

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“It is inconceivable to think that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead would come into our lives and then do nothing. Where the Spirit is at work, our love [will] abound...” – Scott Hafemann

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
People: **He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.**
Leader: God has claimed us as his own.
People: **He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.**
Leader: Alleluia! Christ has risen!
All: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Jesus Christ is risen today” (see insert)

EASTER READING Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders

to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

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

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God’s amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON I Corinthians 15:54-57

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”
“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

SONG OF RESPONSE “King of kings”

In the darkness we were waiting,
Without hope, without light,
Till from Heaven you came running.
There was mercy in your eyes.
To fulfil the law and prophets,
To a virgin came the Word

From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt.

*Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one.
God of Glory, majesty,
Praise forever to the King of Kings.*

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost,
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross.
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation,
Jesus, for our sake you died.

And the morning that you rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good,
For the Lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs,
And the angels stood in awe,
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born,
Then the Spirit lit the flame.
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By his blood and in his Name,
In his freedom I am free,
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me. *Ligertwood, Ingram, Ligertwood*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 22:25-31
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!
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.
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.
Posterity will serve him;
 future generations will be told about the Lord.

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

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

GOSPEL READING John 15:1-8
“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He
cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while
every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it
will be even more fruitful. You are already clean
because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in
me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit
by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you
bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you
are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do
nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a
branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches
are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you
remain in me and my words remain in you, ask
whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is
to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit,
showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

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

EPISTLE READING I John 4:7-17
Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes
from God. Everyone who loves has been born of
God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not
know God, because God is love. This is how God
showed his love among us: He sent his one and only
Son into the world that we might live through
him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he
loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for
our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also
ought to love one another. No one has ever seen
God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and
his love is made complete in us. This is how we
know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us
of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the
Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.
If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,
God lives in them and they in God. And so we know
and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.
Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.
This is how love is made complete among us so that
we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In
this world we are like Jesus.

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

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Come behold the wondrous mystery”

Come behold the wondrous mystery,
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven’s praises,
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness,
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended,
Took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery,
He the perfect Son of Man
In his living, in his suffering,
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam,
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law,
In him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery,
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption,
See the Father’s plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory,
Grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery,
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e’er restrain him,
Praise the Lord, he is alive.
What a foretaste of deliverance,
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected,
As will we be when he comes. *Boswell, Papa, Bleecker*

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 5:16-26 (NIV)

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies,

and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “Walk by the Spirit” 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

“Alleluia! Alleluia!” (see insert)

BENEDICTION

I Corinthians 13:13

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

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: 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! Email Laura for more information and to sign up to help: laurakaufmann@gmail.com.

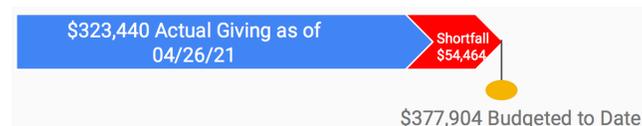
NURSERY REOPENING: We will be reopening the nursery on **Mother's Day, May 9th**. The capacity will be 6 babies/toddlers only (under 3 years old) and we will require parents to register their baby/toddler in advance. More information will be in the newsletter.

RACIAL VIOLENCE PANEL DISCUSSION, Q&A, AND PRAYER EVENT: Join us as we discuss this complex and difficult topic and pray together on **Monday, May 17th at 7PM** on Zoom. Panelists will be Kam Wong, Cliff Means and Pastor David. Registration link is in the newsletter and on our website.

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!

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

CHURCH FINANCES: Thank you to all who are giving on Sundays in the offering basket, online and sending in checks to our PO Box. The Easter Outreach Offering helped tremendously to get us closer to reaching our commitment to our missionaries and our Diaconate ministries. Please see the bar chart below for the monthly update. We're so thankful for your generosity! Please continue to give as the Lord leads you. Our mailing address is Astoria Community Church, PO Box 2102, Astoria, NY. 11102. Thank you!



MEMBER AND REGULAR ATTENDER NEWS:

Email David@astoriachurch.org or Andrea@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. (ackkids@astoriachurch.org)

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