



Love came down at Christmas.

Christina Rossetti

DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE
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.

Greeting

OPENING PRAYER

O Come, All Ye Faithful — *Words: John F. Wade, c. 1743 (written in Latin, later translated to English), Music: ADESTE FIDELES*

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

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

chorus

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

chorus

LESSON 1: PROMISES — Isaiah 9:2 & Micah 5:2

“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.”

“But you, O Bethlehem, though you are only a small village among all the people of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient times.”

This is an incredible, but true thing: sometimes God tells His people what is going to happen in His story before it even happens. He whispers His promises before they even come true. It's like the story is echoing through all the world before the words have even been written!

Right from the very beginning, God had a plan for how He would come into the world, how He would save us and rescue us from badness, sadness and darkness. And long before He came, He gave us hints like little whispers, about how He would come.

He whispered that he would open the back door of the world, and slip into it through the little town of Bethlehem. Nobody would have expected that if he hadn't whispered the truth before it happened.

The world would be in darkness, but He would come as a great light! In the middle of the shadows, a baby would be born. A baby who is God-with-skin. A baby who came as the Light of the World.

God loved us so much that He couldn't stand to leave us by ourselves in the dark. He was willing to enter our story, to dive into our darkness in order to dispel it, and to be our great light.

This Christmas season, there are beautiful lights in stores, along the streets, and in our homes. But there is no light more radiant and beautiful, and no light that we need more than Jesus. There is no darkness in our world, in our hearts, or in our lives that he isn't willing to shine into.

Oh, 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 given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
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.

LESSON 2: MARY — Luke 1:28-31

The angel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!” Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.”

Now Mary was just an ordinary girl from an ordinary family. But her God was not ordinary at all. He was the most extraordinary!

One day Mary got a surprise. She saw a wondrous, marvelous angel standing right in front of her. His name was Gabriel. And when he spoke to her, she was understandably, both surprised and scared.

But he told her, “Don’t be afraid.” One thing that is always good to remember, is that no matter what, God our Father is always bigger than our fears.

Gabriel told her that God had chosen her for the most extraordinary job. You see, God loves to meet ordinary people, and to give them more of His extraordinary heart, so they can do extraordinary things.

Gabriel told Mary that God wanted to give her a gift - a gift that would be for the whole world. She was going to have a baby (the promised one), and she was to name Him Jesus.

Mary didn’t understand how all of this was going to happen. It would not be an easy thing. But she said yes to God.

A wonderful thing happens when you say “yes” to God. He gives the best gifts. They might not be what you ask for, or what you would expect. But they are the gifts we most need.

And when we offer our ordinary, everyday selves to Him, he does amazing things in us, and blesses the world as a result too.

I wonder what it would look like, if we regularly said “yes” to God? I wonder what kind of goodness, beauty, and life would be born?

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

— *Words: Charles Wesley (1745); Music: Rowland Prichard (1830)*

Come Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the world Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end;
By His life He brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend;
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall;
This the ever-lasting wonder:
Christ was born the Lord of all!

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

LESSON 3: JOSEPH — Matthew 1:23

“She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God with us.’”

That young girl, Mary – the ordinary girl who got some extraordinary news from her extraordinary God – was engaged to a man named Joseph. He was a carpenter who swung a hammer all day. One night, after Joseph laid down his hammer and his nails and went to sleep, he had a dream like no other dream he’d ever had. In his dream, a wonderful, marvelous angel came to him, too!

“Joseph” the angel said, “go ahead and marry that girl Mary, the one who said yes to God. She’s expecting a very special baby. This baby is both God and human. He is King and Rescuer!”

Joseph rubbed his eyes. Who could have ever expected that?

“You will name the baby Jesus,” the angel said. “That name means ‘the Lord saves.’ The Baby is the One every God-story has been pointing to right from the beginning of time. He’s coming to rescue His people from all the badness and sadness and darkness!”

This special baby, Jesus would have another special name. He would be called Immanuel: “God is with us.”

God wants to be close to you.

God moved heaven and earth so you could know Him.

Nothing - not our fears, not our faults, not our failures - have to keep Him away from you!

The words rang like a hammer in Joseph’s ears.

The Lord saves.
God is with us.

The best present of all is Jesus’ presence. And that’s the present God keeps giving us, day after day, year after year, Christmas after Christmas.

Can you hear the news ringing out? It’s the best news of all: “We are never alone! We are always loved! God is with us!”

Good News, Great Joy — by Bill Parrot (*Children are invited up to sing*)

LESSON 4: HE'S COME! — Luke 2:6-7

The time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

On one marvelous, wondrous, wonder-filled night, heaven held its breath. There were whispers that tonight would be the night - the night all of history had been waiting for.

There were no cameras. There were no TV crews. There were no kings or presidents. There was only a barn full of sleeping animals.

And in that quiet moment, the King of kings was born - the One who was God and human. He had no throne or palace, only a manger full of hay - and a heart full of love.

Mary and Joseph could hardly believe it. They didn't understand it all yet - but they knew they were holding in their arms God's rescue plan - the One who would save the world.

Jesus. The Lord saves. God is with us. We are never alone! We are always loved! Jesus came for you. He fought against the darkness so you could be with Him. On that night, one bright, blinking star hung in the sky over Bethlehem - a sign that God wins. God had come to defeat the darkness! God had come to love us, to rescue us, so we could be with Him every day and forever.

This is a story about victory, about God winning against the badness and sadness. But it's also a story about love. God visited our planet for one reason: because of His love that never fails and never stops and never stops coming for you.

So come and kneel with awe, wonder, and joy!

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.

CHRISTMAS PONDERINGS

“The virgin birth has never been a major stumbling block in my struggle with Christianity; it’s far less mind-boggling than the Power of all Creation stooping so low as to become one of us.” —Madeleine L’Engle

“All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever sailed, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put all together, have not affected the life of man upon earth as much as the one who was born in a stable, and laid in a manger.” —Vaughan Roberts

“We could more easily catch a hurricane in a shrimp net than we can understand the wild, relentless, passionate, uncompromising pursuing love of God made present in the manger.” —Brennan Manning

Message

Speaker: Dave O'Connell

Title: Traveling for Christmas

Silent Night — *Please Break the Glow Sticks as the Theater Lights Begin to Dim*

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,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth

BENEDICTION

This Christmas, May the God of hope fill you with all
Joy and peace as you trust in Him. 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.

chorus

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

chorus

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

chorus

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.

Kids' Corner

Kids, we are so excited that you are here for this Christmas Eve Service!

This evening, we will be listening to four different parts of the Christmas story from the Bible. Below, see if you can draw one small picture from each one of them. Or, if you'd like, try to draw a picture based on Pastor Dave's message and then show it to him afterwards. We hope you have a FANTASTIC Christmas celebrating the day Jesus came into the world for us!