

“As I read the birth stories about Jesus I cannot help but conclude that though the world may be tilted toward the rich and powerful, God is tilted toward the underdog.”

— Philip Yancey



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**

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

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.
— Isaiah 61:10

CONFESSIONS 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 so often turn from you,
the fountain of living waters,
and drink from other wells to satisfy our deepest thirst.
careers, romance, money, security, acceptance--
these become the wells from which we drink deeply.
But they never completely satisfy.
They are broken,
incapable of holding the kind of water we truly need.
Only you, gracious God, can truly satisfy us.
Only you have the living water we so desperately need.
Help us to recognize our broken cisterns, to repent of them
and experience anew your forgiving love and living water.
Amen.**

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus was wounded for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace
and with his stripes we are healed.
Jesus, the Suffering Servant, died and resurrected us for us.
In him, we are forgiven and our sins are remembered no more.
Amen.

As we gather to worship, please silence all mobile phones and electronic devices for the duration of the service.

Renewing

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*4th candle – (purple) The Angel Candle or The Candle of Love:
The angels announced the good news of a Savior!*

“...I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord”

God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us!
“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

— Luke 2:10b-11 and John 3:16-17

The First Noel

The First Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winters night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Is-rael!

As they looked up, they saw a star
Shining in the East, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with His blood mankind has bought.

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

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.

The Christmas Story

A Cross Sound Church Pageant

SCENE ONE

The Promise of the Prophets

Based on Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful *(please join in singing the second verse)*

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,
O Sing all ye citizens
of heaven above
Glory to God,
in the highest glory

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

SCENE TWO

Angel Gabriel's Announcement to Mary

Based on Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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, 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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.

Angels We Have Heard on High *(please join in singing the second verse)*

Angels we have on heard high
Sweetly singing ore the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see,
him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, our newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

SCENE THREE

Mary's Visit to Elizabeth – Based on Luke 1:39-50

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

SCENE FOUR

The Angel Visits Joseph – Based on Matthew 1:18-25

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. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 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). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

SCENE FIVE

The Baby is Born – Based on Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Away in a Manger *(please join in singing the second verse)*

Away in a manger,
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The baby awakes
The little Lord Jesus
No crying he makes
I love thee Lord Jesus,
Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle,
'til morning is nigh.

SCENE SIX

The Shepherds are Told – Based on Luke 2:8-14.

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.”

Hark the Herald Angels Sing *(please join in singing the second verse)*

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”
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!

Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate deity.
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.

Silent Night *(please join in singing the second verse)*

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 Savior is born
Christ, the savior is born.

SCENE SEVEN

Visit of the Wise Men – Based on Matthew 2:1-6

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, 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.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 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.”

Joy to The World *(please join in singing the second and third verses)*

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.

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.

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.

MESSAGE

Title: Christmas Pageant Wrap-up

Speaker: Dave Sellers

QUOTES

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer
is singing loud for all to hear.” — Will Ferrell, *Elf*

“Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store.
Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!”
— Theodor Seuss Geisel, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

“I believe... I believe... It’s silly, but I believe.”
— Susan, *Miracle on 34th Street*

”Merry Christmas, movie house! Merry Christmas, Emporium!
Merry Christmas, you wonderful old Building and Loan!”
— George Bailey, *It’s a Wonderful Life*

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, I give him my heart.
— In the Bleak Midwinter

Joy to the World – *played by Elliott Layton and Ruth Caron*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;
give new courage to your people,
who trust in your love.
Make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.
For this, O Lord, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we intercede on behalf
of the world that you have made.
Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw all people from hatred to love;
and establish your kingdom of justice and peace
on earth as in heaven.
For this, O Lord, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, our Redeemer,
come to the suffering as savior and comforter.
Break into our lives,
where we struggle with sickness, need,
and distress, and set us free to serve you forever.
For this, O Lord, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

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.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

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

Sending

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 Eve Services: We will be having two services for Christmas Eve. The first will be a family-friendly service at 4pm. The second will be candlelight Lessons & Carols service at 7pm. Childcare will be provided for the 7pm service. Both services will be at BHS Commons.

Feeling alone, anxious, perhaps grieving this Christmas season? Consider a Stephen Minister to walk alongside you, Call Sue (206)714-5986 or Dick (415)847-8984.

Grandparents Ministry Grandparents are invited to meet and learn 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. Includes dinner and discussion.

You don't need to go it alone...Join a Community Group!

Cross Sound Community Groups are small groups of 10-16 members. The groups meet weekly, bi-weekly or monthly in homes. The time together is split among Bible study, personal application and relationships. Please email Roger Barber irbarbers@gmail.com if you are interested in joining or changing a group. Please indicate the group or day of the week that you are interested in joining.

DivorceCare will be held in the new year, Monday evenings at the Church Office beginning Jan. 6th – March 30th 6:30-8:30. Contact Lisa Wangen 206-488-8404 for more information.

Women's Ministry Questions? kerri@crosssound.org; 402-770-5636

- WINTER BIBLE STUDY: Join us in the new year for our 9 week study of 1 Peter, as we consider our imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance through Christ (video series with Jen Wilkin)! We will begin on Jan. 15 (AM study) and Jan. 21 (PM study). Both meet at the church office. If you have a need for transportation or other concerns, contact Kerri Koenig (info above) Wednesday morning studies: 9:15–11:15am; Tuesday evening studies: 6:30-8:00pm; meal provided
- MOVIE AND DISCUSSION: the movie *Just Mercy* (based on the book of the same name which we read over the summer) is releasing soon! Join us in watching the film, and then discussing afterward over refreshments. Time and place TBD, based on where and when the film is playing. Stay tuned!
- WOMEN'S RETREAT: more details to come, but for now, mark your calendar: March 20-21, right here on Bainbridge, at Island Wood!

Men's Ministry

BIBLE STUDY Fridays at 6:30am at Church Office.
Contact Roger Barber irbarbers@gmail.com with questions or interest.

Pies for the Fire Station Cross Sound Church blesses our fire departments and police department every year by delivering pies during the holiday season. We hope we can overwhelm our community with blessing, as we are so richly blessed! Please deliver your pies or baked goods to your closest fire or police department. Merry Christmas!

Thank you for responding with generosity and enthusiasm to Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Project! 120 gifts were provided by our congregation for children on behalf of parents who are in prison. Dede Knapp graciously administrated this project, organizing many people and a mountain of presents to be delivered in time for Christmas. Thank you, Knapp family for devoting yourselves to this ministry!

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

Unless otherwise noted each of the following groups meet on Bainbridge Island:

<u>Leader</u>	<u>Night</u>
Dave Sellers	Tuesday (Kid Friendly)
Chip Halbert	Thursday (Kid Friendly)**
Bob Cordell & Bill Parrott	Thursday (Poulsbo)(Kid Friendly)
Mark Koenig	Thursday (Poulsbo)
Linda Gordon & Roger Barber	Saturday
Patrick Kilby	Sunday (late afternoon- Kid Friendly)
Dave O'Connell.	Sunday (Kid Friendly)
Jeff Ogard	Sunday (Poulsbo)

** Group is full - currently closed

To sign up or get further information on any of our community groups please 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: _____

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.

NOTES: