



The story of Christmas  
is the story of God's  
relentless love for us.



Max Lucado

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 3, 2023  
Order of Worship  
[www.CrossSound.org](http://www.CrossSound.org)

# Welcome

Welcome to Cross Sound Church. Whether you are a follower of Jesus, someone interested in Christianity, or a skeptic about faith—God is calling you to worship. Wherever you are in life, we hope you feel welcome and at home. If you have never been to church (or not in a long time) and fear that you will not know what to do, how to act, or what to say, know this: God's grace is here and is for people like you.

We are a church that loves our cities: Bainbridge Island, Poulsbo, Silverdale, Kingston, and Seattle. And while we actively love and serve our communities, we don't pretend to have it all together. Instead, we are a church where there is freedom to struggle with our questions, doubts, and fears; and a place where real healing, joy, and power can be found.

We are a church rooted in the belief that the historic Christian gospel is true, compelling, and promises to change our lives powerfully, in the direction of freedom, hope, and generosity.

The gospel, which means 'Good News', tells us that God's Kingdom has entered history in order to renew us and the world. The gospel is more than entering God's Kingdom, it is also the way we face every struggle in life and make any progress in personal growth.

The good news is that Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death we deserved to die in order to put us in a place where only He deserves to be—in a right, safe, thrilling relationship with God the Father.

Cross Sound Church desires to be filled with both believers and non-believers, who together explore the claims of the gospel and its effects on our lives and on the world.

Our aim in worship is both ancient, with liturgy that connects us to the Church of old and those who have gone before us, as well as modern, accessible, and meaningful. Underneath it all is our desire to be God-honoring, God-exalting, God-glorifying! Let's worship God together.

## Say hello

PASTORS: Dave O'Connell: [daveoc@crosssound.org](mailto:daveoc@crosssound.org) (314) 853-2695  
and Dave Sellers: [dave@crosssound.org](mailto:dave@crosssound.org) (206) 334-5205

To learn more about the entire staff and our team of Elders, Deacons, International Ministers and Community Group Leaders, visit our website: [crosssound.org](http://crosssound.org) call our office: (206) 842-6898 or email [info@crosssound.org](mailto:info@crosssound.org)

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As we gather to worship, please silence all mobile phones and devices for the duration of the service.

# Gathering

CALL TO WORSHIP — Isaiah 9:2-3 & 6-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.  
You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.  
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

# Renewing

CONFESSION OF SIN

*Confession happens within the context of relationship, both with God and with each other as we acknowledge our sin and need for forgiveness. Jesus promises that He freely forgives sins which frees us from past regrets. You are invited to personalize your confession as we pray silently.*

Heavenly Father,  
At the outset of this Advent season,  
Help us to slow down enough to ponder  
The wonder and glory of what has taken place.

*All:* **The infinite, became an infant.  
The king traded his throne for a cradle.  
Jesus stepped into the world, for us.**

We confess that in this season it is easy for us  
To be distracted, To be forgetful,  
And to even find ourselves indifferent to these things.  
*All:* **Father, Forgive us.**

Work in our hearts this season,  
*All:* **That we might love, worship and celebrate Jesus —  
And be made instruments of His joy, His love, and His peace.**

Together we ask these things, in His wonderful name,  
*All:* **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND RECEIVING OF GRACE — John 3:16-18a

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but to save the world through him.  
Whoever believes in him is not condemned.

Praise God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Let's celebrate together today! **Amen.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING —Romans 15:12-13, read by the Ahern Family  
*1st candle – (purple) The Candle of Hope:*

We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us.  
Our hope comes from God! "And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.'  
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

**Build Your Kingdom Here** — Phil Wickham

Come set Your rule and reign, In our hearts again,  
Increase in us we pray, Unveil why we're made  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope,  
Like wildfire in our very souls, Holy Spirit come invade us now

*We are Your Church, We need Your power in Us*

We seek Your kingdom first, We hunger and we thirst,  
Refuse to waste our lives, For You're our joy and prize  
To see the captive hearts released, The hurt the sick the poor at peace  
We lay down our lives for Heavens cause

*We are Your Church, We pray revive this earth  
Build Your kingdom here, Let the darkness fear,  
Show Your mighty hand, Heal our streets and land  
Set Your church on fire, Win this planet back,  
Change the atmosphere, Build Your kingdom here we pray!*

