



For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all people.
— Luke 2:30-31



SUNDAY DECEMBER 27, 2009
10:00 A.M.

Cover painting by Carol Raney.
To be part of the "Art" team please contact Erica Applewhite at emnordfors@yahoo.com

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

Come let us worship and bow down

Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord, God, our Maker
(repeat)

For He is our God
And we are the people of His pasture
And the sheep of His hand
Just the sheep of His hand

Call to Worship

This is what God the LORD says—
he who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:

"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,

to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in
darkness.

— Isaiah 42:5-7

Renewing

Confession of Sin

God of our salvation,
we confess before you our self-centered desire
to bring about salvation on our own terms,
forgetting that your hands worked salvation for us.
Grant that we would submit ourselves to Christ,
who, setting aside his heavenly glory,
humbled himself and came to earth as a helpless baby
in order to be with us, love us, and save us.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to
himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may
behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

^{All} Amen

God With Us

He walked where I walked
He stood where I stand
He felt what I feel
He understands

He knows my frailty
Shared my humanity
Tempted in every way
Yet without sin

God with us, so close to us
God with us, Emmanuel
(repeat)

One of a hated race
Stung by the prejudice
Suffering injustice
Yet He forgives

Wept for my wasted years
Paid for my wickedness
He died in my place
That I might live

God with us, so close to us
God with us, Emmanuel
(repeat)

God of Wonders

Lord of all creation
Of water, earth, and sky
The heavens are Your tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on High

God of wonders, beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy

Lord of heaven and earth (repeat)

Early in the morning,
I will celebrate the light
And as I stumble through the darkness
I will call Your name by night

God of wonders, beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy

Lord of heaven and earth (repeat)

Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth
(repeat)

God of wonders, beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy

Indescribable

From the highest of highs to the depths of the sea
Creation's revealing your majesty
From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring
Every creature unique in the song that it sings,
All exclaiming

Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
and You know them by name
You are amazing, God
All powerful, untamable
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
as we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night,
None can fathom

Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
and You know them by name
You are amazing, God
All powerful, untamable
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
as we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God

Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
and You know them by name
You are amazing, God
Incomparable, unchangeable
You see the depths of my heart
and You love me the same
You are amazing, God

Giving Thanks

**Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.
Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.**

—Isaiah 52:8-9

Series: Welcoming God's New World at Christmas**Message: Three Invitations****Scripture: Luke 2:22-35**

²² When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss[c] your servant in peace.

³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

—Luke 2:22-35

Quotes:

"The Puritans have taught me to see and feel the transitoriness of this life, with all its richness, as essentially the gymnasium and dressing room where we are prepared for heaven and to regard readiness to die as the first step in learning to live." - J.I. Packer

"We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 10sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything." —2 Corinthians 6:3-10

"All my stories are about the action of grace on a character who is not very willing to support it, but most people think of these stories as hard, hopeless and brutal." —Flannery O' Connor

"The gospel of justifying faith means that while Christians are, in themselves still sinful and sinning, yet in Christ, in God's sight, they are accepted and righteous. So we can say that we are more wicked than we ever dared believe, but more loved and accepted in Christ than we ever dared hope — at the very same time. This creates a radical new dynamic for personal growth. It means that the more you see your own flaws and sins, the more precious, electrifying, and amazing God's grace appears to you. But on the other hand, the more aware you are of God's grace and acceptance in Christ, the more able you are to drop your denials and self-defenses and admit the true dimensions and character of your sin."

—Timothy Keller

"If only there were someone to arbitrate between us, to lay his hand upon us both." —Job 9:33

"Faith is what someone knows to be true, whether they believe it or not." —Flannery O' Connor

Prayers of the People

Lord, we thank you for bringing salvation to your people. Remind us, we pray, that it was your doing, not ours, that our righteousness rests in neither good deeds nor religious thoughts. We are grateful for Christ's sufficient sacrifice, through which we receive grace. Help us to know that mere outward expressions of faith do not please you, but contrite hearts, bent in gratefulness toward you and your love.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Jesus, you came into this world and experienced its hardships and injustice, and conquered them through your death and resurrection. Even now, you are bringing your justice and peace into our world. We pray for our city and for its political and civic leaders, that you would grant them humility and wisdom as they govern. We ask for lasting peace among nations and an end to violence and oppression.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, provide comfort and peace to those who hurt this season. For those who hurt in body, we pray for provision, strength, and healing. For those who ache in spirit, we pray your love would be incarnate to them. For those who are alone, we pray your presence would remain near them. We are grateful you live within us and give us fullness of life in Christ; embolden us to bring that fullness into the dark and lonely places of the world.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

Please add your own prayers at this time, ending with, "For this, O Lord, we pray" and all responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Communion

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

— Matthew 26:26-27

How deep the Father's love for us

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

It covers me (Amazing Grace)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet
That were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me
(repeat)
It covers me It covers me It covers me

Offering

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.

— 2 Corinthians 9:15

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.

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be
 Consecrated, Lord, to Thee
 Take my moments and my days
 Let them flow in ceaseless praise
 Take my hands and let them move
 At the impulse of Thy love
 Take my feet and let them be
 Swift and beautiful for Thee

Take my voice and let me sing
 Always, only for my King
 Take my lips and let them be
 Filled with messages from Thee
 Take my silver and my gold
 Not a mite would I withhold
 Take my intellect and use
 Every power as You choose

Here am I
 All of me
 Take my life
 It's all for Thee

Take my will and make it Thine
 It shall be no longer mine
 Take my heart it is Thine own
 It shall be Thy royal throne
 Take my love, my Lord I pour
 At your feet its treasure store
 Take myself and I will be
 Ever, only, all for Thee

Here am I
 All of me
 Take my life
 It's all for Thee
 (repeat)

Benediction

May Jesus Christ, the sun of righteousness, who comes with healing in his wings, fill you with the joy and peace that passes all understanding. The blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

Prayer of Belief

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 the 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.

PRAYER NEEDS

- The Blain Family (Peace and Comfort)
- Tony Jacobellis
- Alice Bundrant (Surgery - recovery)
- Hannah Hunt (Brain Cancer)
- Gene Shawley (Cancer - Chemo.)
- Chris Harvey (thanksgiving for surgery - recovery)
- Our Youth
- Missions
- Our Military
- Families in Crisis

(If you have prayer requests or prayers of thanksgiving that you would like to share on this page please email Penny@crosssound.org or fill out a Welcome card and drop it on the offering basket. Our Prayer teams will be praying for these things as well.)

Cross Sound Announcements

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...

Financial Peace University

Tuesday evenings 6:30-8:30 starting January 19th in a BHS classroom.

Prayer Group: Every Wednesday evening at 7pm at the Getters home, all are welcome. Call the Getters at 855-9197 for prayer requests or for more information.

Year End Giving: For those planning for their year end giving the office will be open until 2:00 on the 31st. to receive any checks. Anything received in the office or mail after this time will need to be dated Dec. 31 or will be receipted for 2010. 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

Jan 10 - Welcome Lunch

This is a good way to meet some others at Cross Sound. Perfect for those who are relatively new or anyone who would like to get connected further. The Schuler's home, 12:00-1:30 pm. (Contact Penny@Crosssound.org for details- please sign up on the back of your welcome card)

To Reach Us

Staff

Paul Schuler, Pastor — paul@crosssound.org
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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.

Eyes and Ears of Jesus We are the eyes and ears of Jesus on earth today. It is our duty to be watching and listening to people around us, recognizing when they have needs for care. If you find someone with a need, listen and care. If you find the need is greater than you can provide, tell the person about our Stephen Ministry and put him or her in touch with Pastors Dave or Paul or Lynnette Rogers 842-3012. Jesus is depending on us to be his eyes and ears on earth. Info. is available on book cart.

Interested in getting involved?

We are currently in need of new people to help with our set up/ take down schedule for both the main sanctuary and the classrooms. Please indicate interest on your yellow card or contact Penny for more information. Penny@crosssound.org

Financial Update

Weekly Budget Needs: \$13,989.00

Last Week's Giving: : \$ 5,694.63

Monthly Budget Needs: \$55,961.59

Giving for Month of December: \$29,730.63

"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.

Sermons are available online at www.crosssound.org. and CD copies are available up on the CD cart near the bookcart.

If you would like to know more about Cross Sound Church,

Welcome Packets are available at the greeter table.



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Cross Sound Church Christmas Pageant

