



So, wrap our injured
flesh around you,
Breathe our air
and walk our sod,
Rob our sin and
make us holy,
Perfect Son of God.

—

Chris Rice,
"Welcome to our World"

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

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 — Luke 2:10-14

“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 to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

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,

This Advent morning, we want to worship!

**We want to celebrate Jesus, who stooped so low,
as to become one of us.**

But we also know and confess that we need your grace.

It is the very reason that Jesus needed to come.

Forgive us, Father, for our many sins.

Cast out our darkness with His perfect light!

Make Jesus our joy and song.

And increasingly, make us a people who reflect Him.

**We pray these things in his wonderful name,
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND RECEIVING OF GRACE — from Psalm 103

The Lord does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Rejoice with all your heart;
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Text in bold is read by the entire congregation. Plain text is read by the worship leader only.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING — read by Hank Wong

4th candle – (purple) The Candle of Love: God sent His only Son to earth to save us, because He loves us.

“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.”
—John 3:16-17

While Shepherds watched Their Flocks by Night

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around,

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread, Had seized their troubled mind;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring, To you and all mankind.”

“To you in David’s town this day, Is born of David’s line
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign:”

“The heav’nly babe you there shall find To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid.”

“All glory be to God on high, And to the earth be peace:
Good will to men from highest heav’n Begin and never cease,
Begin and never cease.”

Away In a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus, lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky, looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes;
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside, till morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children, in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

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 Holy Night

O 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 soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

*Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night, when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend!

Chorus

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy Name!

Chorus

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

“Man’s maker was made man that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother’s breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst... that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.—Augustine of Hippo

“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

“The story of Christmas is the story of God’s relentless love for us.” —Max Lucado

NOTES:

MESSAGE SERIES: SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

Title: We Three Kings

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Speaker: Dave O'Connell

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people, Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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 • 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



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

—1Chronicles 29:9

We Three Kings

We three Kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

*O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.

*O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God most high!

*O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Myrrh is mine; it's bitter perfume, Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

*O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Earth to heaven replies.

*O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

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.

Sending

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, forever.
Amen.

Agnus Dei — arranged by Amy Grant

Halelujah, Halelujah, For the Lord God Almighty reigns
Halelujah, Halelujah, For the Lord God Almighty reigns
Halelujah....

Holy, Holy, Are you Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb
You are Holy, Holy, Are you Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb,
Amen.

Halelujah, Halelujah, For the Lord God Almighty reigns
Halelujah, Halelujah, For the Lord God Almighty reigns
Halelujah....

Holy, Holy, Are you Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb
You are Holy, Holy, Are you Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb,
Amen, Amen.

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.

Announcements

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services Come celebrate our Savior's birth with us!

- 4pm Family Service at the BI HS Theater
- 7pm Carols and Candlelight Service at the BI HS Theater

The School of Discipleship is offering a new class for the New Year titled: *Follow Me: Finding Your Purpose and Fulfilling Your Callings in Christ*. One of the questions you may ponder is, "How am I created to make a difference in the world for Jesus?" Join us Sunday evenings, January 12th thru February 2nd, at the Church Office (600 Ericksen NE). Dinner and childcare provided. Please RSVP to katiepearson@crosssound.org

Women's Ministry: Bible Study will begin the week of January 13 at the Church Office on Monday Evenings at 6:30pm (soup and salad provided) and Wednesday Mornings at 9:30am. (childcare provided) We will be studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with the BEMA Podcast.

Men's Ministry: Bible Study Fellowship Tuesdays at 6:30pm at the Church office (600 Ericksen Ave NE #210). For centuries, people have attempted to unlock the mysteries of Revelation. In this, "The Study of Revelation: Discover Faith, Hope, and Joy", we are given hope of a world made new by the redemption and restoration that Jesus offers today and for eternity. Come try our study! Sign up at www.joinbsf.org. Questions? Email Tony at merritts.wa@gmail.com.

Missions, Traditions and Activities at Cross Sound So many ways to connect!

ONGOING

Search + Rescue Mission
Men's Bible Study +
Bible Study Fellowship
Women's Bible Study
Monthly Men's Breakfast
Seasonal Men's Hangouts
Small Group
Evening Youth Group
School of Discipleship
Roundtable Discussions

OVERSEAS

Ensenada
Cuuba
Kenya
Mexico City

SEASONAL:

WINTER
Advent Brunch
Socks + Underwear Drive
Gift Bags for the Homeless
CS Kids Nativity Play
Christmas Eve Family +
Candlelight Services

SPRING

Women's IF: Gathering
Weeds to Flowers Project
Ash Wednesday Service
Maundy Thursday Service
Good Friday Service
Easter Service
Women's Retreat

SUMMER

CS Kids Camp +
Tubing Parties
Youth Summer Program
Youth Immersion Trip
Book Club at the Park
Picnic With a Purpose
Women's Summer BBQ

FALL

Men's Retreat
Women's Hike
Pies for First Responders
Ensenada Auction Dinner
Ensenada Homebuilding Trip
Giving Thanks Service

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.