

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

May 16, 2021
Ascension Sunday
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.”

-- Corrie Ten Boom

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 47

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples;
People: **Shout to God with loud songs of joy**
Leader: God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
People: **The Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.**
Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises;
People: **Sing praises to our King, sing praises.**
Leader: For God is the King of all the earth;
People: **Sing to him a psalm of praise.**
Leader: God reigns over the nations;
All: **God is seated on his holy throne.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Hail the day that sees him rise” (see insert)

ASCENSION READING John 17:6-19

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not

of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYERS OF PRAISE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

ASCENSION DOXOLOGY

“A hymn of glory let us sing” (see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust. While we sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today's

events. Help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT from Ephesians 2
God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Before the throne of God above” (see insert)

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea;
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands;
My name is written on his heart
I know that while in heaven he stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there,
Who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ my Savior and my God,
With Christ my Savior and my God. **Cook; Bancroft**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 93

The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength.
He has established the world; it shall never be moved;

your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.
The floods have lifted up, O LORD,
the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.
More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,
more majestic than the waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the LORD!
Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house,
O LORD, forevermore.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

“He is exalted”

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high;
I will praise him.
He is exalted, forever exalted
and I will praise his name!

He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign;
Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

Es exaltado. Él reina en lo alto y yo;
Le adoro.

Es exaltado, por siempre exaltado
Y yo le adoraré.

Él es Señor, por siempre él reinará;
Su creación en Él se gozará.
Es exaltado, y yo le alabo a Él. Twila Paris

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 1:1-11 *NIV*

¹In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” ⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “The Spirit and Mission” Rev. 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 (#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.

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“Alleluia! sing to Jesus” (see insert)

BENEDICTION

Jude 1:24-25

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Our next Intro to ACC seminar will be on 2 upcoming Sundays: June 6th & 13th from 5-6:30PM. If you are interested in becoming a member or just learning more about Astoria Community Church, please come to these 2 classes. We will give you a glimpse of what drives ACC and ways you can grow spiritually and serve the church and community. These classes will be on Zoom. Link to sign up is in the newsletter and on our website.

RACIAL VIOLENCE PANEL DISCUSSION, Q&A, AND PRAYER EVENT: Join us as we discuss this complex and difficult topic and pray together **TOMORROW, Monday, May 17th at 7PM** on Zoom. Panelists will be Kam Wong, Cliff Means and Pastor David. Zoom link will be emailed to you tomorrow morning.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TRANSGENDER CONVERSATION: Please consider watching the next webinar from the Center for Faith, Sexuality and Gender **THIS Tuesday, May 18th at 8:30PM**. See the newsletter for more info and link to register. A small group of us have been debriefing these webinars once a month. The next debrief is on **Tuesday, May 25th at 8:30PM**. If you would like to join the conversation, please email Andrea at admin@astoriachurch.org for the Zoom link.

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC: On **Sunday, May 30th** we will have our annual Memorial Day Picnic (weather permitting) after worship at the northernmost part of Astoria Park. Bring yourself, family and friends, food, chairs, blankets, & sports equipment!

SAVE THE DATE: We will be offering **Vacation Bible Club** this summer! Mark your calendars for **July 19-23rd, every day from 6-8PM**. Bring your kids, join the volunteer team, be there! We are having a planning meeting this **Monday, May 10th at 7:30PM**. Email Laura for more details: laurakaufmann@gmail.com.

NURSERY REOPENING: The nursery is open! The capacity is 6 babies/toddlers (newborns – 3 year olds). Parents must register in advance. Link to register will be in the newsletter each week.

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

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 only offering nursery services on Sundays. 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: Nursery is provided for newborns – 3 year olds. Parents must register in advance. Link is in the newsletter (admin@astoriachurch.org)

Pre-K - Grade 2: There will be no children's church until further notice.

Grades 3 - 5: Bryan Taylor (bryantaylor@astoriachurch.org)
There will be no Sunday school until further notice.

Youth Group - 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