

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent
www.AstoriaChurch.org

MEDITATION Psalm 46:10

Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

CALL TO WORSHIP Joel 2:1-2, 12-13

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.

People: **Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF RESPONSE “God be merciful to me”

God, be merciful to me, on thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within,
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess,
Grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against thy grace
And provoked thee to thy face;
I confess thy judgment just,
Speechless, I thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin; thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art,
Teach thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust
By thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice
And in gladness hear thy voice;
From my sins O hide my face,
Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my spirit right and true;
Cast me not away from thee,
Let thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation’s joy impart,
Steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me
And return, O God, to thee;
Savior, all my guilt remove,
And my tongue shall sing thy love;
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,
And my mouth shall praise accord. **REDHEAD; Psalm 51**

CALL TO CONFESSION Psalm 51:17

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Almighty Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us according to your great goodness; according to the multitude of your mercies, do away our offenses; wash us thoroughly from our wickedness, and cleanse us from our sins; for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.

SONG OF CONFESSION “Lamb of God”

O Lamb of God,
Who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us. (2x)
(Women) Grant us peace! (Men) Grant us peace!
(Women) Grant us peace! (Men) Grant us peace!
(All) Grant us peace! Amen. **John Wykoff**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Psalm 130:8

Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

SONG OF RESPONSE “My help, my God”

Why are you so full of heaviness?
Why are you disquieted within?
Oh, my soul. Oh, my soul.
As the deer longs for the waterbrooks,
So my soul, it longs and thirsts for you,
Oh, my God. Oh, my God.

*Put your trust in God, I will yet give thanks to him.
My help, my God.*

Deep goes unto deep like ocean waves.
All your floods and rapids on me break,
Oh, my soul. Oh, my soul.
I will say unto my God, my strength,
How is it you have forgotten me?
Oh, how long? Oh, how long?

Yahweh grants his kindness in the day.
Through the night his song it is that stays.
Oh, my soul. Oh, my soul. Sandra McCracken

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:9-15

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

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

EPISTLE READING I Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

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

SONG OF RESPONSE “Come, thou fount”

Come, thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,

Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above,
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it,
Mount of God’s unchanging love.

Hear I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by thy help I’m come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God.
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I’m constrained to be.
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander—Lord, I feel it—
Prone to leave the God I love:
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above. NETTLETON; Robinson

MINISTRY REPORT

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 25 (ESV)

- ¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- ² O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.
- ³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who
are wantonly treacherous.
- ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.
- ⁶ Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast
love,
for they have been from of old.
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my
transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
- ⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
- ¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and
faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his
testimonies.

¹¹ For your name's sake, O LORD,
 pardon my guilt, for it is great.
¹² Who is the man who fears the LORD?
 Him will he instruct in the way that he should
 choose.
¹³ His soul shall abide in well-being,
 and his offspring shall inherit the land.
¹⁴ The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear
 him,
 and he makes known to them his covenant.
¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
 for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
 for I am lonely and afflicted.
¹⁷ The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
 bring me out of my distresses.
¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble,
 and forgive all my sins.
¹⁹ Consider how many are my foes,
 and with what violent hatred they hate me.
²⁰ Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
 Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
²¹ May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
 for I wait for you.
²² Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

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

MESSAGE “The Path to Renewal” 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

“By his wounds”
 By his wounds, his wounds will we be healed.
 And for our transgressions, his passion,
 Has made us well.
 Let us come again and feed on him,
 Our Lord Emmanuel! **Traditional; Wardell**

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“Alas! and did my Savior bleed”

Alas! and did my Savior bleed
 And did my Sovereign die?
 Would he devote that sacred head
 For such a worm as I?
 Thy body slain, sweet Jesus, thine,
 And bathed in its own blood,
 While all exposed to wrath divine
 The glorious Sufferer stood?

Was it for crimes that I had done
 He groaned upon the tree?
 Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
 And love beyond degree!
 Well might the sun in darkness hide,
 And shut his glories in,
 When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
 For man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
 While his dear cross appears;
 Dissolve my heart in thankfulness
 And melt my eyes in tears.
 But drops of grief can ne'er repay
 The debt of love I owe;
 Here, Lord, I give my self away,
 'Tis all that I can do. **Traditional Irish; Watts**

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 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.

COMMUNITY GROUPS FORMING: A 6-week Community Group series titled "40 Days of Spiritual Renewal" begins THIS week and will run through the season of Lent. Sign up information is in the weekly newsletter and on our website.

DISCIPLING YOUTH IN CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY:

Consider attending this free webinar that will help parents, youth leaders, pastors, and mentors to know how to disciple our youth in conversations about sex, sexuality, and gender. **Monday, February 22nd 8:30 – 10PM.** See link to sign up in our newsletter and on our website.

YOUTH GROUP OUTING: The Youth Group is having an outing at Astoria Park on **Saturday, February 27th at 2:30PM.** Grades 6-12. To join the Youth Group and/or to sign up for this outing, contact david@astoriachurch.org.

EASTER OUTREACH OFFERING: We will be taking up a special offering to fund our missionaries both abroad and locally and our Diaconate ministries. You may give your offering anytime leading up to or on **Easter (April 4th)** online (designate Easter Offering), by sending in a check to our PO Box or placing it in the offering basket at the end of our in-person services. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

FOOD PANTRY: The Hour Children food pantry now has an Amazon Wish List in case you would like to donate food that way. The link is in the weekly newsletter or you can email Andrea for the link. The economic fall out of the pandemic is still very real for so many. Our city's food pantries are being utilized more than ever.

PRAYER MEETINGS: We pray every **Thursday at 7PM** on Zoom. Please join us! An email goes out Thursday morning with the Zoom link.

TUESDAY BIBLE CLUB: We 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 children/youth generally enjoy this format. To receive the Zoom link, please email Laura at laurakaufmann@gmail.com.

MEMBER AND REGULAR ATTENDER 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)



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. **Pre-K – 6th Grade children are welcome to join our Tuesday Bible Club at 7PM on Zoom. Email laurakaufmann@gmail.com to receive the zoom link.** 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: admin@astoriachurch.org

Info for men, contact: mensministry@astoriachurch.org