

# ASTORIA

## COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 28, 2024  
www.AstoriaChurch.org

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** The earth is the Lord's for he made it:  
**People:** **O come, let us adore him.**  
**Leader:** Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:  
**People:** **O come, let us adore him.**  
**Leader:** The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:  
**People:** **O come, let us adore him.**  
**Leader:** Lord, open our lips:  
**People:** **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

### PRAYER OF ADORATION

#### SONG OF PRAISE

**"Rejoice, all ye believers" (see insert)**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

from Augustine's *Confessions*, Book IV

**Leader:** O sinner, where are you going? What goal are you heading for, wandering around by ways so hard and difficult? Rest is not where you seek it. You seek happiness of life in the land of death, and it is not there.  
**People:** **But our Life came down to earth and took away our death,**  
**Leader:** slew death with the abundance of his own life; he thundered, calling to us to return to him.  
**People:** **He came forth to us—coming first into the virgin womb, where humanity was wedded to him.**  
**Leader:** And then, like a bridegroom coming out of his bridal chamber, rejoicing as a giant to run his course, he was not slow,  
**People:** **calling to us by what he said, and what he did, calling to us by his death, life, and ascension, to return to him: "Come and learn of me."**  
**All:** **O you sons and daughters, how long will you be so slow of heart?**

### SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON from Ephesians 2

Hear the good news of the gospel:  
God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

#### SONG OF RESPONSE

**"We will feast in the house of Zion"**

*We will feast in the house of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more*

We will not be burned by the fire  
He is the LORD our God  
We are not consumed, by the flood  
Upheld, protected, gathered up

In the dark of night, before the dawn  
My soul, be not afraid  
For the promised morning, oh how long?  
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed  
You are the faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave  
Bind us together, bring shalom  
Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 111

Praise the LORD.  
I will extol the LORD with all my heart  
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.  
Great are the works of the LORD;  
they are pondered by all who delight in them.  
Glorious and majestic are his deeds,  
and his righteousness endures forever.  
He has caused his wonders to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.  
He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.  
He has shown his people the power of his works,  
giving them the lands of other nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
 all his precepts are trustworthy.  
 They are established for ever and ever,  
 enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.  
 He provided redemption for his people;  
 he ordained his covenant forever—  
 holy and awesome is his name.  
 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
 all who follow his precepts have good understanding.  
 To him belongs eternal praise.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL READING** Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

#### **EPISTLE READING** I Corinthians 8:1-13

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God. So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not

bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

#### **SONG OF RESPONSE "Resurrecting"**

The head that once was crowned with thorns  
 Is crowned with glory now.  
 The Savior knelt to wash our feet;  
 Now at his feet we bow.

The one who wore our sin and shame  
 Now robed in majesty.  
 The radiance of perfect love now shines for all to see.

*Your name, your name is victory.  
 All praise will rise to Christ, our king.*

The fear that held us now gives way  
 To him who is our peace.  
 His final breath upon the cross is now alive in me.

By your spirit I will rise from the ashes of defeat.  
 The resurrected king is resurrecting me.  
 In your name I come alive to declare your victory.  
 The resurrected king is resurrecting me.

The tomb where soldiers watched in vain  
 Was borrowed for three days.  
 His body there would not remain;  
 Our God has robbed the grave.  
 Our God has robbed the grave.

*Furtick, Brown, Brock, Joye, Ntlele*

#### **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

##### **OFFERTORY "I shall not want"**

From the love of my own comfort,  
 From the fear of having nothing,  
 From a life of worldly passions,  
 Deliver me, O God.

From the need to be understood,  
 And from a need to be accepted,

From the fear of being lonely,  
Deliver me, O God.  
Deliver me, O God.

*And I shall not want, no, I shall not want.  
When I taste your goodness, I shall not want.  
When I taste your goodness, I shall not want.*

From the fear of serving others,  
Oh, and from the fear of death or trial,  
And from the fear of humility,  
Deliver me, O God.  
Yes, deliver me, O God. Assad and Brown

**SCRIPTURE READING** Revelation 19:6-9 *NIV*

<sup>6</sup>Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:  
“Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

<sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and be glad  
and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready.

<sup>8</sup>Fine linen, bright and clean,  
was given her to wear.”

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) <sup>9</sup>Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**MESSAGE** “The Bride of Christ” Jim Fredere

**THE LORD’S TABLE**

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts!

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord!

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**Leader:** It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we honor and adore your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

**People:** Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts!  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Glory be to you, O Lord, most high. Amen

**The Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER**

**Leader:** Christ our Passover has been  
sacrificed for us.

**People:** Therefore, let us keep the feast.

**Leader:** The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Come eat and drink with thanksgiving.

**THE LORD’S SUPPER**

*Bread is gluten-free.*

*Outer cups - juice. Inner rings - wine.*

**“How beautiful”**

How beautiful the hands that served  
The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.  
How beautiful the feet that walked  
The long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.

*How beautiful, how beautiful,  
How beautiful is the body of Christ.*

How beautiful the heart that bled,  
That took all my sin and bore it instead.  
How beautiful the tender eyes  
That chose to forgive and never despise.

And as he laid down his life,  
We offer this sacrifice,  
That we will live just as he died,  
Willing to pay the price,  
Willing to pay the price.

How beautiful the radiant Bride  
Who waits for her Groom with his light in her eyes.  
How beautiful when humble hearts give  
The fruit of pure lives so that others may live.

How beautiful the feet that bring  
The sound of good news and the love of the King.  
How beautiful the hands that serve  
The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.

