



The grace of God is dangerous.
It's lavish, excessive,
outrageous, and scandalous.
God's grace is ridiculously
inclusive. Apparently God
doesn't care who he loves.
He is not very careful about the
people he calls his friends or
the people he calls his Church.

Mike Yaconelli

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

Please join in song when ready

Gloria Patri – Words: Gloria Patri, 2nd Century, Music: Karl Digerness, 2009

Glory be to the Father As it was in the beginning

Glory be to the Son Shall be forever

Glory be to the Spirit, Three in One Amen, Amen, Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP — Isaiah 61:10-11

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
 my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
 to sprout up before all the nations.

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, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We confess and repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.
Amen.**

Renewing

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND RECEIVING OF GRACE

May God, our Father,
who delights in you,
forgive you your sins,
free from the darkness of regret,
and call you into a world made new. **Amen.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*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.”

O Come, O Come Emmanuel — *12th Cent, Translated by John M. Neale, 1851*
VENI EMMANUEL, from a 15th Cent. processional of French Franciscan nuns

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!

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.

Here I Am to Worship — *Tim Hughes*

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above,
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

10,000 Reasons — *Matt Redman*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

[Chorus]

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

[Chorus]

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

ENSENADA MISSION TRIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS, STUDENT DISMISSAL & GREETING

SONG OF PREPARATION

Speak, O Lord — *Getty/Townend*

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your Truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

QUOTES:

'It makes all the difference to know there's someone else screaming alongside you - and that's the point of the Incarnation...God came into the world and screamed alongside us.'
— Susan Howatch

'I am convinced that only when we have grasped the implications of the humanity of Jesus will we be able to properly assess our own humanity. The doctrine that the Word became flesh means that God himself affirms our flesh as good, and that affirmation liberates us from apologizing for our creaturely limitations. If we believe that Jesus, who was free from all sin, was fully human, then this means that he considered creaturely restrictions to be part of his good creation and not evil at all. It means that we must not apologize for what the Son of God freely embraces.' — Kelly M Kopic

'What is more demeaning to God, what is more shameful - getting born or dying? To carry flesh or to carry a cross? To be circumcised or be hanged? To be fed at the breast or to be buried?...But you will not be wise unless, by believing God's "foolish things," you have become foolish in this age.' — Tertullian (c. 155-220)

MESSAGE SERIES: CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

Text: Matthew 1:18-23

Title: Scandal

Speaker: Dave Sellers

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

*universal

It has been the practice of the church for thousands of years to have portions of the Bible read during worship services. We do this because we are people who need to be shaped by all of God's word.

OFFERING — based on 2 Corinthians 9:6,8

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly;
the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us in Christ,
we have opportunity to share out of our abundance.

What Child is This? — *Words: William C. Dix, "The Manger Throne", 1865*
Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16th Century English melody

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him thru,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, Gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings, salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Offering is a way for members and friends of Cross Sound 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



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, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever. Amen

What a Beautiful Name — *Ben Fielding & Brooke Ligertwood*

You were the Word at the beginning, One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation, Now revealed in You, our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is, What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King
What a beautiful name it is, Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus

You wanted heaven opened to us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful name it is...

Death could not hold You, The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again
You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God You reign
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is...

Financial Update: as of November 27: giving total \$6,992.95 Actual Income to Date \$324,553.65
Budgeted Income to Date \$364,350 Annual Budget (July '21-June '22): \$1,110,853

Sending

BONKER SEND OFF — Jon, Katie, Hannah, Naomi, Judah, Mikey, David

BENEDICTION — African Blessing

All our problems,
We send to the cross of Christ!
All our difficulties,
We send to the cross of Christ!
All the devil's works,
We send to the cross of Christ!
All our hopes,
We set on the risen Christ!

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace;
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Announcements

Cuba Donations for January Missions Trip There is a group from Cross Sound traveling to Cuba in the New Year. They have 4 suitcases to bring much needed items, and are asking for donations, specifically: **medicines** (fever reducers, multi-vitamins, children's gummy vitamins, rash, herpes and fungus ointments, zinc and calamine lotion, permethrin cream 5%), **food** (dehydrated meats, powdered milk), warm-weather **children's clothes**, and much more... *Contact Shannon Roa for more information: sadelaem@yahoo.com. Thank you!*



Nativity Play Rehearsal begins today, directly after church! We'd love to invite your children to join in the Nativity Play this Christmas and tell the story of Jesus' birth. Rehearsals will begin on TODAY, Sunday Dec. 4th directly after church. There will be parts for those who feel comfortable talking and also for those who'd like to participate quietly. We'd love to have you.

Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, December 24 We will be holding two services on Christmas Eve in the BI High School Theater, Bring your family and friends!

- Family Service at 4pm
- Carols & Candlelight Service at 7pm

We will have service Christmas morning, Sunday, Dec 25 at 10am, per usual. Wishing you all a merry, blessed Christmas!

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.