



Advent is about the coming of Emmanuel, which means “God with us,” and so as the fields outside our windows go to sleep, we stay awake and watch, holding to the belief that God is with us, is close and present, and that we will be healed.

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Anne Lamott

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 15, 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

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

*and*

CAROL OF THE BELLS

*piano solo performed by Jack Foster*

## **God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen** — *led by Wyatt Foster and Teddy Dajoe*

God rest ye merry gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior, Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r, When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our Heavenly Father, A blessed Angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds, Brought tidings of the same,  
They said in Bethlehem was born, The Son of God by Name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

But when to Bethlehem they came, Whereat this infant lay,  
They found Him in a manger, Where oxen feed on hay;  
His Mother Mary kneeling down, Unto the Lord did pray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

## **The First Noel**

The first Noel the angel did say, Was to certain poor shepherds, In fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star, Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.*

This star drew nigh to the northwest, Over Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.*

Then let us all with one accord, Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.*

# Renewing.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING — read by the Morales Family  
*The 3rd candle is called The Shepherd Candle or The Candle of Joy*

“And there were shepherds living out in their fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born for you; he is Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” — Luke 2:8-12

SOLAS

*piano solo performed by Angel Shou*

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## A Christmas Story

A CROSS SOUND NATIVITY PLAY

SCENE ONE

The Promises of the Prophets

### **Oh Come All Ye Faithful**

Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
Oh come ye, Oh come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

*Oh come, let us adore him, Oh come, let us adore him,  
Oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord*



SCENE TWO

The Angel Gabriel's Announcement to Mary

SCENE THREE

The Angel Gabriel's Announcement to Joseph

## **O Come O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O King of nations, bind, in one the hearts of all mankind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease, and be yourself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel

### SCENE FOUR Mary's Visit to Elizabeth

### SCENE FIVE Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus in the Stable

## **Oh, Holy Night**

Oh holy night! the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices!



Oh night divine, Oh night, When Christ was born!  
Oh night, divine, Oh night, Oh night divine!

### SCENE SIX The Shepherds on the Hillside

**Hark The Herald Angels Sing** — Wyatt Foster on Banjo  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem"

*Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king"*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all HE brings, Risen with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die  
Born to raise us all on earth, Born to give us second birth

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king"*

SCENE SEVEN  
The Shepherds Visit the Baby Jesus

**Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!



SCENE EIGHT  
The Visit of the Three Wise Men

**Joy To The World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come, Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns, Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders, of His love

THE END

*Thank you Brooke Wellman for organizing and leading this effort!*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

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STUDENT SERMONS

# Sending

OFFERING — *Offering is a way for members and friends to support the worship and work of the church, its 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:bookkeeper@crosssound.org)
- Mail: Cross Sound Church PO Box 11748 or 600 Ericksen Ave NE #210, Bainbridge Is., WA 98110



Freely you have received, freely give.

—  
Matthew 10:8

## **Go Tell It On The Mountain**

*Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born*

While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens, There shone a Holy light....  
*Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born*

The shepherds feared and trembled, When, lo! Above the Earth  
Rang out the angel chorus, That hailed our Savior's birth...  
*Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born*

Down in a lowly manger, Our humble Christ was born  
And brought us all salvation, That blessed Christmas morn...  
*Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born, That Jesus Christ is born*

BENEDICTION — Luke 1:30

Do not be afraid, you have found favor with the Lord.  
Amen. Amen!



**You are invited to Christmas Eve Service!**

We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you, your family and friends  
at our 4pm Family Service or 7pm Carols & Candlelight Service.

# 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.*