

# BEYOND SUNDAY

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## Series Overview

As we conclude this 3-week series our goal was to examine how Jesus transforms individuals, calls them to devote themselves to a community—called the Church. Jesus shows us to what we are to devote ourselves. Radiant is an explanation of the priorities for our next season so we can live into our PCC mission. Receive the invitation to drive deep roots into PCC, learn how you can make a difference, and realize the transformative power contained within us at PCC.

## Message: Radiant Community

**Date: September 27, 2020**

### #1

What was your first church experience like? How has that changed over the years? Discuss in your groups. Follow-up: Did you rewrite a Kingdom-focused headline this week? What did you say?

### #2

According to Gary Gaddini, this past Sunday's speaker and Lead Pastor, "We don't go to church, we *are* the church." There were no megachurches, live streaming, or YouTube videos for the early church. What does [Acts 2:46](#) say about the two places where the early church gathered? They didn't go to a church, they *were* the church! Some historians suggest they met in caves or private homes to avoid persecution. We know that the church has and will face opposition and persecution. To think about: Some people today have speculated that these dark times are the beginning of the end times. Would you gather in an underground church if you had to (or even one of our current [house churches](#))? Discuss in your groups.

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## #3

Currently, California churches have to adhere to guidelines and laws regarding meeting together, due to the pandemic. Some church bodies and pastors do not believe they have to follow these guidelines set forth by the state, but instead choose to meet anyway, regardless of the consequences. There is currently a lot of discussion around this topic. Doesn't Scripture encourage us to gather, encourage, and fellowship together? What should our Kingdom response be? And how is this a testimony to the outside world? In light of the fact that we are the church, not the building, how does this influence your answer?

## #4

When describing the early church, Scripture doesn't tell us about an ornate church like Notre Dame with stained glass and comfy seats like PCC. Read [Acts 2:42-47](#). What do these verses say about the early Christians?

- Their character
- What they focused on
- What was important to them
- What was the result

## #5

The early church was a body that was not self-focused, but *other* focused. They were a radiant community. Their light within made a difference in their community. To gain a new perspective on radiance, let's consider the [The Great Star of Africa](#) — its 530 carats is considered by some as one of the most brilliant and radiant diamonds in the world. It is on display at The Tower of London in Great Britain. A diamond's sparkle depends on its ability to take in light, and then, reflect the light back out! The more light the diamond reflects from its facets, the more sparkly or radiant it will look. These dark times call for a radiant church, one that is shining the light from within out into the world. Our light has a purpose.

See [Matthew 5:14-16](#) and [1 Peter 2: 9-10](#). Who does Scripture say we are? What should we be doing as a result? Before the Great Star of Africa was cut, it was transferred from Africa to England. King Edward was worried that it might be stolen in transit, so he arranged to send a phony diamond aboard a steamship, surrounded by detectives, as a diversion tactic. The original uncut diamond was sent to England in a plain box. This speaks to how valuable and precious the stone was. Well, guess what? The light within us—and the light that radiates from us—is more precious than The Great Star of Africa.

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To do: Consider how you might implement [Acts 2:42-47](#), as we become the radiant church God intends us to be. How does this align with our PCC values? Click: [About PCC](#)

## #6

Whether you agree with her politics or not, here is a statement from Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who passed away on September 18, 2020.

*If you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside yourself, something to repair tears in your community, something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you. That's what I think a meaningful life is — living not for oneself, but for one's community.*

Check out [Help 100 Families](#) for one option to be radiant in this hurting world. See you there!

### **Prayer:**

*Lord, we acknowledge that we don't go to church, but we are the church, no matter where we are. Help us to reflect Kingdom-minded attitudes as we are in this world, knowing that the world watches and sees our behavior. Like the early church, may we be a radiant church, devoted to your Word, prayer, fellowship, and the breaking of bread. May we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, practice healthy relationships, and give generously—even in these difficult times. Forgive us for being self-focused and help us to look beyond ourselves to help those less fortunate. May the light within us shine out into the world and make a difference. In your precious name we pray, Amen.*

### **Actions or Resources:**

Memorize [Ephesians 2:8](#), [Romans 6:23](#)

Join a [House Church](#)

Serve those in need on a [COVID-19 Care Team](#)

Become a [PCC Stakeholder](#)

Join a [Fall Growth Group](#)