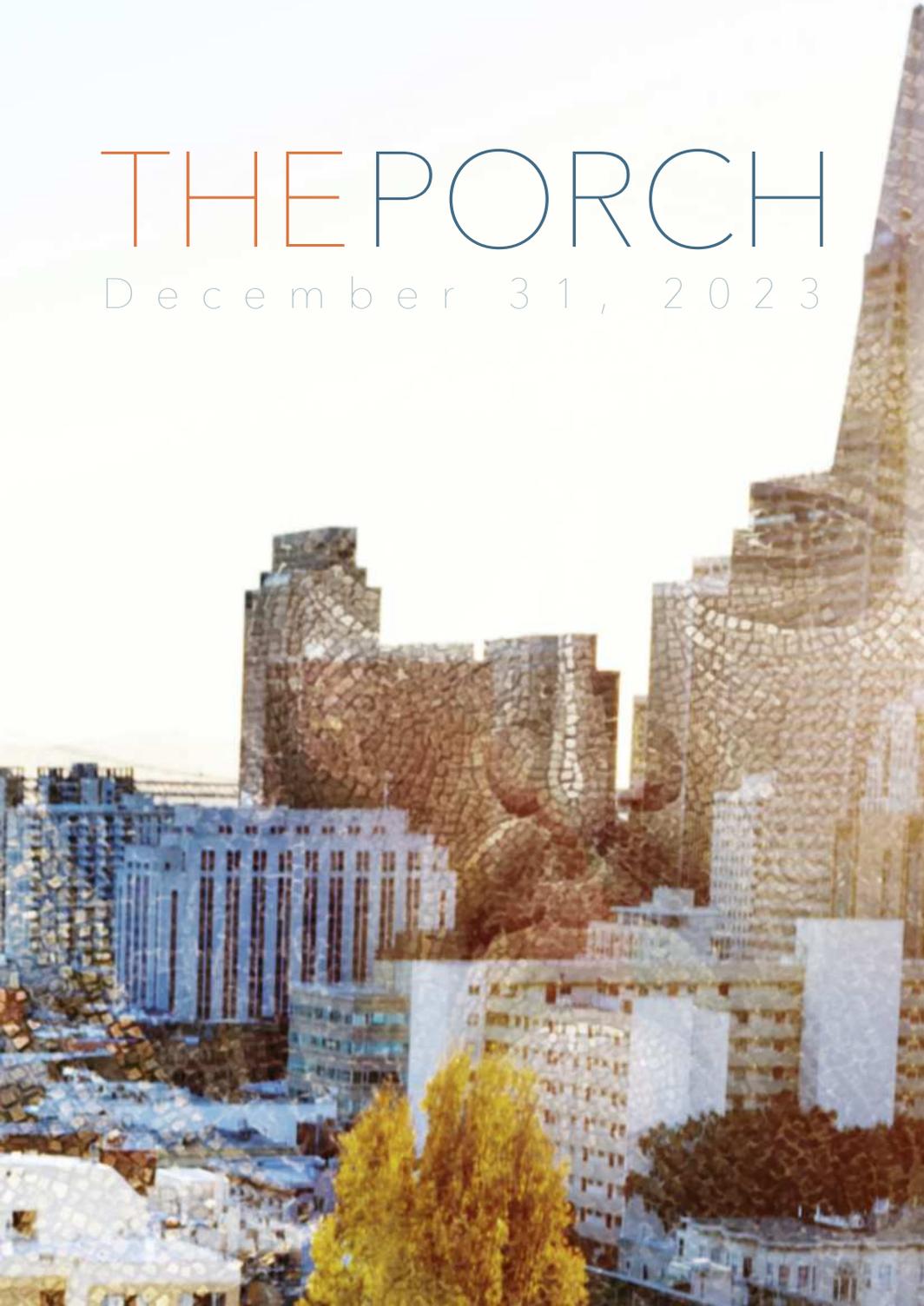


# THE PORCH

December 31, 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.





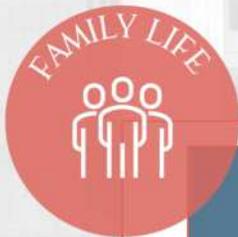
## Call To Worship

### 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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\* 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.

