



What better expression of the spirit of God's advent
could there be than a community
of joyful gives and grateful receivers?
— Miroslav Volf



SUNDAY DECEMBER 20, 2009
10:00 A.M.

*Cover painting by Lissie Schuler and Jamie Brouwer.
To be part of the "Art" team please contact Erica
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*Welcome to Cross Sound Church. This page includes some
of the elements of today's worship. It's designed to give you
scriptures, prayers, and thoughts for further reflection
during your week.*

Gathering

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

Glo-----ria in excelsis Deo
Glo-----ria in excelsis De-----o.

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.

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.

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

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

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

Call to Worship

Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
"Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the arm.
Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

— Isaiah 60:3-6

Advent Scripture Reading and Candle Lighting

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

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 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 and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

— Matthew 2:7-12

**The Christmas Story
A Cross Sound Church Pageant****SCENE ONE****The Promise of the Prophets**

The Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

— Isaiah 9:6

But you, Bethlehem, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

— Micah 5:2

Song: Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

O Come All Ye Faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
Of heaven above;
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

SCENE TWO**Gabriel's Announcement to Mary**

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

—Luke 1:26-38

SCENE THREE

Gabriel's Announcement to Joseph

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."
—Matthew 1:18-23

Harp Solo
— Ashley Clendenen

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.
—Matthew 1:24-25

SCENE FOUR

Mary's Visit to Elizabeth

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
—Luke 1:39-50

SCENE FIVE

Mary Joseph, and the baby Jesus in the Stable

Song: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,
No crib for His 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

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.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register.

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

—Luke 2:1-7

SCENE SIX

The Shepherds on the Hillside

And there were shepherds living out in the 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 of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ 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, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

—Luke 2:8-14

Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
 “Glory to the newborn King!
 Peace on earth and mercy mild
 God and sinners reconciled”
 Joyful, all ye nations rise
 Join the triumph of the skies
 With the angelic host proclaim:
 “Christ is born in Bethlehem”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Son of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings
 Ris’n with healing in His wings

Mild He lays His glory by
 Born to raise the sons of earth
 Born to give them second birth
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 “Glory to the newborn King!”

SCENE SEVEN

The Shepherds Visit the Baby Jesus

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

—Luke 2:15-20

Song: 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
 Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
 Christ, the Saviour is born
 Christ, the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night
 Son of God, love’s pure light
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth “

SCENE EIGHT

The Visit of the Wise Men

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

—Matthew 2:1-2

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On 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 and of incense and of myrrh.

—Matthew 2:9-11

Song: 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.

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.

Special Thanks for this pageant to: Lisa Bernardin, Jared Cordell, Rachel Perry, Lissie Schuler, Erica Applewhite, and Hannah & Deby Berkimer

Series: Welcoming God's New World at Christmas
Message: The Gift of God.

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12, 2 Corinthians 9:15, Revelation 21:6

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

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¹¹On 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 and of incense and of myrrh.

¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

—2 Corinthians 9:15

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.— Revelation 21:6

Quotes:

"Gifts themselves are no longer just things that people need, like or desire. They are sacraments of love, both divine and human. By giving gifts, givers offer their very selves....The whole ritual is a feast of delight—delight in things given, delight in acts of giving and receiving, delight in person giving and receiving, and delight in the community constituted and enacted by the whole process. When we have engaged in such giving, we have tasted the advent of God's new world in which love reigns. What better expression of the spirit of God's advent could there be than a community of joyful givers and grateful receivers?" — Miroslav Volf

Offering

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can, I give him, give him my heart.

The heart of the gospel is the overwhelming generosity of God to us in Christ. We are "blessed to be a blessing." If you, or anyone you are aware of, is in need of assistance with housing, rent, utilities, medical bills, etc. We as a church would love to try to help. Contact any one of the deacons, pastors or staff listed in the bulletin.

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 appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty power to save;
bring them in vict'ry through the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, our Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thy advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations,
bind all people in one heart and mind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
and be Thyself our King of Peace!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

Benediction

The joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The perseverance of the Magi,
The obedience of Joseph and Mary,
And the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.
And blessing of God almighty,
the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Cross Sound Announcements

Parents of Preschoolers-8th grade: There will be no Sunday School for your children this week because of the Christmas Pageant. Children not performing in the pageant should stay with you through the pageant performance. Immediately after the pageant, all kids are invited to participate in special children's activities in the high school classrooms/library during the sermon and remainder of the service.

Christmas Eve Services 6:00PM & 11:00 PM: Please join us with your friends, family, and neighbors for a beautiful evening of worship and celebration! Nursery care available for the 6PM service. Please bring a plate of cookies or goodies to share for after the 6PM Christmas Eve Service! 11PM service will be a communion service.

High Schoolers: Save the Dates!
Monday, 12/28 and Tuesday, 12/29 for a retreat here on Bainbridge Island at a waterfront cabin. We'll eat, laugh, play, serve, sleep and study together for those two days. More details to follow...

Year End Giving: For those planning for their year end giving please either drop your offering at the office by 2PM, Dec. 31, or make sure any checks mailed are dated Dec. 31. If you are unable to make this time frame you can deposit online at www.crosssound.org through PayPal (note there is a 3% fee to the church deducted from your gift). Thank you for your generosity, if there are any questions call Julee at the office at 842-6898

To Reach Us

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They're Coming This Winter...

Cross Sound Community Groups are small groups of ten to sixteen members. The groups meet weekly, bi-weekly or monthly in homes. The time together is split among Bible study, personal application and relationships. Please sign the Golden Clipboard or contact Dave for more information. Dave@crosssound.org

Cross Sound Deacon Fund

This gift-giving season offers a vivid reminder that, as a church, we are blessed to be a blessing. One of the ways we bless those in need is with financial assistance. The Cross Sound Deacon Fund exists to help those with financial needs in areas like housing, food and transportation. If you or someone you know has a need, we invite you to contact any one of the 14 Cross Sound Deacons or email Dave Murray at davemurray01@embarqmail.com.

Would you reach to someone in need for the holidays?

The deacons ask you to pray for those whom you may know that need family to be with during the upcoming holidays. Consider asking someone over for Christmas celebrations with your family. God created us all for relationship with Him and with others. Is there someone you could reach out to who might be longing for companionship over the holidays?

Confidentiality It's a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry, and a good guide for all of us to live by. When someone tells you something private, resist the temptation to pass it along. Keep it confidential. In the event you really believe someone else needs to know, encourage the person who told you to tell that person, or get his or her permission to pass it along. You'll feel better in the long run - and you'll have earned the trust of a friend. If you or someone you know would like to explore the idea of working with a Stephen Minister please speak with Pastors Dave or Paul or Lynnette Rogers 842-3012. Info. is available at the greeters tables.

Financial Update

Weekly Budget Needs: \$13,989.00
Last Week's Giving: : \$9,228.00
Monthly Budget Needs: \$55,961.59
Giving for Month of December: \$24,036.00

"Worship Through Giving" *An envelope has been provided for your records and will be picked up at the end of the service.*

Get Connected at Cross Sound: Stop by the greeter table to find out what events, ministry opportunities, and small groups are available for you to participate in, or call us at 206-842-6898.



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