

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17, 2023 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

Gathering

O Little Town of Bethlehem — *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.

Renewing

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING — read by the Dinius' 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

SILENT NIGHT performed by Isaiah Beyer

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 Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them 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!

> > STUDENT SERMONS

Sending

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

- 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
- Mail: Cross Sound Church PO Box 11748 or 600 Ericksen Ave NE #210, Bainbridge Is., WA 98

Freely you have received, freely give.

Matthew 10:8

Agnus Dei— arranged by Michael W Smith Alleluia, alleluia, For the Lord God Almighty reigns Alleluia, alleluia, For the Lord God Almighty reigns Alleluia. 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.

BENEDICTION - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May the God of peace sanctify you; and may your spirit, soul, body heart, mind and will be kept blameless and free at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Amen. **Amen**!



You are invited to 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.



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:		
Prayer Requests/Comm	ents:	

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 that 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.