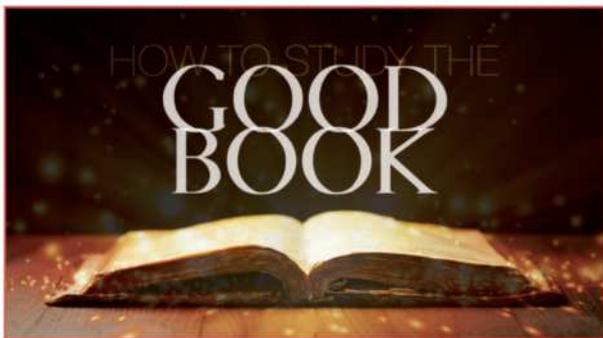
FAMILY LIFE

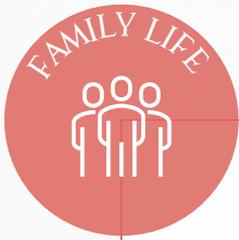


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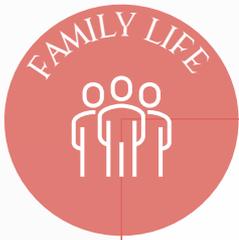




## Missional Family Dinner Schedule

Wednesday Nights | 6:00-8:15 PM

- ① **January 3** | *No Wednesday Night Dinner*
- ② **January 10** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB B3
- ③ **January 17** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB B4
- ④ **January 24** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB C1
- Ⓒ **January 31** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Prayer Night
- ① **February 7** | Brackett Home | Friends Night
- ② **February 14** | Brackett Home | Guest Chef  
Homework: HTSTGB C2
- ③ **February 21** | Brackett Home | Chef Melissa  
Homework: HTSTGB C3
- Ⓒ **February 28** | Downstairs SFEFC | BYOE Dinner  
Homework: HTSTGB C4
- ① **March 6** | Brackett Home | Friends Night



## 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

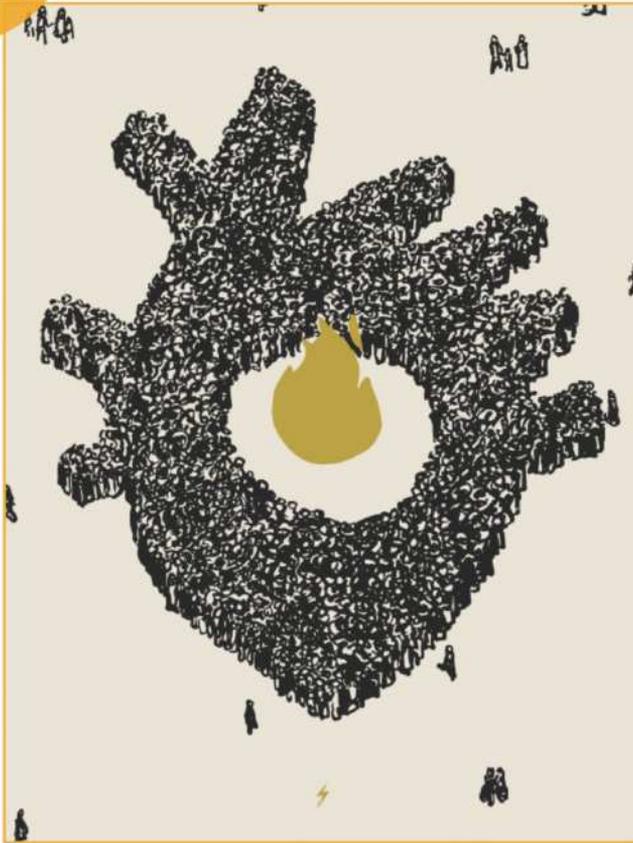
This quick time of greeting isn't a break in the worship but rather a continuation of our worship.

Take five minutes to grab a cup of water and a snack and say hello to someone you haven't met yet.





## Advent–Christmastide



[scottericksonart.com](http://scottericksonart.com)

\* 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.



## Acts 2:42-27 | The Community

**Acts 2:42-47** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1. **Liturgy**
2. **Awe**
3. **Miracles**
4. **Leadership**
5. **Unity**

John 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you Father, are in me, and I in you...

