

# ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

November 22, 2020  
www.AstoriaChurch.org

## REFLECTION

“The freedom to approach the Lord in prayer is a tremendous privilege. We can lift our voices [to him] with confidence because Jesus gave himself and paid the price for our sin. Let us not trample on this sacrifice by acting as if prayer were a burdensome obligation instead of a glorious delight.”  
– Ana Avila

## CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 100

**Leader:** Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.  
Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

**People:** **Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

**Leader:** Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

**People:** **For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

**“Now thank we all our God”**

Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms,  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in his grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,  
The Father, now be given,  
The Son, and him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

## 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: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** 1 John 2:2  
[Jesus Christ] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

**“Before the throne of God above”**

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb  
My perfect spotless righteousness  
The great unchangeable I Am  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased with His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Saviour and my God  
With Christ my Saviour and my God

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
 “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice....

“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

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

**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 25:31-46  
 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.  
 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’  
 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and

invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’  
 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’  
 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’  
 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’  
 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’  
 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

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

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

**SONG OF RESPONSE**  
**“Call upon the Lord”**

We need no other hiding place  
 Our hope is safe within Your name  
 This we know this we know  
 You promised never to forsake  
 What You began You will sustain  
 This we know this we know

I will call upon the Lord  
 For He alone is strong enough to save  
 Rise Your shackles are no more  
 For Jesus Christ has broken every chain (yeah)

All of the heavens and the earth  
 Announce the fullness of Your worth  
 This we know this we know  
 And every enemy will flee  
 As we declare Your victory  
 This we know this we know

Jesus' name will break every stronghold  
 Freedom is ours when we call His name  
 Jesus' name above every other  
 All hail the power of Jesus' name

Brown, Furtick CCLI#20219511

**SCRIPTURE READING** Colossians 4:2-18 *NIV*

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup> And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

<sup>7</sup> Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. <sup>8</sup> I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. <sup>9</sup> He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. <sup>10</sup> My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) <sup>11</sup> Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. <sup>12</sup> Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. <sup>13</sup> I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. <sup>14</sup> Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. <sup>15</sup> Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

<sup>16</sup> After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

<sup>17</sup> Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord."

<sup>18</sup> I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

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

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE** "Devote yourselves to prayer"  
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.

**MUSIC OF COMMITMENT**

**"Give thanks"**

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given

Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong."

Let the poor say, "I am rich,"

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong."

Let the poor say, "I am rich,"

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks.

**Smith CCLI#20219511**

**BENEDICTION**

Psalm 33:20-22

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

## 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 see the QR code on the Welcome Table for our communication card. We send out a weekly electronic newsletter and other announcement emails.

**INTRO TO ACC: Sundays, December 6 & 13, 5:00-6:30pm** A two-session class for those interested in church membership or in learning more about ACC. Meeting by Zoom. To sign up, please contact Pastor David at [david@astoriachurch.org](mailto:david@astoriachurch.org).

**TOGO ADVENT OFFERING:** We have raised \$991 so far! We are 38% of the way towards our goal of \$2,600. If we raise any funds in excess of the goal of \$2,600, those funds will go towards our mission's budget. We have posters up near the front door with a small collection box. Please place your checks, envelopes and cash in there! As always, we are tremendously grateful for any donation you can give. You can also place your Togo donation in the offering basket (be sure to write Togo Offering on your check memo or place cash or check in an offering envelope and note Togo on the outside of the envelope) or donate online (choose Togo Offering on drop down menu). This year we are raising money for tuition for 13 orphans the Basse's have made a commitment to educate, as well as to provide furniture for the school. We are also hoping to raise enough money to provide Christmas gifts for 100 children. The deadline for the offering is Sunday, December 6th. Thank you so much. Questions? Please contact Annette Scattoni at [gianlu19@yahoo.com](mailto:gianlu19@yahoo.com).

**MEN'S PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING NEEDED:** We have a new opportunity to partner with a men's shelter here in Queens! They are building a closet of professional men's clothing to help dress the men for success in employment opportunities. We will be taking donations on Sundays or at the church office. Men of ACC, now is the time to go through your closets and donate clothing that is still in good shape! Suits, dress shirts and pants, jackets, ties, casual shirts and pants, coats, underwear (new) and dress socks. All sizes please! Questions? Contact Andrea at [diaconate@astoriachurch.org](mailto:diaconate@astoriachurch.org).

**APPEAL FOR THE SOUND, SET UP AND BREAKDOWN TEAMS:** We still need helpers for sound, set up and breakdown. See the sign-up form in the newsletter! or contact Joshua about the sound team at 310-503-3706, [joshua\\_brandenburg@yahoo.com](mailto:joshua_brandenburg@yahoo.com) and Andrea about setup and breakdown teams [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org).

**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 would like to 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade aged children/youth generally enjoy this time! To receive the Zoom link, please email Laura at [laurakaufmann@gmail.com](mailto:laurakaufmann@gmail.com).

**CHURCH FINANCES:** You may leave your offering in the offering basket as you exit the sanctuary as we will not be passing the offering baskets during the service. You can give online as well as mail your offering to our PO Box.

**MEMBER NEWS:** Email [David@astoriachurch.org](mailto:David@astoriachurch.org) or Andrea at [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto: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](http://www.astoriachurch.org)  
WORSHIP LOCATION: Astoria Center of Israel Bldg  
27-35 Crescent Street, Astoria, NY 11102  
MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Andrea Mungo ([admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org))  
PASTOR: J. David Ellis ([david@astoriachurch.org](mailto:david@astoriachurch.org))  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Jeffrey Choi ([jeffrey@astoriachurch.org](mailto: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. 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](mailto:acckids@astoriachurch.org))

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

**Grades 3 - 5: Bryan Taylor** ([bryantaylornyc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jeffrey@astoriachurch.org))

#### Community Groups

Small groups that meet on Zoom for fellowship, study, and prayer. Email: [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:Diaconate@astoriachurch.org) or call 718-721-3440. For the **Meals Ministry**, email [accmeals@gmail.com](mailto:accmeals@gmail.com)

#### English as a Second Language Classes

(Saturdays) Info: [QueensESL@gmail.com](mailto:QueensESL@gmail.com)

#### Outreach Ministries

For info on service opportunities in Queens:  
[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: [mensministry@astoriachurch.org](mailto:mensministry@astoriachurch.org)