



The story of  
Christmas is the  
story of God's  
relentless love  
for us.

Max Lucado



DECEMBER 12, 2021  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Order of Worship  
[www.CrossSound.org](http://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](mailto:dave@crosssound.org), or (206) 334-5205 and Dave O'Connell: [daveoc@crosssound.org](mailto: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](http://crosssound.org) call our office: (206) 842-6898 or email [info@crosssound.org](mailto:info@crosssound.org)

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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.*

**Heavenly Father,**  
**This Advent morning, we want to worship!**  
**We want to celebrate Jesus, who stooped so low,**  
**as to become one of us, all so he could give himself for us.**  
**We long to marvel at the mystery of your love for us in Him.**

**But we also know and confess that we need your grace.**  
**It is the very reason that Jesus needed to come.**  
**We constantly live lives that are not worthy of you.**

**Forgive us, Father.**  
**Cast out our darkness with His perfect light!**  
**Lead us to our Savior once again, and make Him our song.**  
**Make us a people who know, trust, love, and honor Him.**  
**Amen**

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

Praise the Lord, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
    so great is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
    so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

# Renewing

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING — Isaiah 9:6

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

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.

**Once in Royal David's City** — *Words: Cecil F. Alexander, Hymns for Little Children, 1848, Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849*

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed  
Where a mother laid her Baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from Heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all  
And His shelter was a stable  
And His cradle was a stall:  
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And He is our childhood's pattern  
Day by day, like us He grew  
He was little, weak and helpless  
Tears and smiles like us He knew  
And He feels for all our sadness  
And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him  
Through His own redeeming love  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone

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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.

**God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen** — *16th cent. English carol*

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay!  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray

*O, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O, tidings of comfort and joy!*

In Bethlehem, in Israel, this bless-ed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger upon this bless-ed morn  
The which, His mother Mary, did nothing take in scorn

From God, our heavenly Father, a bless-ed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name

The shepherds at these tidings rejoic-ed much in mind  
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest storm and wind  
And went straightway to Bethlehem, the bless-ed Babe to find

Now, to the Lord sing praises all ye within this place  
And in true love and brotherhood each other now embrace  
This holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace

**Angels We Have Heard on High** — *Traditional French carol*  
(*Les Anges dans Nos Campagnes*). *Translated by James Chadwick, 1862*

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains

*Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo*

*Glo- - - - ria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem, and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

STUDENT DISMISSAL

THANKSGIVING — Luke 1:68-70

Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has visited and redeemed his people.  
He has sent us a mighty Savior  
from the royal line of his servant David,  
Just as he promised  
through his holy prophets long ago.

GREETING — Romans 15:7 & 12:10, 1Peter 1:22

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you.  
Be devoted to one another in love.  
Love one another deeply from the heart.

NOTES:

# Message

**Series: Who is Coming to Christmas Dinner?**

**Title: Unlikely Guests**

**Passage: Luke 2:8-12, 22-32 & 36-38**

**Speaker: Dave O'Connell**

<sup>8</sup> There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

OFFERING — 2nd Corinthians 8:7 & 9

Since you excel in so many ways — in your faith, your speaking, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love — I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving... You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

**It Came Upon a Midnight Clear** — *Words: Edmund H. Sears, 1849;*  
*Music: CAROL by Richard S. Willis, 1850*

It came upon a midnight clear, That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven’s all gracious King;”  
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats, O’er all the weary world  
Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o’er its Babel sounds, The blessed angels sing.

O ye, beneath life’s crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way, With painful steps and slow  
Look now! for glad and golden hours, Come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on, By prophet seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years, Shall come the time foretold  
When peace shall over all the earth, Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song, Which now the angels sing.



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord Jesus,  
When you entered the world,  
The angels sang out in awe and with praise.  
Allow us this season, to share their wonder,  
And to bring you the fullness of our praise.  
For this, O Lord, we pray;  
Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus,  
When it was time for you to be born,  
There was no room for you except in a stable.  
Be with those in our community who are in need,  
And provide for those who are in want.  
For this, O Lord, we pray;  
Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus,  
The first people to hear of your birth were shepherds,  
Those who were often belittled in their day.  
Make us a church that truly values others; a church that  
Shows love and dignity to all people in your name.  
For this, O Lord, we pray;  
Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus,  
When it was time for you to be born,  
You chose to be born of a simple teenage girl.  
May you continue to use simple people like us,  
To be your vessels of blessing to your world.  
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

## **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.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Dayspring from on high appear;  
Come, thou promised rod of Jesse, Of Thy birth we long to hear;  
O'er the hills the angels singing, News, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to Him, your praises bringing, Christ the Lord has come to earth."

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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION — Romans 15:13a

This Christmas season, May the God of hope fill you with all Joy  
and peace as you trust in him. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION

*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 Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,  
And to give his life as a ransom for many. — Mark 10:45

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
And he who has no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. — Isaiah 55:1

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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

**Join us Christmas Eve!** Family Service at 4pm. Candlelight Service at 7pm.

**Annual Christmas Pageant: December 19!** Rehearsals are in full swing. The next one is Saturday 12/18 from 10am-12pm (HS 100 Building) and 12/19 at 9am. Email Laura O'Connell with questions: [lauraoc@crosssound.org](mailto:lauraoc@crosssound.org)

**Soup, Bread, Mac'n'Cheese & Christmas Cookie Potluck! December 19**

Our next Church Luncheon will follow the Christmas Pageant! Mark your calendars and bring something to share! Email Kristin: [kristin@crosssound.org](mailto:kristin@crosssound.org)

**GriefShare Group:** "Loss of Spouse" Thursday, Dec 30 at 9:30am at the CSC Office (600 Ericksen Ave NE #210). Bring anyone that would benefit from grief support. RSVP to Leader: Sue MacFarlane 206-714-5986 or email [info@crosssound.org](mailto:info@crosssound.org)

• 13-WEEK GRIEF SHARE STUDY GROUP, focusing on *all forms* of loss, begins January 27, 2022, Thursdays at 9:30am.

**First Aid Arts' 2021 Annual Giving Campaign** is happening now through December 31st! Please visit [www.firstaidarts.org](http://www.firstaidarts.org) to make a donation to help trauma survivors find hope and beautiful healing in 2022. Thank you!

**Angel Tree Gift Program** Join us as we bless children of incarcerated parents by gifting them virtually. The 100 children Cross Sound has sponsored will receive a gift card (we know this may not be quite as fun as gathering actual gifts, but it is a huge blessing to these families during the holidays! Give today using access code NORHV (note that is a ZERO, not an O):

<https://vat.angeltreetool.org/921fc34f-ad74-4039-a4e6-dc1dd0ec6b4c>



**Winter Session Community Groups: info at: [crosssound.org/community-groups](http://crosssound.org/community-groups)**

Sign up this and next week (12/12 & 12/26) for a ten-week session, beginning January 3. Email Roger Barber which group you'd like to join! [irbarbers@gmail.com](mailto:irbarbers@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

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*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.*