6. **Mercy Ministry**
7. **Time Commitment**
8. **Large Gatherings**
9. **Smaller Fellowship**
10. **Glad Hearts**



## 11. Generosity

**Matthew 6:19–21** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## 12. Worship

## 13. Good Reputation

## 14. Membership

## 15. Missional Outlook

## 16. Real Discipleship





## 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.

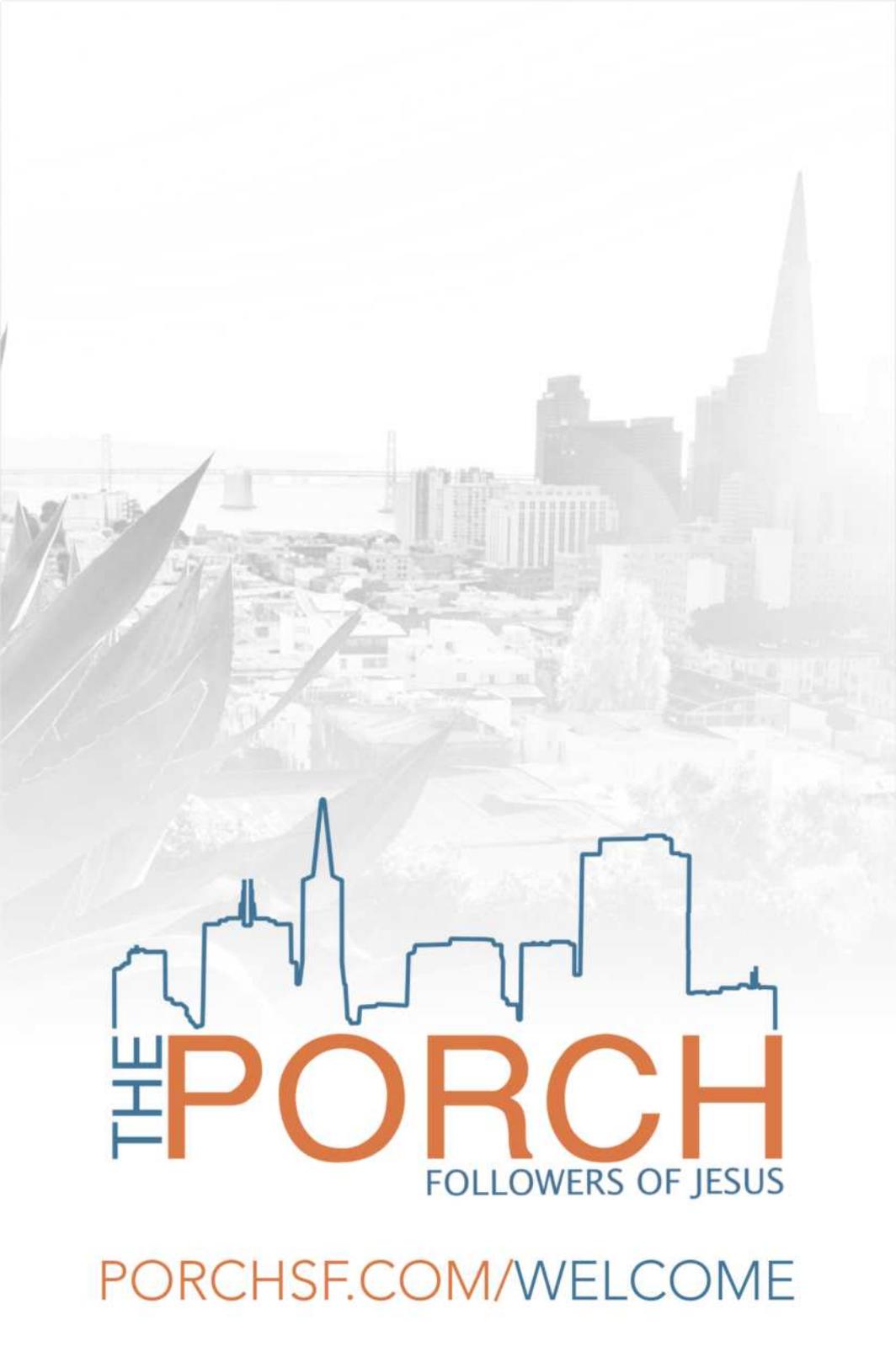
## Benediction

### Numbers 6:24-26

<sup>24</sup> The Lord bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



\*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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