



...the incarnation means that all ground is holy ground because God not only made it but walked on it, ate and slept and worked and died on it. If we are saved anywhere, we are saved here. And what is saved is not some diaphanous distillation of our bodies and our earth but our bodies and our earth themselves. Jerusalem becomes the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven like a bride adorned for her husband (Rev. 21:2). Our bodies are sown perishable and raised imperishable (1 Cor. 15:42).

One of the blunders religious people are particularly fond of making is the attempt to be more spiritual than God.

—

Frederick Buechner

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.

Gathering

CALL TO WORSHIP — Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

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.

**God our Father, who opens the eyes of the blind,
We confess that we do not consistently
find our hope in you, nor live as though the promises
of your justice and righteousness are real.
Forgive us, Lord.
Give us hearts and lips that sing your praises,
and proclaim the miracle of your grace
to our struggling lives and world.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND RECEIVING OF GRACE

The Lord lifts those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
May he forgive us all our sins
and grant us His righteousness
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven!
Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING —Romans 15:12-13, read by the Jeter's
2nd candle – (purple) *The Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation:*

God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem.
Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome you, O God!
As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains
Come to Bethlehem and see, Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King

We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria, In excelsis deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee, Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heav'nly song

We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria, In excelsis deo

*We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria,
We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria, We Sing Gloria,
In excelsis deo, In excelsis deo, In excelsis deo*

Continue To Love Me — Michelle Patterson

Continue to love me, with that same love
Righteous and unchanging
Continue to love me, with that same love,
Priceless and unfailing

*Your love, it reaches to the sky, Your righteousness, a mountain high
How priceless, Your unending love
Both high and low among men Take cover under Your wings
How priceless, Your unending love*

Continue to love me, with that same love
Righteous and unchanging
Continue to love me, with that same love,
Priceless and unfailing

*Chorus x 2
How priceless, Your unending love*

Come All Ye Pining, Hungry, Poor — Steele, Murphy

Lord, we adore thy boundless grace, The heights and depths unknown
Of pardon, life, and joy, and peace, In thy beloved Son

*Come all ye pining, hungry, poor, The Savior's bounty taste
Behold a never-failing store, For every willing guest*

O wondrous gifts of love divine, Dear Source of every good
Jesus, in thee what glories shine, How rich thy flowing blood

*Come all ye pining, hungry, poor, The Savior's bounty taste
Behold a never-failing store, For every willing guest*

Here shall your numerous wants receive, A free, a full supply
He has unmeasured bliss to give, And joys that never die

*Come all ye pining, hungry, poor, The Savior's bounty taste
Behold a never-failing store, For every willing guest
Come all ye pining, hungry, poor, The Savior's bounty taste
Behold a never-failing store, For every willing guest*

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.

QUOTES:

The Advent season should come as a reminder to us that we can never be, and should not be, adjusted to the world. We are here to proclaim the reality and the imminence of a wholly other world, a world in which different powers rule and different standards operate. We are here to make it possible for ordinary men and women to believe this, and therefore to live in hope and readiness.

–Leslie Newbigin

“It is our shame and disgrace today that so many Christians—I will be more specific: so many of the soundest and most orthodox Christians—go through this world in the spirit of the priest and the Levite in our Lord’s parable, seeing human needs all around them, but (after a pious wish, and perhaps a prayer, that God might meet those needs) averting their eyes and passing by on the other side. That is not the Christmas spirit. Nor is it the spirit of those Christians—alas, they are many—whose ambition in life seems limited to building a nice middle-class Christian home, and making nice middle-class Christian friends, and bringing up their children in nice middle-class Christian ways, and who leave the sub-middle-class sections of the community, Christian and non-Christian, to get on by themselves. The Christmas spirit does not shine out in the Christian snob, For the Christmas spirit is the spirit of those who, like their Master, live their whole lives on the principle of making themselves poor—spending and being spent—to enrich their fellow humans, giving time, trouble, care and concern, to do good to others—and not just their own friends—in whatever way there seems need.

–J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

Text: Isaiah 53:1-3, Acts 3:17-21
Title: He Came to Bless and Beautify
Speaker: Dave Sellers

Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows[c] and acquainted wit] grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸
But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would
suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be
blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,
and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must
receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the
mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

NOTES:

COMMUNION — from Matthew 11:28-29

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.”

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 • Stock: contact bookkeeper@crosssound.org
- Mail: Cross Sound Church PO Box 11748 or 600 Ericksen Ave NE #210, Bainbridge Is., WA 98110



No one gives oneself freely
and willingly to God's service unless,
having tasting the Father's love,
that one is drawn in love
And worships God in return.

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”).

It Is Well With My Soul — Horatio G. Spafford, 1873/VILLE DU HAVRE, by Philip P. Bliss, 1876
When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

*It is well (It is well),
With my soul (With my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

My sin – oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Was nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Chorus

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

Chorus

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come,
let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
and heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns,
let men 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, Wonders of His love,
Wonders, wonders of His love

BENEDICTION — Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Amen. **Amen.**

Announcements

“Love Your Neighbor” Team The deacons are building a group of people to help support the needs of our community. Interested? Email deacons@crosssound.org

Dec 10: Nativity Play Rehearsal Continues directly after church! Meet us in the lobby right after church for quick snacks (feel free to bring your own). Then we'll head back into the auditorium for rehearsal. Approx time: 11:15am-1pm

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 13: Christmas Basket Assembly Volunteers Needed! St. Vincent DePaul, a food bank, is planning to assemble food baskets on Wednesday Dec 13. 10am -2pm at 1137 Callow Ave. Bremerton. (pizza served!)

There has been such great need in the community this Christmas, that we need to pack more bundles than in years past - 400 dry good bundles and 550 vegetable bags - to be exact! We need all the helping hands we can get (even for just an hour!) Questions? Email: seattle-mom@hotmail.com

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

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 or follow QR Code to sign up. Questions? Contact Teague Parker at newpark@centurytel.net

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.