

“The truth that makes us free is always ticking away like a time bomb in the basement of everybody’s church. And that truth isn’t a bunch of ideas. It’s Jesus. Sooner or later, if we just sit still and listen, he’ll blow the lid off any prison we’ve built.”

— Robert Farrar Capon



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, or (206) 334–5205

Dave O’Connell: daveoc@crosssound.org, or (314) 853–2695

To learn more about the entire staff and our team of Elders, Deacons, International Ministers, Stephen Ministry and Community Group Leaders please visit our website: crosssound.org or call our office: (206) 842-6898

Please silence all mobile phones and electronic 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

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Words: John W. Work, Jr., 1907; Music: African-American spiritual

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angels' chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and

The largest book in the Bible is primarily a book of poems set to music to sing God's praises. This is all part of God's design to surround His presence with singing. Expressing gratitude to God expresses dependence upon God and is an antidote for cynicism, criticism, and bitterness.

Renewing

Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

— Malachi 3:1-4

CONFESSION OF SIN

(Confession happens within the context of relationship, both with God and with each other as we acknowledge our need for forgiveness. Jesus promises that He freely forgives sins removing all of our past regrets. You are invited to personalize your confession as we pray silently).

Make confession to God the Lord, and let everyone acknowledge with me his sin and iniquity.

Merciful God, we are grateful for the promise of forgiveness.

We desperately need it!

So many things have crowded thoughts of you out of our minds this past week.

We have been so busy and distracted that we have forgotten your grace.

We have focused more on our wants than our worship of you.

Forgive us now as you promised in your word.

Cleanse us, restore us and strengthen us.

Not because our faith is so great,

or our prayers so fervent,

but because you love us so radically.

Amen.

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The proof of God's amazing love is this:

while we were sinners

Christ died for us.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

3rd candle – (pink) The Shepherd Candle or The Candle of Joy:

The shepherds received a message of joy!

“...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. 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.’ 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.’ — Luke 2:7-15

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

Joy to the World — *Words: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: ANTIOCH by Lowell Mason, 1836*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

O Come, All Ye Faithful — *Words: William C. Dix, "The Manger Throne", 1865, Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16th Century English melody*

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O co-me ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels.

O come let us adore Him,
O come let us a - dore Him,
O come let us a - dore Him,
Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above:
Glory to God in the Highest.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing

O Little Town of Bethlehem — *Words: 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.

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.

GIVING THANKS AND GREETING

Ensenada, Mexico: Homes of Hope

MESSAGE

Text: Luke 1:26-38

Title: Favor

Speaker: Dave Sellers

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

QUOTES

'When God chose Mary for his instrument, when God himself in the manger at Bethlehem decided to come into this world, that was no romantic family portrait, but the beginning of a total turning point, a new ordering of all things on this earth. If we want to participate in this Advent and Christmas happening, we cannot simply be like spectators at a theater performance, enjoying all the familiar scenes, but we must ourselves become part of this activity, which is taking place in this "changing of all things." We must have our part in this drama. The spectator becomes an actor in the play. We cannot withdraw ourselves from it.'

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Christmas Sermons*, p.100.

Q. Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

A. That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses.

Q. Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

A. That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.

— #22, 23 *The New City Catechism*

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.

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.

OFFERING

As God's dear children, then, take him as your pattern,
and follow Christ by loving as he loved you,
giving himself up for us as an offering
and a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God.
— Ephesians 5:1-2

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Words: 12th Cent, Translated from Latin by John M. Neale, 1851

Music: 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!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty God, in this holy season,
draw our eyes to our coming Savior.
Help us to leave behind the darkness of sin,
walk in the light that shines on our path,
and renew within ourselves the hope of glory
to which He calls us.
For this, O Lord, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, come to your world as King of the nations.
We pray for an end to violence, oppression, and greed,
and we pray that truth, justice, and goodness will abound.
Before you rulers will stand in silence.
For this, O Lord, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving Spirit, we pray for all who at this time
especially need your pity and protection:
the sick in body, mind or spirit;
those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope;
those who face the future with fear
or walk in the shadow of death.
For this, O Lord, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

And now we give you thanks
that our lives are woven into your story of forgiveness,
given to us through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross,
and made manifest in our participation at this table,
which, through the mystery of your grace,
brings the Kingdom of God closer to us day by day.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and singing...

