

ASTORIA

COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent
www.AstoriaChurch.org

MEDITATION Zechariah 2:13

Be still before the LORD, all mankind, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 119

Leader: How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

People: **I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees.**

Leader: With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.

All: **I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE

"How shall the young direct their way?"

(see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION Psalm 51:1-12

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

People: **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.**

Leader: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

People: **Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.**

Leader: Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

People: **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.**

Leader: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

People: **Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

All: **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

SILENT CONFESSION

SONG OF CONFESSION "Lamb of God"

O Lamb of God,

Who takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,

Who takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

(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 John 3:17

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

SONG OF RESPONSE "Down at the cross"

Down at the cross where my Savior died,

Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,

There to my heart was the blood applied;

Glory to his name.

Glory to his name, Glory to his name!

There to my heart was the blood applied;

Glory to his name!

I am so wondrously saved from sin,

Jesus so sweetly abides within;

There at the cross where he took me in;

Glory to his name.

Come to this fountain so rich and sweet,

Cast your poor soul at the Savior's feet;

Plunge in today, and be made complete;

Glory to his name.

Elisha Hoffman

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

"The days are coming," declares the LORD,

"when I will make a new covenant

with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant

I made with their ancestors

when I took them by the hand

to lead them out of Egypt,

because they broke my covenant,

though I was a husband to them,"

declares the LORD.

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD.

"I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,

and they will be my people.

No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,'

because they will all know me,

from the least of them to the greatest,"

declares the LORD.

"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING John 12:20-33

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING Hebrews 5:5-10

In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." And he says in another place, "You are a priest

forever, in the order of Melchizedek." During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Your labor is not in vain"

Your labor is not in vain

Though the ground underneath you

Is cursed and stained.

Your planting and reaping are never the same,

Your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown,

Though the rocks they cry out

And the sea it may groan.

The place of your toil may not seem like a home,

But your labor is not unknown.

For I am with you, I am with you,

I am with you, I am with you.

For I have called you,

Called you by name,

Your labor is not in vain.

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit.

The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth.

For all that is old will at last be made new,

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit.

The houses you labored to build

Will finally with laughter and joy be filled.

The serpent that hurts and destroys will be killed

And all that is broken be healed.

Kimbrough, Wardell, Zach and Keyes

****Children ages 3-7 are dismissed for Sunday school.****

MINISTRY REPORT

OFFERTORY

SCRIPTURE READING I Corinthians 15:1-11 *NIV*

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the

Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "The Gospel" Jim Fredere

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.

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.

"Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face"

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,
Here grasp with firmer hand th' eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with thee the royal wine of heav'n;

Here would I set aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me:
Here let me feast, and, feasting, still prolong
The brief, bright hour of fellowship with thee.

I have no help but thine, nor do I need
Another arm save thine to lean upon:
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in thy might, thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge and my peace,
Thy blood, thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

John Wyckoff; Horatius Bonar

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT "O, to see the dawn"

O, to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

This the pow'r of the cross:

Christ became sin for us.

Took the blame bore the wrath,

We stand forgiven at the cross.

O, to see the pain written on your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed
Crowning your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath
Quakes as its maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life—
Finished! the victory cry.

O, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through your suffer'ing I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through your selfless love!

Final refrain:

This the pow'r of the cross:

Son of God—slain for us.

What a love, what a cost!

We stand forgiven at the cross.

Getty; Townend

BENEDICTION Philippians 4:7

May the peace of God, which transcends all
understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in
Christ Jesus.

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 Hospitality Table (hard copy or QR code). We send out a weekly electronic newsletter and other announcement emails.

PRAYER WALK: Today, let's intentionally pray together for our Astoria and Long Island City neighborhoods! Join us for a prayer walk on **1:30PM**. Grab a bite after church and then meet us at the **Legal Outreach lobby, 36-14 35th Street**. Let Miriam know you are coming if you didn't sign up and bring a friend!

ELDER NOMINATIONS: Beginning today, our church will be receiving nominations for potential new elders. The last day to nominate someone is **Sunday, March 31, 2024**. If you are a member, you can nominate male members. You will be receiving an email with more details today. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jim.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP PING PONG OUTING: Join the men of ACC for ping pong on **Saturday, March 23rd, 10:30am - 12pm** at Ping Pod, 30-18 Steinway in Astoria. Come play and have a fun fellowship time. Contact Sebastien for more information. Sign up in the newsletter.

LENTEN AND EASTER CHOIR: Today, choir and children's choir will rehearse for **Lent and Easter** after the morning service. We would love to have you join us! See Linnea after today's service.

PRAYER AFTER THE SERVICE: If you need prayer for anything, the Elders and Diaconate members will be up front in the sanctuary after the announcements twice a month - on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. **The next Sunday for prayer is Sunday, March 24**, right after the service up front on either side of the sanctuary. Please feel free to come up directly after the service.

EASTER OUTREACH OFFERING: Every year at Easter, the members and regular attenders of ACC respond to Christ's generosity by giving a special Easter Outreach Offering. The purpose of this offering is to help fulfill our church's budgetary commitment to missions and outreach. This year's goal is to **raise \$20,000** through our Easter giving.

ADDITIONAL ONGOING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Youth Group - Contact JC at youth@astoriachurch.org

Musicians Needed: We are looking for a guitarist and violinist (really any instrument is welcome!) to play occasionally for Sunday Services. Please speak to Linnea Kickasola or email her at music@astoriachurch.org.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR: We started a new plan to read through the Bible in a year on January 1st. The Word of God is our primary means of knowing God's will, character, and ways. This can be a great time to grow and learn together. It's not too late to join! Sign up in the newsletter.

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)
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 Building
27-35 Crescent Street, Astoria, NY 11102

INTERIM PASTOR: Jim Fredere (jim@astoriachurch.org)

MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Andrea Mungo (admin@astoriachurch.org)

WORSHIP DIRECTOR: Linnea Kickasola (music@astoriachurch.org)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Annette Scattoni
(ACCKids@astoriachurch.org)

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: JC Cha
(youth@astoriachurch.org)

Instagram.com/astoriacomunitychurch

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: During worship. Nursery is provided for **newborns - 3 year olds**. New Parents must register in advance. Link is in the newsletter. Andrea Mungo, admin@astoriachurch.org.

God's Seedlings (Ages 3-6): During worship Sunday School class. Annette Scattoni, acckids@astoriachurch.org.

God's Treasures (Ages 7-10): Sundays 9:30 - 10:20 a.m. Annette Scattoni, acckids@astoriachurch.org.

Youth Group - Grades 6 - 12: JC Cha, 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 jim@astoriachurch.org for info.

Financial Need

Members of the Diaconate team are available to meet with you if you have a financial need. Please email Diaconate@astoriachurch.org or call 718-721-3440.

English as a Second Language Classes

Saturdays 10-11:30AM (on zoom) and Wednesdays 6:30 - 8PM (in person) Info: QueensESL@gmail.com

Outreach and Helps Ministries

If you have a practical need, email Helps@astoriachurch.org. For the **Meals Ministry**, email accmeals@gmail.com. For info on service opportunities email Diaconate@astoriachurch.org.

Men's and Women's Ministry

Info for women, contact: women@astoriachurch.org

Info for men, contact: raulwrojas@gmail.com or

gianlu19@gmail.com