

# ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

August 23, 2020  
www.AstoriaChurch.org

## REFLECTION

“I can say from experience that 95% of knowing the will of God consists in being prepared to do it before you know what it is.” – Donald Grey Barnhouse

## CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 124

**Leader:** If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—let Israel now say--

**People:** **If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.**

**Leader:** Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

**All:** **Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

**“Have you not known, have you not heard”**

Have you not known, have you not heard  
That firm remains on high  
The everlasting throne of him  
Who formed the earth and sky?

Are you afraid his power shall fail  
When comes your evil day?  
And can an all-creating arm  
Grow weary or decay?

Supreme in wisdom as in power  
The Rock of Ages stands,  
Though him you cannot see, nor trace  
The working of his hands.

He gives the conquest to the weak,  
Supports the fainting heart;  
And courage in the evil hour  
His heavenly aids impart.

Mere human power shall fast decay,  
And youthful vigor cease;

But they who wait upon the Lord  
In strength shall still increase.

They with unwearied feet shall tread  
The path of life divine;  
With growing ardor onward move,  
With growing brightness shine.

On eagles' wings they mount, they soar—  
Their wings are faith and love—  
Till, past the cloudy regions here,  
They rise to heav'n above. HERMON; Watts

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

### CALL TO CONFESSION

from Augustine's *Confessions*, Book IV

**Leader:** O sinner, where are you going? What goal are you heading for, wandering around by ways so hard and difficult? Rest is not where you seek it. You seek happiness of life in the land of death, and it is not there.

**People:** **But our Life came down to earth and took away our death,**

**Leader:** slew death with the abundance of his own life; he thundered, calling to us to return to him.

**People:** **He came forth to us—coming first into the virgin womb, where humanity was wedded to him.**

**Leader:** And then, like a bridegroom coming out of his bridal chamber, rejoicing as a giant to run his course, he was not slow,

**People:** **calling to us by what he said, and what he did, calling to us by his death, life, and ascension, to return to him: “Come and learn of me.”**

**All:** **O you sons and daughters, how long will you be so slow of heart?**

## SILENT CONFESSION

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Romans 8:16-17a

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ ...

## SONG OF RESPONSE

### “Who you say I am”

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?

I was lost but he brought me in.

Oh, his love for me.

Oh, his love for me.

Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed.

I'm a child of God, yes I am.

Free at last, he has ransomed me,

His grace runs deep.

While I was a slave to sin,

Jesus died for me.

Yes, he died for me.

In my Father's house there's a place for me.

I'm a child of God, yes I am.

I am chosen, not forsaken.

I am who you say I am.

You are for me, not against me.

I am who you say I am.

Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan

## 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.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 51:1-6

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness  
and who seek the LORD:

Look to the rock from which you were cut

and to the quarry from which you were hewn;

look to Abraham, your father,

and to Sarah, who gave you birth.

When I called him he was only one man,  
and I blessed him and made him many.

The LORD will surely comfort Zion

and will look with compassion on all her ruins;

he will make her deserts like Eden,

her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.

Joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

Listen to me, my people;

hear me, my nation:

Instruction will go out from me;

my justice will become a light to the nations.

My righteousness draws near speedily,

my salvation is on the way,

and my arm will bring justice to the nations.

The islands will look to me

and wait in hope for my arm.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens,

look at the earth beneath;

the heavens will vanish like smoke,

the earth will wear out like a garment

and its inhabitants die like flies.

But my salvation will last forever,

my righteousness will never fail.”

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

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

## GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

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

## SONG OF RESPONSE

### "If it had not been"

If it had not been for the Lord on my side,  
Where would I be? Where would I be? (2x)

He chased my enemies away;  
He gave me sunshine through a cloudy day;  
He rocked me in the cradle of his arms,  
When he knew I had been battered by the storm.

He's never left me all alone;  
He gave me peace and joy I've never known;  
He heard me when I came to him to pray,  
And the Lord came and showed me the way.

Traditional

## MINISTRY TESTIMONY

### OFFERTORY

*To donate to ACC visit [astoriachurch.org](http://astoriachurch.org) or  
mail to PO Box 2102, LIC, NY 11102*

### SCRIPTURE READING Romans 12:1-8 NIV

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**MESSAGE** "Finding your place" J. David Ellis

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

### MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

#### "Take my life and let it be"

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee,  
Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing,  
Always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee,  
Filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as thou shalt choose,  
Every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
It shall be thy royal throne.  
It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take my self, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for thee,  
Ever, only, all for thee.