Unleash Your kingdoms power Reaching the near and far  
No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts  
You made us for much more than this, Awake the kingdom seed in us  
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ

*Chorus x2*

### **Mighty To Save** — Hillsong

Everyone needs compassion, a love that's never failing, Let mercy fall on us  
Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior. The hope of nations

*Savior, He can move the mountains. Our God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save  
Forever, author of salvation, He rose and conquered the grave Jesus conquered the grave*

So take us as You find us, all our fears and failures, Fill our lives again  
We give our lives to follow everything we believe in, Now we surrender

*Chorus*

Shine your light and let the whole world see, we're singing  
For the glory of the risen King Jesus  
Shine your light and let the whole world see, we're singing.  
For the glory of the risen King

*Chorus x2*

### **Lion And The Lamb**

He's coming on the clouds, kings and kingdoms will bow down  
Every chain will break as broken hearts declare His praise,  
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

*Our God is a Lion, the Lion of Judah, He's roaring with power and fighting our battles  
And every knee will bow before Him*

*Our God is a Lamb, the Lamb that was slain, For the sins of the world,  
His blood breaks the chains And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb,  
Every knee will bow before Him*

Open up the gate, make way before the King of kings  
The God who comes to save is here to set the captives free,  
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

*Chorus*

Who can stop the Lord Almighty, who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty, who can stop the Lord? (repeat)

*Chorus*

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The largest book in the Bible is primarily a book of poems set to music to sing God praises. This is all part of God's design to surround His presence with singing. Gratitude to God expresses dependence upon God and is an antidote for cynicism, criticism, and bitterness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, STUDENT DISMISSAL & GREETING

*Please stand and introduce yourself to one another.*

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you.

— Romans 15:7

Love one another deeply from the heart.

— 1Peter 1:22

QUOTES:

“The virgin birth has never been a major stumbling block in my struggle with Christianity; it’s far less mind-boggling than the Power of all Creation stooping so low as to become one of us.” — Madeleine L’Engle

“The hurricane has become human, fire has become flesh, life itself became life and walked in our midst. Christianity either means that, or it means nothing. It is either the most devastating disclosure of the deepest reality of the world, or it is a sham.” — N.T. Wright

“What God ever came so close that we could touch Him? So fragile that we could break Him? Only the One who loves you to death.” — Madeleine L’Engle

“The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity—hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory—because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross. It is the most wonderful message the world has ever heard, or will. — J.I. Packer

MESSAGE SERIES: GENESIS

**Text: John 1:1-3 & 14 (NLT)**

**Title: In the Beginning — A Christmas Story**

**Speaker: Dave O'Connell**

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He existed in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. <sup>4</sup> The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. We have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

NOTES:

## COMMUNION

Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. — John 6:35

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed... but with the precious blood of Christ. — Peter 1:17-18

OFFERING — *Offering is a way for members and friends to support the worship and work of the church, it's mission and ministry. There are different ways to give:*

- Offering basket: place Check or Cash in a Giving Envelope on Sunday mornings
- Cross Sound app: look up “Church Center” on the App Store and follow prompts
- Online: [www.crosssound.org/give](http://www.crosssound.org/give) • Stock: [contact\\_bookkeeper@crosssound.org](mailto:contact_bookkeeper@crosssound.org)
- Mail: Cross Sound Church PO Box 11748 or 600 Ericksen Ave NE #210, Bainbridge Is., WA 98110



Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly,  
for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart.

— 1 Chronicles 29:9

### **Sing Hallelujah To The Lord**

Sing Hallelujah To The Lord  
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord  
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord  
Sing Hallelujah Sing Hallelujah  
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord

Sing Hallelujah to the Lord  
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord  
Sing Hallelujah Sing Hallelujah  
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord

Jesus is Lord Of Heaven and Earth  
Jesus is Lord Of Heaven and Earth  
Sing Hallelujah Sing Hallelujah  
Jesus is Lord Of Heaven and Earth

Welcome the gospel of the Lord  
Welcome the gospel of the Lord  
Listen His word is true Rejoice as He comes to you  
Welcome the gospel of the Lord

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Communion, also called the Lord's Supper, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ to participate. If you are not baptized or not prepared to share in the meal, we encourage you instead to spend this time in prayer (see back cover for “Prayers of Reflection”).



