

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“O blessed Jesus, Your love is wonderful!... You spoke peace to me in the day of my distress, when the clouds of guilt and darkness hung heavy on my soul and I was brought to the borders of despair. You have borne with all my weakness, corrected my mistakes, restored me from my wanderings, and healed my backslidings... May Your love be ... the constant joy of my heart!”

– John Fawcett

ADVENT MEDITATION Isaiah 40:9-11

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!
As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!
For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

Sung: *For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait. (2x)
Truly our hope is in you; truly our hope is in you.*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF RESPONSE

“O come, o come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

VENI EMMANUEL; Latin Hymn 12th C.

CALL TO CONFESSION Isaiah 30:15, 18

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we have not kept watch for you as we should. We have often occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not always waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ADVENT SONG

“Wait for the Lord”

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near,
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Taizé Community

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

“Good to me”

I cry out
For your hand of mercy to heal me.
I am weak.
I need your love to free me
Oh Lord, my rock,
My strength in weakness,
Come rescue me, oh Lord.
You are my hope.
Your promise never fails me,

And my desire
Is to follow you forever,

For you are good, for you are good,
For you are good to me;
For you are good, for you are good,
For you are good to me.

For you are good,
For you are good to me.
For you are good,
For you are good to me.

Musseau CCLI#20219511

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank my God for you because of his grace
given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been
enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and
with all knowledge— God thus confirming our
testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not
lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord
Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to
the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our
Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called
you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, following that distress,

““the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light;

the stars will fall from the sky,

and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in
clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his
angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the
ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its
twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that
summer is near. Even so, when you see these things
happening, you know that it is near, right at the
door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not
pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven
and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass
away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the
angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on
guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will
come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house

and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned
task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when
the owner of the house will come back—whether in the
evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at
dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you
sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

"The Lion and the Lamb"

He's coming on the clouds.

Kings and kingdoms will bow down,

And every chain will break,

As broken hearts declare His praise.

For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Our God is the Lion.

The Lion of Judah.

He's roaring with power,

And fighting our battles,

And every knee will bow before Him.

Our God is the Lamb,

The Lamb that was slain

For the sins of the world.

His blood breaks the chains,

And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb.

Every knee will bow before Him.

So open up the gates,

Make way before the King of kings.

The God who comes to save

Is here to set the captives free.

For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Who can stop the Lord (Almighty)?

Brown, Johnson, Mooring CCLI#20219511

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 80 (NIV)

*For the director of music. To the tune of "The Lilies of
the Covenant." Of Asaph. A psalm.*

¹ Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,

shine forth ² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Awaken your might;

come and save us.

³ Restore us, O God;
 make your face shine on us,
 that we may be saved.
⁴ How long, LORD God Almighty,
 will your anger smolder
 against the prayers of your people?
⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
 you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
⁶ You have made us an object of derision to our
 neighbors,
 and our enemies mock us.
⁷ Restore us, God Almighty;
 make your face shine on us,
 that we may be saved.
⁸ You transplanted a vine from Egypt;
 you drove out the nations and planted it.
⁹ You cleared the ground for it,
 and it took root and filled the land.
¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade,
 the mighty cedars with its branches.
¹¹ Its branches reached as far as the Sea,
 its shoots as far as the River.
¹² Why have you broken down its walls
 so that all who pass by pick its grapes?
¹³ Boars from the forest ravage it,
 and insects from the fields feed on it.
¹⁴ Return to us, God Almighty!
 Look down from heaven and see!
 Watch over this vine,
¹⁵ the root your right hand has planted,
 the son you have raised up for yourself.
¹⁶ Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;
 at your rebuke your people perish.
¹⁷ Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
 the son of man you have raised up for yourself.
¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you;
 revive us, and we will call on your name.
¹⁹ Restore us, LORD God Almighty;
 make your face shine on us,
 that we may be saved.

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

MESSAGE “Restore us, Lord” J. David Ellis

THE LORD’S TABLE

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“Jesus”

There is a truth older than the ages
 There is a promise of things yet to come
 There is One born for our salvation

Jesus
 There is a light that overwhelms the darkness
 There is a kingdom that forever reigns
 There is freedom from the chains that bind us
 Jesus
 Jesus

Who walks on the waters
 Who speaks to the sea
 Who stands in the fire beside me
 He roars like a lion
 He bled as the Lamb
 He carries my healing in His hands
 Jesus

There is a name I call in times of trouble
 There is a song that comforts in the night
 There is a voice that calms the storm that rages
 He is Jesus Jesus

Messiah
 My Savior
 There is power in Your name
 You're my rock and my Redeemer
 There is power in Your name
 In Your name

You walk on the waters
 You speak to the sea
 You stand in the fire beside me
 You roar like a lion
 You bled as the Lamb
 You carry my healing in Your hands
 God

Jesus
 There is no one like You
 Jesus
 There is no one like You

Tomlin, Cash CCLI#20219511

BENEDICTION

I Thessalonians 5:23-24
 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you
 through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and
 body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus
 Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do
 it.

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 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.

TOGO ADVENT OFFERING: We have raised \$1,479 so far! We only have \$1,000 more to raise! The deadline for the offering is NEXT Sunday, December 6th. 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. Thank you so much. Questions? Please contact Annette Scattoni at 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.

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 and Andrea about setup and breakdown teams 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 6th grade aged children/youth generally enjoy this time! To receive the Zoom link, please email Laura at 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 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. 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 (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