HENDON; Havergal

### BENEDICTION Hebrews 13:20-21

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. 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](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org) to be added to our email list. We send out a weekly electronic newsletter.

**PASTOR DAVID IS AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH YOU:** If you have questions about ACC, a theological question or any other personal matter, Pastor David is available for Zoom meetings or outdoor coffee meetings. Give him a call or text him at 917-992-7062 to set up a meeting.

**INTRO TO ACC SEMINAR: Saturdays, September 12 & 19, 4:00-5:30pm. (Location & format TBD)** A two-session class for those interested in membership at ACC or in learning more about the church. Sign up information coming soon. Email Andrea at [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org) with questions.

**FALL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASS:**  
"Core Christianity 101" **Sundays, 5:00pm, starting September 20 (Location & format TBD).**

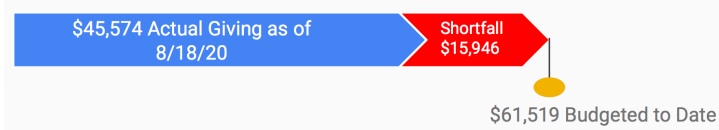
If you are a Christian, you likely pray, go to church, and read your Bible on a regular basis. Still, with all the busyness of life, you may not be exactly sure how your faith fits into everything you are doing each day. This ten-session class, based on a book by Michael Horton, is designed to help you understand the reason for your hope as a Christian. Delving into the core truths of the Christian faith will equip you to more fully experience the joy God has for you in Jesus Christ and encourage you to have the confidence to share your faith with others. Sign up information coming soon. Email Andrea at [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org) with questions.

**OUTDOOR COMMUNION SERVICES:** We have had 3 outdoor communion services at Rainey Park and Astoria Park so far this month! Please join us for the remaining date in August: **Saturday 8/29 at 10AM at Astoria Park. We are adding 3 services in September: 9/11 at 6:30PM at Rainey Park, 9/19 at 10AM at Astoria Park and 9/26 at 10AM at Astoria Park.** Masks and social distancing required. Bring a chair or choose to stand. Limited to 20 people due to park regulations. We will cancel in the event of rain. Please see our website and newsletter for the EventBrite links to sign up.

**FELLOWSHIP TIME OVER ZOOM:** Please join us for some fellowship time over Zoom right after the Sunday service from 12:30 – 1:30PM. We continue to connect with each other through sharing, guest speakers, small group times and more. The link to join is in your Sunday morning email.

**OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT! PRAYER MEETINGS:** We continue to pray together on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7PM. Links to those meetings are emailed out in advance. Check your promotions and spam folders in case they get filed there.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** See below for an update on how we are doing financially. Thank you to all who are [giving online](#) and sending in checks to our PO Box while we are not meeting in person. We're so thankful for your generosity! Our mailing address is Astoria Community Church to PO Box 2102, Astoria, NY. 11102. Thank you!



**MEMBER NEWS:** Email [David@astoriachurch.org](mailto:David@astoriachurch.org) or [Andrea@astoriachurch.org](mailto:Andrea@astoriachurch.org) with your news!

## WELCOME TO ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORSHIP: Sundays, 9:30AM (mixed style) & 11:15AM (contemporary)  
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))  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Jeffrey Choi ([jeffrey@astoriachurch.org](mailto:jeffrey@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

Programs are available on Sundays for babies through 5th grade. Our Youth Group meets on Fridays. See below for more info.

**Babies - Toddlers: Laurel Daniels** (both services)  
([acckids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:acckids@astoriachurch.org))

**Pre-K - Grade 2: Laurel Daniels** (11:15 service only, no class on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month) ([acckids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:acckids@astoriachurch.org))

**Grades 3 - 5: Bryan Taylor** (in between services)  
([bryantaylor@astoriachurch.org](mailto:bryantaylor@astoriachurch.org))

**Grades 6 - 12: Jeffrey Choi** (Fridays, Sept – June)  
([jeffrey@astoriachurch.org](mailto:jeffrey@astoriachurch.org))

#### Community Groups

Small groups that meet in homes 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: [women@astoriachurch.org](mailto:women@astoriachurch.org)  
Info for men, contact: [mensministry@astoriachurch.org](mailto:mensministry@astoriachurch.org)