

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

October 10, 2021
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“We pilgrims walk the tightrope between earth and heaven, feeling trapped in time, yet with eternity beating in our hearts. Our unsatisfied sense of exile is not to be solved or fixed while here on earth. Our pain and longings make sure we will never be content, but that’s good: it is to our benefit that we do not grow comfortable in a world destined for decay.”

– Joni Eareckson Tada

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 90

Leader: LORD, you have been our refuge in every generation.

People: **Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God.**

Leader: You return mankind to the dust, saying, “Return, descendants of Adam.” For in your sight a thousand years are like yesterday that passes by, like a few hours of the night.

People: **You end their lives; they sleep. They are like grass that grows in the morning—in the morning it sprouts and grows; by evening it withers and dries up.**

Leader: Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.

People: **LORD—how long? Turn and have compassion on your servants. Satisfy us in the morning with your faithful love so that we may shout with joy and be glad all our days.**

Leader: Make us rejoice for as many days as you have humbled us, for as many years as we have seen adversity. Let your work be seen by your servants, and your splendor by their children.

All: **Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands—establish the work of our hands!**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Our God, our help in ages past” (see insert)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION Lamentations 3:25-26

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust. While we sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today’s events. Help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in 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 coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Bless the Lord”

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me
Bless his holy name. (2x)

He has done great things,
He has done great things,
He has done great things,
Bless his holy name.

Andrae Crouch

“Our God saves”

In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son,
In the name of the Spirit, Lord we come.
We’re gathered together to lift up your name.
To call on our Savior, to fall on your grace,
Hear the joyful sound of our offering.
As your saints bow down, as your people sing.
We will rise with you, lifted on your wings,
And the world will see that:

Our God saves. Our God saves.

There is hope in your name.

Mourning turns to songs of praise.

Our God saves. Our God saves. **Brown; Baloché**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Amos 5:6-15

Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire; it will devour them,

and Bethel will have no one to quench it.
There are those who turn justice into bitterness
and cast righteousness to the ground.
He who made the Pleiades and Orion,
who turns midnight into dawn
and darkens day into night,
who calls for the waters of the sea
and pours them out over the face of the land—
the LORD is his name.
With a blinding flash he destroys the stronghold
and brings the fortified city to ruin.
There are those who hate the one who upholds justice
in court and detest the one who tells the truth.
You levy a straw tax on the poor
and impose a tax on their grain.
Therefore, though you have built stone mansions,
you will not live in them;
though you have planted lush vineyards,
you will not drink their wine.
For I know how many are your offenses
and how great your sins.
There are those who oppress the innocent and take
bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.
Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times,
for the times are evil.
Seek good, not evil, that you may live.
Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you,
just as you say he is.
Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts.
Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy
on the remnant of Joseph.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’” “Teacher,” he declared, “all

these I have kept since I was a boy.” Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!” “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“We are not overcome”

Flesh will fail and bones will break;
Thieves will steal, the earth will shake.
Night will fall, the light will fade;
The Lord will give and take away.

*Because of his great Love,
We are not overcome!
Because of his great Love,
We are not overcome!*

Put no trust in the earth,
In the sod you stand upon.
Flowers fade into dust;
The Lord will make a place for us.

Offer up your shoes and shirt;
Turn your cheek! Turn your cheek!
Bear the yoke of love and death;
The Lord will give all life and breath.

Isaac Wardell

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 11:13-16 *ESV*

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "A Better Country" Rev. Wei Ho

MUSIC OF MEDITATION

"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**

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 (#735)

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.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

"Glorious things of thee are spoken" (see insert)

BENEDICTION Isaiah 60:1-2, 20

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.... Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.

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.

RELAUNCHING OUR CHOIRS: We are excited to begin singing as a choir again at ACC! The adult and the children's choirs will have their first rehearsal on **Sunday, October 17th right after worship ends**. Our plan is to do this safely and carefully. We will be able to rehearse in the sanctuary with fans and air purifiers, and rehearsals will be more limited to begin with. No previous experience necessary! Please contact Linnea at LLKickasola@yahoo.com if you are interested or have any questions.

ACC SUNDAY MORNING SETUP AND BREAKDOWN

TEAMS: *We need to expand our setup and breakdown teams on Sunday mornings.* If you would like to join either of these teams, please contact Andrea. **This is a great opportunity for families, a Community Group or friend group to serve together.** Thank you!!

NEW ROUND OF COMMUNITY GROUPS: We will begin a new round of short-term community groups starting the week of October 17th titled "Stories Jesus Told". This will be a 6-week Community Group series exploring some of the parables of Christ in the Gospel of Luke. Link to sign up is in the newsletter.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS: Mark your calendar for a Children's Ministry meeting on **Sunday, October 24th** after worship at the church office (lunch provided). **This meeting is for parents and prospective volunteers.** There is a registration form in the Tuesday newsletter and on our website. Feel free to speak to Annette with any questions you have, ackkids@astoriachurch.org.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS: There will be YG this **Friday, October 15th (Friday) at 6:30pm**. Youth Group will continue to meet each Friday at 6:30pm in the ACC Office.

BIBLE CLUB AND GROUP HOMEWORK HELP: For those interested in participating in Bible Club and/or Group Homework Help, we will have an orientation session this **Tuesday, October 12 at 7PM**. Please contact Andrea at diaconate@astoriachurch.org to receive the zoom link.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Members please plan to join on **Thursday, October 21 at 7PM (Zoom)** for our annual congregational meeting. We will hear ministry reports, review last FY's financial numbers, present the 21-22 Budget and pray together. An email will be sent with the Zoom link to join.

CHURCH FINANCES: Thank you for your generous giving on Sundays in the offering basket, online and through sending in checks to our PO Box. Please continue to give as the Lord leads you.

MEMBER AND REGULAR ATTENDER NEWS: Email admin@astoriachurch.org with your news!

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
WORSHIP LOCATION: Astoria Center of Israel Building
27-35 Crescent Street, Astoria, NY 11102
PASTOR: J. David Ellis (david@astoriachurch.org)
MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Andrea Mungo (admin@astoriachurch.org)
WORSHIP DIRECTOR: Linnea Kickasola (LLKickasola@yahoo.com)
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Annette Scattoni
(ACCKids@astoriachurch.org)
YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: JC Cha
(youth@astoriachurch.org)



[Facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch](https://www.facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch)

Helpful Information:

Children and Youth Ministries

Currently we are only offering nursery services on Sundays. We provide a children's/youth bulletin for Pre-K and up. Our Youth Group meets on Fridays Sept - June. See below for more info.

Babies - Toddlers: Nursery is provided for newborns – 4-year olds. New Parents must register in advance. Link is in the newsletter (ackkids@astoriachurch.org)

Pre-K - Grade 2: We hope to relaunch soon. Annette Scattoni, ackkids@astoriachurch.org

Grades 3 - 5: We hope to relaunch soon. Annette Scattoni, ackkids@astoriachurch.org

Youth Group - Grades 6 - 12: JC Cha, 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 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 acmeals@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

4 Info for women, contact: admin@astoriachurch.org **We are currently praying for new leadership.**

Info for men, contact: mensministry@astoriachurch.org