

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 17, 2021
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Leader: You have searched me, O LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

People: **You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.**

Leader: For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

People: **My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**

All: **How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“If thou but suffer God to guide thee”

If thou but suffer God to guide thee,
And hope in him through all thy ways,
He'll give thee strength, whatever betide thee,
And bear thee through the evil days:
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.

What can these anxious cares avail thee,
These never-ceasing moans and sighs?
What can it help, if thou bewail thee
O'er each dark moment as it flies?
Our cross and trials do but press
The heavier for our bitterness.

Only be still, and wait his leisure
In cheerful hope, with heart content
To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure
And all deserving love hath sent;
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known
To him who chose us for his own.

All are alike before the highest;
'Tis easy to our God, we know,
To raise thee up though low thou liest,
To make the rich man poor and low;
True wonders still by him are wrought
Who setteth up and brings to naught.

Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving,
So do thine own part faithfully,
And trust his word, though undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee;
God never yet forsook at need
The soul that trusted him indeed.

NEUMARK; Neumark

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION Acts 3:19-20

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Luke 1:77-79

He gives his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of our sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“All ye refugees”

I am the One, the earth is my handmade work
The skies, I laid them wide, beauty unfurled
Horizon to horizon,
Creation to creation sings you home.

*Welcome home, gather round
All ye refugees, come in.*

O refugee, I did not cast you out
In death and broken ground, salvation springs
My body and my blood, the healing that you need
Come and receive.

Watch and wait and see, what is yet to be.
Watch and wait and see, for the morning.

Go out in joy and join the great procession
The mountains and the heav'ns all will rejoice
Horizon to horizon,
Creation to creation with one voice.

Scott; Haddock; Paris

OLD TESTAMENT READING I Samuel 3:1-20
The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING John 1:43-51
The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Rise up"

Every stone that makes you stumble
And cuts you when you fall,
Every serpent here that strikes your heel
To curse you when you crawl,
The King of Love one day will crush them all.
And every sad seduction and every clever lie,
Every word that woos and wounds
The pilgrim children of the sky,
The King of Love will break them by and by.
And you will rise up in the end.
You will rise up in the end
I know the night is cruel,
But the day is coming soon
When you will rise up in the end.

If a thief had come to plunder
When the children were alone,
If he ravaged every daughter and murdered every son,
Would not their father see this?
Would not his anger burn?
Would he not repay the tyrant in the day of his return?
Await, await the day of his return.
'Cause he will rise up in the end.
He will rise up in the end.
I know you need a savior.
He is patient in his anger,
But he will rise up in the end.

And when the stars come crashing to the sea,
When the high and mighty fall down on their knees,
When you see the sun descending in the sky,
The chains of death will fall around your feet
And you will rise up in the end.
Oh, I know you will.

Ben Shive

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING Habakkuk 1:12-2:5 *NIV*

^{1:12} LORD, are you not from everlasting?

My God, my Holy One, you will never die.

You, LORD, have appointed them to execute judgment;

you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish.

¹³ Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;

you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?

Why are you silent while the wicked
swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

¹⁴ You have made people like the fish in the sea,

like the sea creatures that have no ruler.

¹⁵ The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks,

he catches them in his net,

he gathers them up in his dragnet; and so he rejoices
and is glad.

¹⁶ Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns

incense to his dragnet,

for by his net he lives in luxury

and enjoys the choicest food.

¹⁷ Is he to keep on emptying his net, destroying

nations without mercy?

^{2:1} I will stand at my watch

and station myself on the ramparts;

I will look to see what he will say to me,

and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

² Then the LORD replied:

“Write down the revelation and make it plain on
tablets

so that a herald may run with it.

³ For the revelation awaits an appointed time;

it speaks of the end

and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it;

it will certainly come and will not delay.

⁴ “See, the enemy is puffed up;

his desires are not upright—

but the righteous person will live by his
faithfulness—

⁵ indeed, wine betrays him;

he is arrogant and never at rest.

Because he is as greedy as the grave

and like death is never satisfied,

he gathers to himself all the nations

and takes captive all the peoples.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE “Surviving a crisis of faith” J. David Ellis

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“Be still, my soul”

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;

Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;

Leave to your God to order and provide;

In ev’ry change he faithful will remain.

Be still my soul: your best, your heav’nly Friend

Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake

To guide the future as he has the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;

All now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know

His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,

And all is darkened in the vale of tears,

Then shall you better know his love, his heart,

Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.

Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay

From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast’ning on

When we shall be forever with the Lord,

When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,

Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,

All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

FINLANDIA; von Schegel

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his

face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the

Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you

peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISITORS: We are so glad that you joined us for worship. If you are a visitor to ACC, please email admin@astoriachurch.org to be added to our email list. Or fill out a communication card at the Welcome Table (hard copy or QR code). We send out a weekly electronic newsletter and other announcement emails.

