

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

August 1, 2021
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“Having become with us the Son of Man, He has made us with Himself sons of God. By His own descent to the earth He has prepared our ascent to heaven. Having received our mortality, He has bestowed on us His immortality. Having undertaken our weakness, He has made us strong in His strength. Having submitted to our poverty, He has transferred to us His riches. Having taken upon Himself the burden of unrighteousness with which we were oppressed, He has clothed us with His righteousness.” - John Calvin

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 78

Leader: He commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven; he rained down manna upon them to eat, and gave them food from heaven.

People: **Man ate the bread of angels; he sent them food in abundance.**

Leader: He made the east wind blow in the sky and by his power he directed the south wind. When he rained meat upon them like dust, even winged birds like the sand of the seas, he let them fall in the midst of the camp, all around their dwellings.

All: **So they ate and were well filled, and he satisfied their longing.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Be thou my vision” (see insert)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

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.**

SILENT CONFESSION

SONG OF CONFESSION

“Create in me”

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me. (2x)

Cast me not away from thy presence, O Lord,
And take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation,
And renew a right spirit within me.

Keith Green

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Psalm 130:5-8

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Surely goodness, surely mercy”

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In green pastures he makes me lie down.
He restores my soul and leads me on
For his name, for his great name.

*Surely goodness, surely mercy
Right beside me all my days.
And I will dwell in your house forever
And bless your holy name.*

You prepare a table right before me
In the presence of my enemies.

Though the arrow flies and the terror of night
Is at my door, I'll trust you, Lord.

And even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death I will fear no evil.
And even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death you are on my side.

Shane Barnard

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.... Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. The LORD said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'" That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING John 6:24-35

Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him

God the Father has placed his seal of approval." Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

"I am the bread of life" (see insert)

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 4:1-16 *ESV*

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." ⁹(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning,

by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “Stronger together” Rev. Jeffrey Choi

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

“Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face”

(see insert)

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.

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

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“O love of God, how strong and true” (see insert)

BENEDICTION Romans 15:5-6

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

COVID PROTOCOL CHANGE: To maximize protection from the Delta variant of the COVID virus and prevent possibly spreading it to others, the CDC is now recommending that vaccinated individuals wear a mask in public if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission. Queens County is now classified as an area of substantial transmission. For this reason, we will return to asking worshippers to wear masks at our in-person services. Let us continue to pray for the public health situation in our city.

VACATION BIBLE CLUB: Please see the Tuesday newsletter with photos from the week!

FALL COMMUNITY GROUPS: Community Groups will be forming in September. If you are interested in co-leading or hosting a group, please contact david@astoriachurch.org. (Group leaders must be members of ACC.)

PASTOR DAVID'S BLOG: Pastor David writes some very encouraging and spiritually wise posts. The most recent one is titled, "Called to be Holy. But How?" When a new one is posted, the link will be provided in the Tuesday newsletter. Be sure to look out for them!

PRAYER MEETINGS: Prayer meeting is canceled for this coming week due to vacation schedules. We will resume our prayers together on **Thursday, August 12th at 7PM.**

CHURCH FINANCES: Thank you for your generous giving on Sundays in the offering basket, online and through sending in checks to our PO Box. Please continue to give as the Lord leads you.

ACC IS HIRING: We are currently receiving resumes for 2 new part-time positions at ACC. One is for a Children's Ministry Coordinator and the second is for a Youth Ministry Coordinator. See the Tuesday newsletter or our website for links to the job descriptions and how to apply.

FOOD PANTRY: Please continue to bring dry goods to the green bin in the lobby of the synagogue! Also, the Hour Children food pantry 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.

MEMBER AND REGULAR ATTENDER NEWS: Email 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. We provide a children's/youth bulletin for Pre-K and up. Our Youth Group meets on Fridays Sept - June. See below for more info.

Babies - Toddlers: Nursery is provided for newborns – 4 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 (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 **We are currently praying for new leadership.**

Info for men, contact: mensministry@astoriachurch.org