



PACIFIC  
CROSSROADS  
CHURCH

THE  
MOTHERS  
OF  
JESUS



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# Reflections

I was your rebellious son,  
do you remember? Sometimes  
I wonder if you do remember,  
so complete has your forgiveness been.

So complete has your forgiveness been  
I wonder sometimes if it did not  
precede my wrong, and I erred,  
safe found, within your love,

prepared ahead of me, the way home,  
or my bed at night, so that almost  
I should forgive you, who perhaps  
foresaw the worst that I might do,

and forgave before I could act,  
causing me to smile now, looking back,  
to see how paltry was my worst,  
compared to your forgiveness of it

already given. And this, then,  
is the vision of that Heaven of which  
we have heard, where those who love  
each other have forgiven each other,

where, for that, the leaves are green,  
the light a music in the air,  
and all is unentangled,  
and all is undismayed.

- Wendell Berry, *To My Mother*

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# Sermon

*The Mothers of Jesus: The Story of Ruth*

Rankin Wilbourne

*'Pietà' by Michelangelo, 1498-1499; Marble*

*'The Mothers of Jesus' logo by Molly Douglas*

# Scripture

Ruth 1:3-5, 7-9, 15-17; 4:13-17

<sup>3</sup> But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>7</sup> So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me." <sup>9</sup> The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

<sup>15</sup> And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup> But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. <sup>14</sup> Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel!" <sup>15</sup> He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." <sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. <sup>17</sup> And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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## Events & News

### **Advent Devotional, Available on the PCC App**

Want to dive into the true meaning of Christmas? Curious to know what Advent is all about? Study Emmanuel, God with Us, this Advent season by downloading the Advent devotional on the PCC app or website.

### **Christmas Eve Service, December 24**

On Sunday, December 24th, join us for a very special service as we celebrate the coming of Christ. Participate in 'Lessons in Carols' style worship and hear a message from Rankin. Just one service that day, 5:00 PM, at our Santa Monica campus.

### **Pop Up Parties: Christmas Edition, December 16**

Join us at any one of five Christmas Pop-up parties all around L.A. Gather and sing Christmas carols, enjoy Christmas treats and drinks, and listen to a Christmas message.

*View and sign up for all events on our mobile app, on our website, [PacificCrossroads.org/Events](http://PacificCrossroads.org/Events), or speak with someone at the 'New Here?' tent.*

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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](http://PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery).