

# ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 4, 2022  
Second Sunday of Advent  
www.AstoriaChurch.org

Within our darkest night,  
You kindle the fire that never dies away,  
Never dies away! Taizé

## ADVENT MEDITATION I Corinthians 4:5

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 72

**Leader:** Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.... May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy and crush the oppressor.... May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**All: Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

### SONG OF PRAISE

“Come, thou long expected Jesus” (see insert)

### 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

**O promised Christ: We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God’s will is that you should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. 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*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON Ephesians 2:13-142

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace ...

### SONG OF RESPONSE “Days of Elijah”

These are the days of Elijah,  
Declaring the Word of the Lord;  
And these are the days of your servant, Moses,  
Righteousness being restored;  
And though these are days of great trials,  
Of famine and darkness and sword;  
Still we are the voice in the desert crying,  
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord.”

*Behold he comes, riding on the clouds,  
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call;  
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,  
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.*

And these are the days of Ezekiel,  
The dry bones becoming as flesh;  
And these are the days of your servant, David,  
Rebuilding a temple of praise;  
And these are the days of the harvest,  
The fields are as white in the world;  
And we are the laborers in your vineyard,  
Declaring the Word of the Lord.

There is no god like Jehovah. (4x). *Robin Mark*

### GOSPEL READING Matthew 24:36-44

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by

him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

#### **EPISTLE READING** Romans 15:4-13

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;

I will sing the praises of your name.”

Again, it says,

“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;

let all the peoples extol him.”

And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,

one who will arise to rule over the nations;

in him the Gentiles will hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

#### **SONG OF RESPONSE**

“There’s a voice in the wilderness crying” (see insert)

#### **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

##### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

##### **OFFERTORY**

##### **SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 11:1-10 *NIV*

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of  
the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra’s den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the  
viper’s nest.

<sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of  
the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a  
banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to  
him, and his resting place will be glorious.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**MESSAGE** “The Kingdom of Peace” J. David Ellis

**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.

#### **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.*

*Pre-sealed packages available upon request.*

**“Is he worthy?”**

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)

Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)

But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (We do)

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)

Is all creation groaning? (It is)

Is a new creation coming? (It is)

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave

He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

Is he worthy? Is he worthy?

Of all blessing and honor and glory

Is he worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)

Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)

And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those he loves? (He does)

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave

He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue, He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.

Is he worthy? Is he worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is he worthy of this? He is. **Andrew Peterson**

#### **MUSIC OF COMMITMENT**

**“On Jordan's stormy banks I stand”**

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains, shines one eternal day.

There God the Son forever reigns, and scatters night away.

*I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound)*

*I am bound for the Promised Land. (2x)*

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath,

Can reach that healthful shore,

Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place, and be forever blessed

When shall I see my Father's face, and in his bosom rest?

**Christopher Miner; Samuel Stennett**

#### **BENEDICTION**

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

## 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.

**INTRO TO ACC: Starts today! Sundays, December 4th & 11th, 5:00-6:30 pm** A two-part class for people interested in membership and/or learning more about Astoria Community Church. Meeting by zoom. See the newsletter to sign up.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY WINTER WONDERLAND

**EVENT: TODAY, Sunday, December 4th**, please join the women of ACC for an outing to the Bryant Park Christmas Village Kiosks to enjoy the festive season. We will grab lunch at the Whole Foods Food Court and then head over to Bryant Park. We will leave together from the synagogue to take the train, after choir rehearsal ends, around 1PM. See you then! Questions? Email [women@astoriachurch.org](mailto:women@astoriachurch.org).

**TOGO ADVENT OFFERING:** We are taking up a special advent offering for our Togo Missionaries – Macklann and Rose Basse. Our goal is \$4,000 this year and any funds raised beyond this amount will go towards our missionary budget. **We have received \$1,600 so far! Thank you!!** The offering will go towards Christmas gifts for 100 students in their school (\$20/student=\$2,000). New clothes and shoes will be made for them! Secondly, \$2,000 will cover the 40 school staff/teachers' salaries for the next semester (\$50 per person). **The deadline to donate has been extended to Thursday, December 8.** On our online giving platform, there is a drop-down menu to choose Togo for your gift. And look for the poster displayed in the lobby. Thank you!

**LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE:** This Christmas, the Lessons and Carols service will be the morning service on **Sunday, December 18th.**

**SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER GATHERING:** Come for a refreshing time of food, fellowship and prayer! **When:** Sundays **9:30am - 10:15am before service;** **Where:** in the synagogue chapel near the entrance; **Why:** we can never have too much prayer. :) Contact Christine Hamel at [cbunque@gmail.com](mailto:cbunque@gmail.com) for more information.

**GIVING UPDATE:** Please see below the bar chart for where we are with giving and our budget. Continue to give as the Lord leads you through our online giving platform or give in the offering basket on Sundays.



**FOOD PANTRY:** Many are very food insecure and the need for food is great in NYC. Please bring nonperishable food on Sundays and place in the green bin. Thank you!!

**MEMBER AND REGULAR ATTENDER NEWS:** Email [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org) or [david@astoriachurch.org](mailto:david@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)  
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YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: JC Cha  
([youth@astoriachurch.org](mailto:youth@astoriachurch.org))

### 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:** Nursery is provided for **newborns – 3 year olds.** New Parents must register in advance. Link is in the newsletter. Annette Scattoni [ackkids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:ackkids@astoriachurch.org).

**God's Seedlings (Ages 3-6):** Godly Play Sunday School class. Launching on September 18th. Annette Scattoni, [ackkids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:ackkids@astoriachurch.org).

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

##### Financial Need

Church leaders 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 (on zoom) and Wednesdays (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: [david@astoriachurch.org](mailto:david@astoriachurch.org)