Twila Paris

**MUSIC OF COMMITMENT**

**“The sands of time are sinking” (see insert)**

**BENEDICTION** from Revelation 1

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VISITORS:** We are so glad that you joined us for worship. If you are a visitor to ACC, please email [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto: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.

**PRAYER AFTER THE SERVICE:** If you need prayer for anything, the Elders and Diaconate members will be up front in the sanctuary after the announcements twice a month - on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Today, Heidi and Will be up front for prayer right after the service on either side of the stage.

**URGENT ESL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** One hundred and twenty-five (125) people registered for our ESL classes last week! **Our Saturday Zoom class is very full!** We had three people respond to our urgent call for ESL volunteers for our Sat class! Thank you!! **But we still need more volunteers to help so please contact Al at [queensesl@gmail.com](mailto:queensesl@gmail.com) to sign up.**

**LOVING THE CITY:** Please plan to join our winter Christian education class for 6 weeks starting **February 4th** using Pastor Tim Keller's book, Loving the City. We live in a great city! However, we need to be trained in biblical principles for contextualizing the gospel as we communicate respectfully and truthfully to the culture around us. Come develop a gospel centered vision for the city. The class will take place after the service in the Chapel at 12:30PM. Feel free to bring your own vegetarian/dairy lunch (Synagogue kosher rules.) **You can sign up at the Hospitality table, online or just show up!** Books are available at the Hospitality Table.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT:** Join the women of ACC for a game night on **Saturday, February 24th at 7:00pm!** Bring a favorite group game or two and a snack to share. Please let us know if you plan to come at [women@astoriachurch.org](mailto:women@astoriachurch.org).

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Please consider working with our children! We need teachers, assistants, floaters and hall monitors. Questions? Contact Annette at [acckids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:acckids@astoriachurch.org) or speak with her in person.

### NEW WAYS TO GIVE YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

Here are the ways you can give:

- \* Cash and Check in the offering basket on Sundays
- \* Simple donations (giving through our website.)
- \* Zelle: [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org)
- \* Venmo: [@astoriachurch](https://venmo.com/astoriachurch)
- \* PayPal: [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org)

**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR:** We started a new plan to read through the Bible in a year on Jan 1st. The Word of God is our primary means of knowing God's will, character, and ways. This can be a great time to grow and learn together. It's not too late to join! Sign up link is in the newsletter.

**FOOD PANTRY:** Please bring **non perishable food, microwaveable (NOT frozen) meals, diapers of all sizes and baby formula/food** on Sundays and place in the green bin. Thank you!

**MEMBER AND REGULAR ATTENDER NEWS:** Email [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org) with your news and networking requests!

## WELCOME TO ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Our mission is to glorify God by learning of God, living in Christ, and loving God and our neighbors.*

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](http://www.astoriachurch.org)

WORSHIP LOCATION: Astoria Center of Israel Building  
27-35 Crescent Street, Astoria, NY 11102

INTERIM PASTOR: Jim Fredere ([jim@astoriachurch.org](mailto:jim@astoriachurch.org))

MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Andrea Mungo ([admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org))

WORSHIP DIRECTOR: Linnea Kickasola ([music@astoriachurch.org](mailto:music@astoriachurch.org))

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Annette Scattoni  
([ACCKids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:ACCKids@astoriachurch.org))

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: JC Cha  
([youth@astoriachurch.org](mailto:youth@astoriachurch.org))

Instagram.com/astoriachurch

Facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch

### Helpful Information:

#### Children and Youth Ministries

We provide nursery during our worship service. Two Sunday School classes happen on Sunday mornings. Our Youth Group meets on Fridays Sept - June. The last Sunday of every month is Family Sunday (no classes provided) and a children's bulletin is provided. See below for more info.

**God's Seeds: During worship.** Nursery is provided for **newborns – 3 year olds**. New Parents must register in advance. Link is in the newsletter. Andrea Mungo, [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org).

**God's Seedlings (Ages 3-6): During worship** Sunday School class. Annette Scattoni, [acckids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:acckids@astoriachurch.org).

**God's Treasures (Ages 7-10): Sundays 9:30 – 10:20 a.m.** Annette Scattoni, [acckids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:acckids@astoriachurch.org).

**Youth Group - Grades 6 - 12:** JC Cha, [youth@astoriachurch.org](mailto:youth@astoriachurch.org), on Fridays (Sept – June)

#### Community Groups

Small groups that meet on Zoom and in person for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. Email [jim@astoriachurch.org](mailto:jim@astoriachurch.org) for info.

#### Financial Need

Members of the Diaconate team are available to meet with you if you have a financial need. Please email [Diaconate@astoriachurch.org](mailto:Diaconate@astoriachurch.org) or call 718-721-3440.

#### English as a Second Language Classes

Saturdays 10-11:30AM (on zoom) and Wednesdays 6:30 – 8PM (in person) Info: [QueensESL@gmail.com](mailto:QueensESL@gmail.com)

#### Outreach and Helps Ministries

If you have a practical need, email [Helps@astoriachurch.org](mailto:Helps@astoriachurch.org). For the **Meals Ministry**, email [accmeals@gmail.com](mailto:accmeals@gmail.com). For info on service opportunities email [Diaconate@astoriachurch.org](mailto:Diaconate@astoriachurch.org).

#### Men's and Women's Ministry

Info for women, contact: [women@astoriachurch.org](mailto:women@astoriachurch.org)

Info for men, contact: [raulwrojas@gmail.com](mailto:raulwrojas@gmail.com) or

[gianlu19@gmail.com](mailto:gianlu19@gmail.com)