

# ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

May 9, 2021  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
www.AstoriaChurch.org

## REFLECTION

“I don’t want my life to be explainable without the Holy Spirit. I want people to look at my life and know I couldn’t be doing this by my own power. I want to live in such a way that I am desperate for him to come through.”  
– Francis Chan

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** This is the good news—the grave is empty; Christ is risen.  
**People:** **Hallelujah!**  
**Leader:** This is the good news—the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.  
**People:** **Hallelujah!**  
**Leader:** This is the good news—once we were no people; now we are God’s people.  
**People:** **Hallelujah!**  
**Leader:** Alleluia! Christ has risen!  
**All:** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## SONG OF PRAISE

“Jesus lives and so shall I” (see insert)

## EASTER READING Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

## CALL TO CONFESSION I John 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not always bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have often gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON Romans 8:9-11

You are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

“Spirit of God, descend upon my heart” (see insert)

## OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things;  
his right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.  
The LORD has made his salvation known  
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.  
He has remembered his love  
and his faithfulness to Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;  
make music to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of singing,  
with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn—  
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.  
Let the sea resound, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it.  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the mountains sing together for joy;  
let them sing before the LORD,

for he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING** John 15:9-17

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING** I John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**SONG OF RESPONSE**

“Is he worthy?”

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)  
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light

from getting through? (We do)  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)

Is all creation groaning? (It is)  
Is a new creation coming? (It is)  
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave  
He is David's root  
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave  
Is he worthy? Is he worthy?  
Of all blessing and honor and glory  
Is he worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)  
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)  
And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those he loves? (He does)  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave  
He is David's root  
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave  
From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue,  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.  
Is worthy? Is he worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is he worthy of this? He is.

Andrew Peterson

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ephesians 5:15-21 *NIV*

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

**MESSAGE** “Be filled with 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 (#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.

### PRAYER & SONG OF PREPARATION

“Amidst us our beloved stands” (see insert)

### THE LORD’S SUPPER

**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

“We will feast in the house of Zion”

*We will feast in the house of Zion*

*We will sing with our hearts restored*

*He has done great things, we will say together*

*We will feast and weep no more*

We will not be burned by the fire  
He is the LORD our God  
We are not consumed, by the flood  
Upheld, protected, gathered up

In the dark of night, before the dawn  
My soul, be not afraid  
For the promised morning, oh how long?  
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed  
You are the faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave  
Bind us together, bring shalom

Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

### 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](mailto: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 19-23<sup>rd</sup>**, every day from **6-8PM**. Bring your kids, join the volunteer team, be there! We are having a planning meeting this **Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM**. Email Laura for more details: [laurakaufmann@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**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.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TRANSGENDER CONVERSATION:** Please consider watching the next webinar from the Center for Faith, Sexuality and Gender on **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](mailto: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!

**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. 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](mailto:David@astoriachurch.org) or Andrea at [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto: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](http://www.astoriachurch.org)  
WORSHIP LOCATION: Astoria Center of Israel Bldg  
27-35 Crescent Street, Astoria, NY 11102  
MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Andrea Mungo ([admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org))  
PASTOR: J. David Ellis ([david@astoriachurch.org](mailto: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 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade children are welcome to join our Tuesday Bible Club at 7PM on Zoom. Email [laurakaufmann@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:david@astoriachurch.org))

#### Community Groups

Small groups that meet on Zoom for fellowship, study, and prayer. Email: [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:Diaconate@astoriachurch.org) or call 718-721-3440. For the **Meals Ministry**, email [accmeals@gmail.com](mailto:accmeals@gmail.com)

#### English as a Second Language Classes

(Saturdays) Info: [QueensESL@gmail.com](mailto:QueensESL@gmail.com)

#### Outreach Ministries

For info on service opportunities in Queens: [Diaconate@astoriachurch.org](mailto:Diaconate@astoriachurch.org)

#### Men's and Women's Ministry

Info for women, contact: [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org)

Info for men, contact: [mensministry@astoriachurch.org](mailto:mensministry@astoriachurch.org)