



PACIFIC  
CROSSROADS  
CHURCH

April 23, 2017

# PRESENCE

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# Reflections

"Are you in pain, Frodo?" said Gandolf quietly as he rode by Frodo's side.

"Well, yes I am," said Frodo. "It is my shoulder. The wound aches, and the memory of darkness is heavy on me. It was a year ago today."

"Alas! There are some wounds that cannot be wholly cured," said Gandolf.

"I fear it may be so with mine," said Frodo. "There is no real going back. Though I may come to the Shire, it will not seem the same; for I shall not be the same. I am wounded with knife sting, and tooth, and a long burden. Where shall I find rest?"

Gandolf did not answer.

J.R.R. Tolkein, *The Lord of the Rings*

For Christians cannot be distinguished from the rest of the human race by country or language or customs. They do not live in cities of their own; they do not use a peculiar form of speech; they do not follow an eccentric manner of life...yet...They marry, like everyone else, and they beget children, but they do not cast out their offspring. They share their board with each other, but not their marriage bed. It is true that they are "in the flesh," but they do not live "according to the flesh." They busy themselves on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven. They obey the established laws, but in their own lives they go far beyond what the laws require.

The "Letter to Diognetus" from W.A. Jurgens's  
*Faith of the Early Fathers*

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

Cover art by Angeline Woo

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# Scripture

1 Peter 2:11-17

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

<sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

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# Sermon

*Strangers in a Strange Land*

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## Events & News

### **Welcome to Pacific Crossroads, today after each service**

Are you new or still feel new to PCC? Come to the "Welcome to PCC" area after service. It's a great place to meet people, enjoy snacks, get connected, and make PCC feel more like home.

### **Life Explored Dinners, April 24**

Life Explored is a six-session conversation with great food! If you're not a follower of Jesus, LE is a place for you to discuss tough questions about life and faith in a welcoming environment.

### **Special Service, invisible(s) Duffle Bags, May 7**

On Sunday, May 7, join us as we collectively pray for, pack, and send out 1000 duffle bags for LA foster kids. There will only be one service on this day - 11 AM, Santa Monica High School.

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

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## 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](mailto: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://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://PacificCrossroads.org/Community)