The offering is a way for members and friends of Cross Sound Church to support the church's mission and ministry. If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give.

Communion, also called the Lord's Supper, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all followers of Jesus Christ to participate. If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal, we encourage you instead to spend this time in prayer ("Prayers for Reflection"). We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church.

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.

Sussex Carol — First published by Luke Wadding, an Irish bishop, in 1684, Music: *SUSSEX CAROL*, arranged by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1919

On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring
News of great joy, news of great mirth
News of our merciful King's birth

Then why should men on earth be so sad
Since our Redeemer made us glad?
Then why should men on earth be so sad
Since our Redeemer made us glad?
When from our sins He set us free
All for to gain our liberty

When sin departs before His grace
Then life and health come in its place
When sin departs before His grace
Then life and health come in its place
Angels and men with joy may sing
All for to see the newborn King

All out of darkness we have Light
Which made the angels sing this night
All out of darkness we have Light
Which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God, and peace to men,
Now and forevermore, Amen!"

Sending

Angels from the Realms of Glory — Words: Heinrich Suso (?-1366);
*trans. from Latin to English by John M. Neale, 1853. Folklore has it that
Suso, hearing angels singing these words, joined them in a dance of worship.*
Music: *In Dulci Jubilo, 14th cent. German melody*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Man and beast before Him bow; and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door and we are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

BENEDICTION

May God himself, the God of all redemption,
strengthen you with his grace,
and keep you secure in every adversity.
as you await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

Amen.

*The benediction, different from good wishes or even a prayer, is a pronouncement
of God's blessing. God sends us out in peace, giving us His presence as we go to be
blessing-bearers to the world.*

Announcements

Christmas Pageant - rehearsals have begun! Our annual pageant will take place during service on Sunday, December 22nd. The dress rehearsal will take place from 10am-12pm on Saturday, Dec 21st. *Questions? Contact kate@crosssound.org*

Cross Sound Is Moving: Our last Sunday service here at BHS will be December 29th. We'll begin the new year in our new home on Sunday, January 5th. The move will be a great time for community and fellowship. *More information on the back of the bulletin.*

Angel Tree

Thank you to everyone who brought gifts and volunteered their time. We're busy packaging them and are delivering this week!

Women's Events

SPRING RETREAT: Save the date! March 20-21 at Islandwood

Grandparents Ministry Grandparents are invited to meet and discuss ways to more deeply engage with grandchildren and God. Sessions start up again in the Spring, meeting 2nd Monday's: 4/13, 5/11, 6/8. 5:30 pm at the church office.

Men's Bible Study Fridays at 6:30am at Church Office. Contact Roger Barber irbarbers@gmail.com with questions or interest.

Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one Christ-centered care. Each minister is paired with a hurting person—men paired with men and women with women—and meet weekly with that person to listen, care, pray and encourage. Leaders: Sue MacFarlane 206-714-5986 and Dick Smith 415-847-8984

CS Kids and Youth Group

All children newborn through 6th grade need to check in and wear their printed nametag before they arrive at class.

CROSS SOUND KIDS

Contact: Laura O'Connell, lauraoc@crosssound.org, Kate Pippinger, katepippinger@gmail.com or Sandy Halbert sandy@crosssound.org
Children will attend the worship portion and then be sent to their classrooms as a whole Sunday school group.

