

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

October 4, 2020
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“Prayer is arguably the most objective measurement of our dependence upon God. The things you pray about are the things you trust God to handle. The things you neglect to pray about are the things you trust you can handle on your own.” – H.B. Charles, Jr.

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“**Bless the Lord, my soul**”

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, he rescues me from death.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
Who heals every one of your ills,
Who redeems your life from the grave,
Who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love,
Slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
Nor repay us according to our faults.

As a Father has compassion on his children,
The Lord has pity on those who fear him;
For he knows of what we are made,
He remembers that we are dust. **Jacques Berthier**

Mixed Voices

The musical score is for two voices, Soprano and Bass. It is in 3/4 time and G major. The Soprano part begins with a dynamic marking of *p* and a tempo marking of *76*. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul and bless his ho - ly name." The Bass part also begins with a dynamic marking of *p*. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul, He res - cues me from death." The score ends with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION from Exodus 20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

SILENT CONFESSION

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC OF MEDITATION

“*Living hope*”

How great the chasm that lay between us.

How high the mountain I could not climb.

In desperation I turned to heaven

And spoke your name into the night.

Then through the darkness your loving-kindness

Tore through the shadows of my soul.

The work is finished, the end is written.

Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?

What heart could fathom such boundless grace?

The God of ages stepped down from glory

To wear my sin and bear my shame.

The cross has spoken; I am forgiven.

The King of kings calls me his own.

Beautiful Savior, I’m yours forever.

Jesus Christ, my living hope.

*Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken ev'ry chain.
There's salvation in your name.
Jesus Christ my living hope.* Wickham & Johnson

ASSURANCE OF PARDON I Peter 1:3-9

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 5:1-7

I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:
My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.
He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.
Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.
“Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?
Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge,

and it will be destroyed;
I will break down its wall,
and it will be trampled.
I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briars and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds
not to rain on it.”
The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING Matthew 21:23-32

“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:
“‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?
Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about

them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING Colossians 1:1-14 *NIV*

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "Praying for each other" J. David Ellis

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.

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

MUSIC OF MEDITATION

"Come, sinners, come"

Come, sinners, come, for there is spread
A table full and free.

Come all who thirst for Christ has said
That all may come and eat.

Come, sinners, come! Come, sinners, come!

Oh, what a love is this, that bids sinners come!

Come, ev'ry heart by sin oppress'd,
And lay your burden down,
For here the weary soul is bless'd
And broken hearts are bound.

Come, ev'ry child with fret or grief;
He will not cast us out,
For he will meet our unbelief,

And drive away our doubt. **Isaac Wardell**

BENEDICTION

Romans 15:5-6

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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. We send out a weekly electronic newsletter.

WELCOME BACK TO IN PERSON WORSHIP! We are so glad you are here!

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY: Because of COVID-19, our programs with the Boys and Girls Club are going virtual on Tuesdays. We will start on October 13 with after school tutoring from 5:00-6:30 pm and Bible Club from 7:00-7:30 pm via Zoom. Sign up for one or the other or both! This could be a great opportunity if you wanted to participate in the past but didn't have time. Please contact Laura at laurakaufmann@gmail.com for more information.

SHORT-TERM COMMUNITY GROUPS: 8-week Community Groups start this week! We will be discussing the new sermon series on the book of Colossians. **There are 3 groups to choose from: Tuesdays at 7:30PM, Wednesdays at 7PM and Sundays at 6:30PM.** These groups will all be remote meetings on Zoom. If you are interested in joining one, please contact David at david@astoriachurch.org.

PRAYER MEETINGS: We have a weekly prayer meeting on Thursdays at 7PM. Please join us to lift our prayers up to our good Father! The link for this Zoom meeting is sent separately in weekly emails.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR: For 4 years now, church leaders and other members have been reading through the same daily bible reading plan, starting every October 1st. It is thematic and the themes and connections are different each year. If you would like to join in, please email Andrea at admin@astoriachurch.org and she will add you to the group.

CHURCH FINANCES: Thank you to all who are giving online and sending in checks to our PO Box while we were meeting remotely. Please continue to do so. We will also have an offering basket available at the beginning and end of the in-person service as we will not be passing the offering baskets during the service. We are significantly behind in our budget so if you haven't given your tithe recently, please do. Thank you! Our mailing address is Astoria Community Church to PO Box 2102, Astoria, NY. 11102. Thank you!



ACI BLOOD DRIVE: Tuesday, October 6th from 10AM – 4PM. There is an urgent need for blood due to COVID. Please help!

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

WELCOME TO ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORSHIP: Sundays, 9:30AM (mixed style) & 11:15AM (contemporary)
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

Programs are available on Sundays for babies through 5th grade. Our Youth Group meets 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 (bryantaylor@astoriachurch.org)

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: women@astoriachurch.org

Info for men, contact: mensministry@astoriachurch.org