east side to the west, will be Manasseh—one portion.

5 Next to the territory of Manasseh, from the east side to the west, will be Ephraim—one portion.

6 Next to the territory of Ephraim, from the east side to the west, will be Reuben—one portion.

7 Next to the territory of Reuben, from the east side to the west, will be Judah—one portion.

8 "Next to the territory of Judah, from the east side to the west, will be the portion you donate to the Lord, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide, and as long as one of the tribal portions from the east side to the west. The sanctuary will be in the middle of it.

9 "The special portion you donate to the Lord will be $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide. 10 This holy donation will be set apart for the priests alone. It will be $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles long on the northern side, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide on the western side, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide on the eastern side, and $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles long on the southern side. The Lord's sanctuary will be in the middle of it. 11 It is for the consecrated priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept my charge and did not go astray as the Levites did when the Israelites went astray. 12 It will be a special donation for them out of the holy donation of the land, a most holy place adjacent to the territory of the Levites.

13 "Next to the territory of the priests, the Levites will have an area $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide. The total length will be $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles and the width $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. 14 They must not sell or exchange any of it, and they must not transfer this choice part of the land, for it is holy to the Lord.

15 "The remaining area, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide and $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, will be for common use by the city, for both residential and open space. The city will be in the middle of it.



16 These are the city's measurements:

1½ miles on the north side; 1½ miles on the south side;
1½ miles on the east side; and 1½ miles on the west side.

17 The city's open space will extend: 425 feet to the north,
425 feet to the south, 425 feet to the east, and 425 feet to the
west.

18 "The remainder of the length alongside the holy donation will
be 3½ miles to the east and 3½ miles to the west. It will run
alongside the holy donation. Its produce will be food for the
workers of the city. 19 The city's workers from all the tribes of
Israel will cultivate it. 20 The entire donation will be 8½ miles by
8½ miles; you are to set apart the holy donation along with the
city property as a square area.

21 "The remaining area on both sides of the holy donation and
the city property will belong to the prince. He will own the land
adjacent to the tribal portions, next to the 8½ miles of the
donation as far as the eastern border and next to the 8½ miles of
the donation as far as the western border. The holy donation and
the sanctuary of the temple will be in the middle of it. 22 Except
for the Levitical property and the city property in the middle of
the area belonging to the prince, the area between the territory
of Judah and that of Benjamin will belong to the prince.

23 "As for the rest of the tribes:

From the east side to the west, will be Benjamin—one portion.

24 Next to the territory of Benjamin, from the east side to the
west, will be Simeon—one portion.

25 Next to the territory of Simeon, from the east side to the
west, will be Issachar—one portion.

26 Next to the territory of Issachar, from the east side to the
west, will be Zebulun—one portion.

27 Next to the territory of Zebulun, from the east side to the
west, will be Gad—one portion.

28 Next to the territory of Gad toward the south side, the border
will run from Tamar to the Waters of Meribath-kadesh, to the
Brook of Egypt, and out to the Mediterranean Sea. 29 This is the
land you are to allot as an inheritance to Israel's tribes, and these
will be their portions." This is the declaration of the Lord God.



City Gates

30 "These are the exits of the city:

On the north side, which measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, 31 there will be three gates facing north, the gates of the city being named for the tribes of Israel: one, the gate of Reuben; one, the gate of Judah; and one, the gate of Levi.

32 On the east side, which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, there will be three gates: one, the gate of Joseph; one, the gate of Benjamin; and one, the gate of Dan.

33 On the south side, which measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, there will be three gates: one, the gate of Simeon; one, the gate of Issachar; and one, the gate of Zebulun.

34 On the west side, which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, there will be three gates: one, the gate of Gad; one, the gate of Asher; and one, the gate of Naphtali.

35 The perimeter of the city will be six miles,

The Eternal Inheritance

#1 There is a commitment to equality.

#2 There is a commitment to security

#3 There is a commitment to inclusivity

#4 At the center of this all is the holiness of God

The Whole Point of Ezekiel

35b and the name of the city from that day on will be The Lord Is There."

Closing Ideas From the Book of Ezekiel

- The message of hope (Part 1)
I will punish/judge injustice.
- The message of hope (Part 2)
I will restore the world and be with my people.





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
FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

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