COVID UPDATE: In-person worship was cancelled today as a health precaution. Please see our newsletter this week for information about Sunday, January 24th worship plans.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS: Nominations are open for Elder, Deacon and Deaconess until February 12th. A description of each ministry role and how to nominate someone is on our website. Feel free to reach out to David at david@astoriachurch.org or Andrea at diaconate@astoriachurch.org with any questions you have.

SIX STEPS TO TALKING ABOUT JESUS: Sundays, 5:00pm, starting TODAY January 17. Learn to share the gospel with others in an authentic, loving, Spirit-empowered way. Six one-hour sessions. Teacher David Ellis. Email Andrea at admin@astoriachurch.org to sign up.

NEW 4 WEEK COMMUNITY GROUPS: ACC Community Groups began meeting this past week with a **4-week series of studies in the book of Habakkuk, titled "Trusting God in Troubled Times."** It is not too late to join one! These CGs will be held on Zoom. Sundays at 6:30PM with Gene Schmidt leading, Mondays at 6:30PM with JC Cha leading, and Fridays at 7PM with Juan Morales leading. **Pastor David and James Rim's CG is full.** Sign up information is in our weekly newsletter and on our website.

PRAYER MEETINGS: We pray every **Thursday at 7PM** on Zoom. Please join us! An email goes out Thursday morning with the Zoom link.

MEN'S CLOTHING NEEDED: **For the next pick up, the shelter is in desperate need of men's casual clothes:** T-shirts, polo shirts, jeans, pants, socks, underwear (new), belts, jackets, and coats, all sizes. We will be taking donations on Sundays or at the church office through January. Questions? Contact Andrea at diaconate@astoriachurch.org.

SET UP AND BREAKDOWN TEAMS: We still need helpers for set up and breakdown. Let Andrea know if you can help once a month.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATES: We are providing a Children's Bulletin each week to help occupy your kids during the service and help them learn from the sermon both during the service and later at home with you. Secondly, we invite all ACC children to join Bible Club on Tuesdays from 7-7:30PM. We play a game, tell a bible story and sing a song each week! Kindergarten through 6th grade children/youth generally enjoy this format. To receive the Zoom link, please email Laura at laurakaufmann@gmail.com.

MEMBER NEWS: Email David@astoriachurch.org or Andrea at admin@astoriachurch.org with your news!

WELCOME TO ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORSHIP: Sundays, 10:30AM (Mixed Style)
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2102, Astoria, NY 11102
OFFICE: 22-07 Astoria Blvd., Cellar Entrance, Astoria, NY 11102
PHONE: 718-721-3440

WEBSITE: www.astoriachurch.org
WORSHIP LOCATION: Astoria Center of Israel Bldg
27-35 Crescent Street, Astoria, NY 11102
MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Andrea Mungo (admin@astoriachurch.org)
PASTOR: J. David Ellis (david@astoriachurch.org)
ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Jeffrey Choi (jeffrey@astoriachurch.org)



Facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch

*Our mission is to proclaim the good news of
Jesus Christ to our neighbors,
to welcome them into loving community,
and to equip them to glorify God.*

Helpful Information:

Children and Youth Ministries

Currently we are not offering children's programming on Sundays due to COVID. **Pre-K – 6th Grade children are welcome to join our Tuesday Bible Club at 7PM on Zoom. Email laurakaufmann@gmail.com to receive the zoom link.** Our Youth Group meets by Zoom on Fridays. See below for more info.

Babies - Toddlers: There will be no nursery until further notice. (acckids@astoriachurch.org)

Pre-K - Grade 2: There will be no children's church until further notice. (acckids@astoriachurch.org)

Grades 3 - 5: Bryan Taylor (bryantaylornyc@gmail.com)

There will be no Sunday school until further notice.

Grades 6 - 12: Jeffrey Choi (remote on Fridays, Sept – June) (jeffrey@astoriachurch.org)

Community Groups

Small groups that meet on Zoom for fellowship, study, and prayer. Email: admin@astoriachurch.org for info

Physical, Financial, or Emotional Need

Church leaders are available to meet with you if you have a need. Please email Diaconate@astoriachurch.org or call 718-721-3440. For the **Meals Ministry**, email accmeals@gmail.com

English as a Second Language Classes

(Saturdays) Info: QueensESL@gmail.com

Outreach Ministries

For info on service opportunities in Queens:
Diaconate@astoriachurch.org

Men's and Women's Ministry

Info for women, contact: admin@astoriachurch.org

Info for men, contact: mensministry@astoriachurch.org