



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

—

Max Lucado

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 11, 2022
Order of Worship
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 (314) 853-2695
and Dave Sellers: 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 call our office: (206) 842-6898 or email info@crosssound.org

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

Renewing

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND RECEIVING OF GRACE

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

— **Psalm 103:1, 11&12**

Praise God!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Amen

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The 3rd candle is called The Shepherd Candle or The Candle of Joy

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. — Isaiah 9:2,6-7a

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence— *Words: Liturgy of St. James, 4th Century, Translated from Greek to English by Gerard Moultrie, 1864. Music: PICARDY, French carol melody*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly minded for with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to Earth descendeth our full homage to demand

King of kings yet born of Mary as of old on Earth He stood
Lords of lords in human vesture in the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away

At His feet the six wing-ed seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to His presence as with ceaseless voice they cry
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Lord most high!

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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1867; Music: St. Louis by Lewis H. Redner, 1868

*O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark streets shineth, The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep, Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together, Proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.*

*How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts, The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord, Emmanuel.*

Angels We Have Heard On High

French carol (*Les Anges dans Nos Campagnes*) Translated by James Chadwick, 1862

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains

*Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem, and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, STUDENT DISMISSAL & GREETING

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you.

—Romans 15:7

Love one another deeply from the heart.

—1Peter 1:22

SONG OF PREPARATION

Speak, O Lord — *Getty/Townend*

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your Truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

QUOTES:

“The little baby, born in pitiful humility and cut down as a young man in his prime, commands the allegiance of millions of people all over the world — although they have never seen Him, He has become friend and companion to innumerable people — this undeniable fact is, by any measurement, the most astonishing phenomenon in human history - it is a solid rock of evidence that no agnostic can ever explain away”

— J.B. Phillips

“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

“We could more easily catch a hurricane in a shrimp net than we can understand the wild, relentless, passionate, uncompromising, pursuing love of God made present in the manger.” — Brennan Manning

“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: CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

Title: A King in a Manger

Passage: Luke 2:1-7

Speaker: Dave O'Connell

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

NOTES:

OFFERING — 1 Chronicles 29:9

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

God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman — *16th cent. English carol*
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!

In Bethlehem, in Israel, this bless-ed Babe was born
And laid within a manger upon this bless-ed morn
The which, His mother Mary, did nothing take in scorn,

From God, our heavenly Father, a bless-ed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name,

Now, to the Lord sing praises all ye within this place
And in true love and brotherhood each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace,

Offering is a way for members and friends of Cross Sound 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 • Stock: contact bookkeeper@crosssound.org
- Mail: Cross Sound Church PO Box 11748 or 600 Ericksen Ave NE #210, Bainbridge Is., WA 98110



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord Jesus,
When you entered the world,
The angels sang out in awe and with praise.
Allow us this season, to share their wonder,
And to bring you the fullness of our praise.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus,
When it was time for you to be born,
There was no room for you except in a stable.
Be with those in our community who have need,
And help us as a church to provide for our neighbors.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus,
The first people to hear of your birth were shepherds,
Those who were often belittled in their day.
Make us a church that truly values others; a church that
Shows love and dignity to all people in your name.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus,
When it was time for you to be born,
You chose to be born of a simple teenage girl.
May you continue to use simple people like us,
To be your vessels of blessing to your world.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

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, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Sending

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Words: Edmund H. Sears, 1849; Music: CAROL by Richard S. Willis, 1850

*It came upon a midnight clear, That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven’s all gracious King,”
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing*

*Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats, O’er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o’er its Babel sounds, The blessed angels sing.*

*O ye, beneath life’s crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way, With painful steps and slow
Look now! for glad and golden hours, Come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.*

*For lo! The days are hastening on, By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years, Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth, Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song, Which now the angels sing.*

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.
— 1Peter 1:17-18

BENEDICTION — Romans 15:13a

This Christmas season,
May the God of hope fill you with all
Joy and peace as you trust in Him.
Amen.

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”).

The benediction, different from good wishes or even a prayer, is a pronouncement of God’s blessing. God sends us out in peace, giving us his presence as we go to be blessing-bearers to the world.

Announcements

Join us Christmas Eve! Family Service at 4pm. Candlelight Service at 7pm. Please take an invitation as you exit this morning, and give it to a friend, neighbor, or anyone that needs to be invited into the celebration.

We will have service Christmas morning, Sunday, Dec 25 at 10am, per usual. Wishing you all a merry, blessed Christmas!



Annual Nativity Play is Next Week: December 18! Rehearsals are in full swing. The next rehearsal is TODAY after service, and Sunday 12/18 at 8:45am (before service). Email Brooke Wellman: brooke.wellman@yahoo.com with questions

25 for \$25: Gift Cards for Helpline House Helpline House provides holiday gift cards to those in need in our community. The Deacons at Cross Sound Church will provide 25 gift cards valued at \$25 each to support this holiday effort. Your donation of \$25 to Cross Sound Deacons can help make this happen. Please donate online (using QR code) and specify “25 for \$25” giving option. Thank you!



Cuba Donations for January Missions Trip There is a group from Cross Sound traveling to Cuba in the New Year. They have 4 suitcases to bring much needed items, and are asking for donations, specifically: **medicines** (fever reducers, multi-vitamins, children’s gummy vitamins, rash, herpes and fungus ointments, zinc and calamine lotion, permethrin cream 5%), **food** (dehydrated meats, powdered milk), summertime **children’s clothes**, and much more... You may deliver donations to the church office, or bring to church on Sunday. Contact Shannon Roa for more information: sadelaem@yahoo.com. Thank you!

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: _____

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.