



What keeps the wild hope
of Christmas alive year after
year in a world notorious
for dashing all hopes,
is the haunting dream that
the child who was born that
day may yet *be born again*,
even in us.

Frederick Buechner



DECEMBER 5, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
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 Sellers: dave@crosssound.org, or (206) 334-5205 and 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 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 — Luke 2:13-14

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude
of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
 “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

**During this Advent season,
help us to slow down enough to consider
the wonder and glory of what has taken place.
The infinite become an infant.
The King traded his throne for a cradle.
Jesus stepped into the world, for us.
We confess that in this season it is easy for us
to be distracted,
to be forgetful,
To find ourselves indifferent to these realities.
Father, forgive us.
Work in our hearts this season,
That we could love, worship, celebrate and enjoy Jesus—
And be made instruments of His joy, love, and peace.
Amen**

RECEIVING OF GRACE — Psalm 103:1, 11-12

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

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

Renewing

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 — *Words: 12th Century, Translated from Latin by John M. Neale, 1851 Music: Veni Emmanuel, 15th Cent. French Franciscan nuns processional*

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.

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.*

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & STUDENT DISMISSAL

With the exception of the nursery, all students begin in the worship service. Upon dismissal students gather in room 231 for large group, then on to individual classes: Nursery Rm 234, PreK-2nd Rm 232, 3rd-6th Rm 231

QUOTES:

“So no one is really neutral about whether Christmas is true. If the Son of God was really born in a manger, then we have lost the right to be in charge of our lives.”

— Tim Keller

‘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

NOTES:

Message

Series: Look Who's Coming to (Christmas) Dinner

Title: Mary and the Wise Men

Text: Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 2:1-12

Speaker: Dave Sellers

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."

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

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.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

OFFERING — Psalm 96:8-9

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.

Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down — *Dave Doherty*

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

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

The offering is a way for members and friends of Cross Sound Church to support the worship and work of the church, its mission and ministry. If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give. If you prefer to give online, go to www.crosssound.org/give

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Father,
So often your Kingdom is not what we expect.
We look for your power and might and so often
you reveal your surprising humility. Help us to share
in your work, that your love and service might be born
into our families and the world through us.
For this, O Lord, we pray;
Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus,
you were born in poverty and laid to rest in a manger.
We pray for the materially poor who live without access
to clean water, food, and health care. Thank you for the two families
in Mexico for whom our church built homes. Would you bring
about a revival throughout that country, in Cuba, Kenya and America.
For this, O Lord, we pray;
Lord, hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,
you sent Jesus to sit on the throne of David,
to reign as your Son over a kingdom that will have no end.
Make this kingdom known to us now among the nations.
Establish justice, righteousness and peace throughout the earth,
that we might more and more serve your will.
For this, O Lord, we pray;
Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Sending

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.

BENEDICTION — Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died;
Christ has risen:
Christ will come again.
Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Communion, also called the Lord's Supper, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ to participate. If you are not baptized or not prepared to share in the meal, we encourage you instead to spend this time in prayer (see back cover for "Prayers of Reflection").

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

Men's Hang Out: December 9: THIS Thursday, 5:30 pm at Brass Kraken, Poulsbo

Pageant Practice has begun! ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS began this morning (12/5) at 9am! The next one is 12/12 at 9am (outside Sunday school classrooms), and Saturday 12/18 from 10am-12pm (HS 100 Building). Sign-up here for roles and volunteer positions:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084AAEA728A64-cross3>

Pageant & Potluck! Sunday December 19 Our next Church Luncheon will follow the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 19: Soup, Bread, Mac n' Cheese Bake! Mark your calendars and bring something to share! We look forward to spending time with you!

Christmas Eve Services - All Are Welcome! Join us on December 24!
Family Service at 4pm. Candlelight Service at 7pm.

Grief Share Group: "Loss of Spouse" Thursday, Dec 30, 9:30am-12:30pm at the CSC Office (600 Ericksen Ave NE #210, Bainbridge Is). 13-week Grief Share study group begins January 27, 2022, Thursdays at 9:30am. RSVP to Leader: Sue MacFarlane 206-714-5986 or email info@crosssound.org

Angel Tree Gifts It is that time of year again! Join us as we bless children that have incarcerated parents through our participation in the Angel Tree program. We are giving gifts *virtually* again this year: children will receive a gift card and get to pick out their own gift. We know this may not be quite as fun (for us) as gathering actual gifts, but it is a huge blessing these families and children during the holidays! Cross Sound has committed to sponsoring 100 children this year – sign up today using access code NORHV (*note that is a ZERO, not an O*):
<https://vat.angeltreetool.org/921fc34f-ad74-4039-a4e6-dc1dd0ec6b4c>



Positions Available

WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEAD: PART-TIME POSITION Women's Ministry at Cross Sound is committed to encouraging and equipping women to share the transforming presence of Jesus Christ, both in and outside the Church. If you're interested in finding out about this position *email Dave Sellers* dave@crosssound.org

SOUND & VIDEO LEAD: PART-TIME POSITION. Primarily performed on Sunday mornings, this person would be in charge of overseeing the sound and livestream set-ups, managing livestream videos, and managing the high school students and grads who are currently doing these tasks. Experience in these areas or related technology aptitude is helpful, but not required for those interested in the position. *Please reach out to* info@crosssound.org*with interest or inquiries.*

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: _____
Second time visitor _____ Ministry Please add me to:
Regular attendee _____ Email list
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.