

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

February 28, 2021
Second Sunday of Lent
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“Faith is like an empty, open hand stretched out toward God, with nothing to offer and everything to receive.”
— John Calvin

MEDITATION Psalm 62:5

My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from him.

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 22:23-31

Leader: You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

People: **From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live forever!**

Leader: All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

People: **All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive.**

Leader: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

All: **They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!**

SONG OF RESPONSE

“There is a fountain filled with blood”

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there have I, though vile as he,
Washed all my sins away.
Washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away;
And there have I, though vile as he,
Washed all my sins away.

E’er since, by faith, I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.

Then in a nobler, sweeter song,
I’ll sing Thy power to save,
When this poor lisping, stammering tongue
Lies silent in the grave.
Lies silent in the grave, lies silent in the grave;
When this poor lisping, stammering tongue
Lies silent in the grave.

Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved, to sin no more.
Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved, to sin no more. FOUNTAIN; Cowper

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION II Corinthians 5:15
And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

SPOKEN CONFESSION

O Lord, this week I have often lived for myself and not for you. I have not always loved the things you love and hated the things you hate. Forgive me, for your mercy’s sake.

SILENT CONFESSION

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 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 “Once and for all”

God I give you what I can today,
These scattered ashes that I hid away,
I lay it all at your feet.

From the corners of my deepest shame,
The empty places where I've worn your name,
Show me the love I say I believe.

Help me to lay it down; O Lord, I lay it down.

*O let this be where I die;
My Lord, with Thee, crucified.
Be lifted high, as my kingdoms fall,
Once and for all, once and for all.*

There is victory in my Savior's loss,
In the crimson flowing from the cross,
Pour over me, pour over me. Daigle, Mabury and Duncan

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless

her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

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

GOSPEL READING Mark 8:31-38
He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.”

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

SONG OF RESPONSE “He knows my name”

I have a Maker,
He formed my heart.
Before even time began,
My life was in his hand.

*He knows my name;
He knows my every thought.
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call.
He hears me when I call.*

I have a Father;
He calls me his own.
He'll never leave me,
No matter where I go.
Tommy Walker

MINISTRY TESTIMONY

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 4:13-25 *NIV*

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." ²³ The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "The importance of faith" 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

"How sweet and awful is the place"

How sweet and awful is the place
With Christ within the doors,
While everlasting love displays
The choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs
Join to admire the feast,
Each of us cries with thankful tongue,
"Lord, why was I a guest?"

"Why was I made to hear your voice,
And enter while there's room,
When thousands make a wretched choice,
And rather starve than come?"

'Twas the same love that spread the feast
That sweetly drew us in;
Else we had still refused to taste,
And perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God,
Constrain the earth to come;
Send your victorious Word abroad,
And bring the strangers home.

We long to see your churches full,
That all the chosen race
May, with one voice and heart and soul,
Sing your redeeming grace. **ST COLUMBA; Watts**

BENEDICTION Romans 15:13

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.

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.

YOUTH GROUP OUTING - CHANGE IN DATE: Due to weather, we postponed the Youth Group outing to **Saturday, March 6th at 2:30PM**. Grades 6-12. To join the Youth Group and/or to sign up for this outing, contact david@astoriachurch.org.

PRAYER MEETINGS: If you haven't joined our weekly prayer meeting, please consider joining! We get to pray as God's family together and it's a very powerful time. We pray every Thursday at 7PM on Zoom. An email goes out Thursday morning with the Zoom link.

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.

MEN'S CLOTHING NEEDED: For the men's shelter we partner with, here are some specific items that are needed: **long johns, sweatpants, jeans, socks, underwear (new), jackets and coats, all sizes**. Thrift shops are great places to gather some of these clothes or feel free to purchase new socks and underwear online. You can bring on Sunday or arrange to drop off at the church office. Contact Andrea at diaconate@astoriachurch.org.

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.

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