



**PACIFIC
CROSSROADS
CHURCH**

December 4, 2016



GOD WITH US

PacificCrossroads.org

Lives Transformed by God's Power
Renewing Los Angeles for Christ

Reflection

Perhaps it is the very wildness and strangeness of the grace that has led us to try to tame it. We have tried to make it habitable. We have roofed it in and furnished it. We have reduced it to an occasion we feel at home with, at best a touching and beautiful occasion, at worst a trite and cloying one. But if the Christmas event in itself is indeed – as a matter of cold, hard fact – all it's cracked up to be, then even at best our efforts are misleading.

The Word become flesh. Ultimate Mystery born with a skull you could crush one-handed. Incarnation. It is not tame. It is not touching. It is not beautiful. It is uninhabitable terror. It is unthinkable darkness riven with unbearable light. Agonized laboring led to it, vast upheavals of intergalactic space, time split apart, a wrenching and tearing of the very sinews of reality itself. You can only cover your eyes and shudder before it, before this: “God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God... who for us and for our salvation,” as the Nicene Creed puts it, “came down from heaven.” Came down. Only then do we dare uncover our eyes and see what we can see. It is the Resurrection and the Life she holds in her arms. It is the bitterness of death he takes at her breast.

Frederick Buechner

Scripture

Revelation 4-5

Sermon

Advent and Apocalypse:

Weep No More, Now We Sing Albert Shim

Events & News

Advent Readings – God with Us.

We invite you to participate in daily Advent readings & meditations, including church leaders' responses to scripture and what it means for God to be with us, through our app and on our blog.

Christmas Eve Service.

In lieu of our usual Sunday worship services on Christmas Day, we will celebrate on Christmas Eve together. Join us from 5:00-6:00 pm at Samohi and hear a message from pastor Josh Geiger.

Serve with Hope for LA next Saturday, December 10.

Hope for LA has 9 different events happening next Saturday. Join us to volunteer and help with everything from Christmas parties, a clothing drive, to helping take the elderly to a farmers market. Email volunteer@HopeForLA.org or sign up at [HopeForLA.org/Calendar](https://www.HopeForLA.org/Calendar).

View all events on our app, at [PacificCrossroads.org/Events](https://www.PacificCrossroads.org/Events), or in our events brochure available at the Connect Center.

Ministry Resources

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org or call our office at 310.551.0081.

Celebrate Recovery

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit [PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery](https://www.PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery).

Community Groups

Community Groups meet all around LA to know and care for one another and grow as followers of Jesus. Learn more and sign up for a CG in your neighborhood at [PacificCrossroads.org/Community](https://www.PacificCrossroads.org/Community).