Small Beginnings Nursery (new-2yrs) Room #234

Contact: Laura O'Connell, lauraoc@crosssound.org. *Children are invited to be dropped off at this class before the church service begins.*

Toddlers (2-4 years, must be potty trained) Room #232

Lead Teachers: Chris and Joanna Livdhal, Keith and Mary Van Eaton, Lisa Grant and Lacey Redinger

Pre-K/Kindergarten Room #231

Lead teachers: Keagan Daniels, Jason and Bethany Hickner, Candace Luckman, Kareese Pippinger,

First & Second grades Room #229

Lead teachers; Ann Asher, Jennifer Cordell, Patrick and Jenny Kilby, Clint and Chelsea Ramsey, Dianne Stever

Third & Fourth grades Room #225

Lead teachers; Knox Duncan, Nate and Dinha Moore, Kate Pippinger, Carol Raney

Fifth & Sixth grades Room #222

Lead teachers; Carrie Sellers, Cheryl Keech, Trish Maguire, Bill Parrott.

YOUTH GROUP

Contact Josh Brouwer at josh@crosssound.org

Junior High, Bainbridge High School Library

Lead teachers; Carrie Beyer, John Daniels, Sean Luckman

Senior High, Bainbridge High School Library

Lead teachers; Jamie Brouwer, Chip Halbert, Kerry Sutorius, Dana Webber
EVENING YOUTH GROUP at the Church Office: 600 Ericksen Ave. NE

- WEDNESDAYS 6:30-8pm - High School (begins September 25)
- THURSDAYS 6:30-8pm - Jr. High (begins September 26)

Community Groups

Community Group Fall Session has begun. Unless otherwise noted each of the following groups meet on Bainbridge Island:

<u>Leader</u>	<u>Night</u>
Carrie and Dave Sellers	Tuesday (Kid Friendly)
Dafoe	Thursday (Kid Friendly)*
Jennifer and Bob Cordell, Lisa and Bill Parrott	Thursday (Poulsbo)(Kid Friendly)
Kerri and Marc Koenig	Thursday (Poulsbo)
Linda Gordon and Roger Barber	Saturday
Jenny and Patrick Kilby	Sunday, noon–2 pm (Kid Friendly)
Laura and Dave O'Connell	Sunday (Kid Friendly)
Jeff Ogard	Sunday (Poulsbo)

* Group is full - currently closed

For details contact Roger Barber - irbarbers@gmail.com.

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
Second time visitor
Regular attendee

Interested in more info for:
_____ Ministry

Please add me to:
Email list Mailing list

Name(s): _____

Children & their ages: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Prayer Requests: _____

Comments

We welcome your feedback on any aspect of worship.

If you have prayer requests or prayers of thanksgiving that you would like to share please email Kristin@crosssound.org or indicate on the prayer request page and drop it in the offering basket. Our prayer team prays for these requests throughout the week.

Dear Cross Sound Church,

Reconstruction of BHS Building 100 is well under way. Included in that work will be a remodeling of the Commons where we meet each Sunday. That work begins in early January. As a result, we will be moving to a new Sunday meeting space, so please mark your calendars:

Our LAST Sunday Service at BHS Commons: Sunday December 29th

Our FIRST Sunday Service at our new location: Sunday January 5th

In scripture, we find that God called Abram to pick up and “go.” However, we also note that God did not say where, but rather, He invited Abram to go to “a land I will show you.”

Over the past year, we’ve worked with the school district on a move plan that would take us to Wilkes Elementary. Recently, a new door was opened for us to consider moving to Sakai Intermediate School. Church leaders and staff met with school district officials to discuss this new plan. And after a site tour and much prayer, the decision was made to make Sakai our new temporary home for Sunday services.

Going to Sakai offers practical advantages over Wilkes with a larger meeting space, larger classrooms and furniture and more parking, all while remaining more centrally located on Bainbridge Island.

While it is a change to our plan, we’re reminded that our journey is God’s plan and this new element of “disruption” is in His hands. We are in good hands indeed.

Astonished by Grace,
Cross Sound Elders