

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

April 18, 2021
Third Sunday of Easter
www.AstoriaChurch.org

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!

People: **You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.**

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

SONG OF PRAISE

“That Easter day with joy was bright”

That Easter day with joy was bright:
The sun shone out with fairer light
When to their longing eyes restored,
Th’apostles saw their risen Lord.

His risen flesh with radiance glowed,
His wounded hands and feet he showed;
Those scars their solemn witness gave
That Christ was risen from the grave.

O Jesus, King of gentleness,
Do thou, thyself, our hearts possess,
That we may give thee all our days
The willing tribute of our praise.

O Lord of all, with us abide,
In this, our joyful Eastertide;
From every weapon death can wield
Thine own redeemed forever shield. **MACCABAEUS; Budry**

EASTER READING Luke 24:36-48

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened

their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

All: 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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON II Corinthians 5:17, 21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“O praise the name (Anástasis)

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me.
I see his wounds, his hands, his feet.
My Savior on that cursed tree.

His body bound and drenched in tears.
They laid him down in Joseph’s tomb.
The entrance sealed by heavy stone.
Messiah still and all alone.

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God;
O praise his Name forevermore.
For endless days we will sing your praise,
Oh Lord, oh Lord, our God.*

Then on the third at break of dawn,
The Son of heaven rose again.
O trampled death, where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King.

He shall return in robes of white,
The blazing sun shall pierce the night.

And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face. Sampson, Hastings, Ussher

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 4

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God.
Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me
and hear my prayer. How long will you people turn
my glory into shame? How long will you love
delusions and seek false gods? Know that the LORD
has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the
LORD hears when I call to him. Tremble and do not
sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts
and be silent. Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and
trust in the LORD. Many, LORD, are asking, "Who will
bring us prosperity?" Let the light of your face shine
on us. Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new
wine abound. In peace I will lie down and sleep, for
you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING I John 1:3:1-7

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that
we should be called children of God! And that is what
we are! The reason the world does not know us is that
it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are
children of God, and what we will be has not yet been
made known. But we know that when Christ
appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as
he is. All who have this hope in him purify
themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins
breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you
know that he appeared so that he might take away our
sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him
keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has
either seen him or known him. Dear children, do not
let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is
right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

"How great is the love of the Father"

How great is the love of the Father,
The love he has shown to us;
So great that he calls us his children,
And children of God we are.

The world without God does not know us,
Because it did not know Christ.
Lord, help us to be pure and spotless,
For children of God we are.

What we are to be in the future
As yet has not been made known.
But when Christ returns we shall see him,
And then we shall be like him. James Ward

RECEIVING A NEW MEMBER

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.

OLD HUNDRETH; Ken

SCRIPTURE READING

I Corinthians 1:26-31, 7:17-31 *ESV*

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you
were wise according to worldly standards, not many
were powerful, not many were of noble
birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to
shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world
to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and
despised in the world, even things that are not,
to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human
being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And
because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to
us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification
and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, "Let the one
who boasts, boast in the Lord." ...

^{7:17}Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has
assigned to him, and to which God has called
him. This is my rule in all the churches. ¹⁸Was anyone
at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him
not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was
anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him
not seek circumcision. ¹⁹For neither circumcision
counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping
the commandments of God. ²⁰Each one should remain
in the condition in which he was called. ²¹Were you a
bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about
it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of
the opportunity.) ²²For he who was called in the Lord
as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise
he who was free when called is a bondservant of
Christ. ²³You were bought with a price; do not become
bondservants of men. ²⁴So, brothers, in whatever
condition each was called, there let him remain with
God. ²⁵Now concerning the betrothed, I have no
command from the Lord, but I give my judgment
as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶I
think that in view of the present distress it is good for
a person to remain as he is. ²⁷Are you bound to a

wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. ²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “Recalibrating Our Ambition in View of the Strange Strategy of God” Rev. Nick Nowalk

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 (#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.

“When love was slain”

This world is not my home.

Oh, this world is not my home.

My home's been made at heaven's throne;

This world is not my home.

This life is not my own.

Oh, this life is not my own.

I am his and his alone;
This life is not my own.

*I was bought when Love was slain;
What high cost, to pay death's wage.
Now ransomed, I am freedom's slave.
My Jesus raised me from the grave.*

Come now and walk with me.
Oh, come now and walk with me.
Together we our Lord shall meet;
Come now and walk with me.

Soon, Lord, and very soon,
Oh, soon Lord, and very soon,
You'll come take me to be with you
Soon, Lord, and very soon. **Riddle and Yates**

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“Christ is alive! Let Christians sing”

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
In death his love shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
He comes to claim the here and now
And conquer ev'ry place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high,
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life,
Our Savior with the Father reigns

Christ is alive! Ascended Lord—
He rules the world his Father made,
Till, in the end, his love adored
Shall be to all the earth displayed. **TRURO; Wren**

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.

EASTER OUTREACH OFFERING: We have received over \$20,000 towards our goal of \$25,000. Thank you, ACC, for your sacrificial offerings! If you haven't given yet, it's not too late! You may give your offering 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 so much!

COMMUNITY GROUPS: The next round of CGs will be a 6-week series studying passages on the Holy Spirit. Community Groups will begin the week of **April 25th** (correction from previously printed date.) Sign up link is in the newsletter and on our website.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASS - APOLOGETICS: We will be offering a 6-week class studying Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions (Greg Koukl) on **Thursdays, 7:45pm (zoom)** starting **April 22**. Instructors: David Ellis & Rainy Worzella. Sign up link is in the newsletter and on our website.

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.

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.

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: David Ellis (remote on Fridays, Sept – June)
(david@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