STORIES FROM MEXICO — Carrie Seller & Gabe Mathis

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done,  
On earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory, For ever. Amen.

# Sending

## **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day

All thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and Heaven reflect thy rays  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery medal flashing sea  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee

Joyful, joyful  
Joyful, joyful

Joyful music leads us sunward, In the triumph song  
Joyful music leads us sunward, In the triumph song of life  
Joyful, joyful  
Joyful, joyful  
Joyful, joyful  
Joyful, joyful

BENEDICTION — Romans 15:13a

This Advent,  
May the God of Hope Fill you with all  
Joy and Peace as you Trust in Him.

Amen. **Amen.**

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Please Join Us for Lunch after the service in the 100 Building  
As we Welcome Home the Romjues  
And celebrate our Partnership with First Aid Arts

# Announcements

**“Love Your Neighbor” Team** The deacons are hoping to build a group of people to help support the needs of our local community. Interested? Sign up on the clipboard!

**Dec 3: Romjues/First Aid Arts Lunch after Service TODAY!** Hug the Romjues and celebrate stories of hope and healing with Cross Sound Church ministry partner First Aid Arts. Attendance is free and lunch is provided. Plan to join us immediately following worship in the 100 Building.

**Dec 3: 5th-12th Grade Service Project Sunday, TODAY!** Join us this afternoon as we hand out gift bags to the homeless in Seattle. Meet at the Bainbridge Island ferry terminal at 1:05 pm. Once in Seattle, we'll grab a bubble tea and then start a loop from the International District up 6th Ave to Westlake and then to the Pike Place Market. We will be back on the 4:45 pm boat to Seattle.

**Dec 9: Women's Advent Brunch - You're Invited!** for Saturday, Dec 9 at Island School. *Questions?* Email Ashley@CrossSound.org or [bit.ly/cscwomensadvent2023](https://bit.ly/cscwomensadvent2023)

**Dec 3: Nativity Play Rehearsal Begins TODAY!** We'd love to invite CS Kids to join in the Nativity Play this Christmas and tell the story of Jesus' birth. There are parts for those who feel comfortable talking and for those who'd like to participate quietly. Rehearsals are Dec 3 + 10 after church. Info and sign up here <https://bit.ly/cskidsnativity2023> or QR code.



**Dec 12: Deadline to Drop Off Angel Tree Christmas Gifts** If you have a gift to drop off, please wrap it and deliver to the church office (preferred) or church service on December 12. *(Please email dede.knapp@hotmail.com with any questions or if you are able to help deliver gifts. We need delivery teams December 16-20).*

**Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service** We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you, your family and friends at our 10 am Family Service or 7pm Carols & Candlelight Service. Merry Christmas!

**School of Discipleship Returns in January:** Please join Dave O and Katie Pearson for four Sunday evenings in January to draw closer to Jesus through a program called “The Prayer Practice”. Dinner and Childcare provided! If interested, email Katie: [katiepearson@crosssound.org](mailto:katiepearson@crosssound.org)

**Shoes for Cuba** The Cuba Missions team is collecting new youth and children-sized shoes/sneakers for their upcoming trip. Please drop-off at the church office!

**Men's Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) Thursdays 6:30-8pm at the Church Office**  
Go to: [bit.ly/joinBSF](https://bit.ly/joinBSF) or follow QR Code to sign up. Questions? Contact Teague

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If you have any announcements that you would like included in the bulletin, please email Kristin@crosssound.org by Wednesday afternoons. Include basic info: Who, What, When and how to sign up!

# Connect With Us

If you are new to Cross Sound Church, please tear this portion off and put it in the offering to let us know you were here. You may also use this to inform us of any changes in your contact information, or to submit prayer requests for the staff to pray over.

First time visitor ( )      Interested in more info for:      Please add me to:  
Second time visitor ( )      \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry ( )      Email list ( )  
Regular attendee ( )      Mailing list ( )

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Children & their ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Requests/Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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We hope these are helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and His people, the church.

## Prayer for the Skeptic

*Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.*

## Prayer of Belief

*Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sin and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.*

## Prayer for those Struggling with Sin

*Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and my turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.*

## Prayer of Commitment

*Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your spirit. Amen.*