

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

August 30, 2020
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“The cross is a paradoxical religious symbol because it *inverts* the world’s value system with the news that hope comes by way of defeat, that suffering and death do not have the last word, that the last shall be first and the first last.”
-- James H. Cone

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 105:1-6

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

People: **Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.**

Leader: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

People: **Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.**

Leader: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

All: **Praise the LORD!**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Jesus shall reign”

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown his head;
His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The pris'ner leaps to loose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen! **DUKE STREET; Watts**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION *Please reflect on each of the Ten Commandments after it is read.*

You shall have no other gods before me.
You shall not make for yourself an idol.
You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness.
You shall not covet.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Galatians 4:4-7

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba*, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“How deep the Father’s love for us”

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That he would give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My guilt upon his shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no pow'rs, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 15:15-21

LORD, you understand;
remember me and care for me.
Avenge me on my persecutors.
You are long-suffering—do not take me away;
think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.
When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty.
I never sat in the company of revelers,
never made merry with them;
I sat alone because your hand was on me
and you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unending
and my wound grievous and incurable?
You are to me like a deceptive brook,
like a spring that fails.
Therefore this is what the LORD says:
“If you repent, I will restore you
that you may serve me;
if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,
you will be my spokesman.
Let this people turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.
I will make you a wall to this people,
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you
but will not overcome you,
for I am with you
to rescue and save you,” declares the LORD.
“I will save you from the hands of the wicked
and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING Romans 12:9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in

prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

“What wondrous love is this?”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this,

That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul,

for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down,

Sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down,

Beneath God's righteous frown

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing

While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free,

I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,

And thru eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And thru eternity, I'll sing on! **American folk hymn**

MINISTRY TESTIMONY

OFFERTORY

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mail to PO Box 2102, LIC, NY 11102*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 16:21-28 NIV

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. ²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" ²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "The necessary cross" J. David Ellis

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

"Jesus, I my cross have taken"

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.

O while thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,
'Twill but drive me to thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me;
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me
While thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with thee.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In thy service, pain is pleasure,
With thy favor, loss is gain
I have called thee Abba Father,
I have stayed my heart on thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station,
Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
Think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee,
Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee,
God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.
Moore; Lyte

BENEDICTION I Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

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. 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.

REOPENING: Please continue to pray for the Session as they make important decisions about reopening. **October 4th is our planned reopening Sunday.**

INTRO TO ACC SEMINAR: Saturdays, September 12 & 19, 4:00-5:30pm. A two-session class for those interested in membership at ACC or in learning more about the church. **Sign up information is on our website and in our weekly newsletter. These sessions will be over Zoom.** Email Andrea at 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 with questions.

ACC MOMS' GROUP: The ACC Moms' group meets every Wednesday at 10AM over Zoom. Any interested moms can email Wenjing at wuwenjing.email@gmail.com to find out more information.

OUTDOOR COMMUNION SERVICES: We have had 4 outdoor communion services at Rainey Park and Astoria Park in August! Please join us for 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, blanket 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.

PRAYER MEETINGS: Starting in September, we will continue with one prayer meeting per week. Day of the week to be announced soon.

CHURCH FINANCES: 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 or Andrea at admin@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

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)

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Jeffrey Choi (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)

Pre-K - Grade 2: Laurel Daniels (11:15 service only, no class on the 1st Sunday of the Month) (acckids@astoriachurch.org)

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

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

Community Groups

Small groups that meet in homes 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: women@astoriachurch.org

Info for men, contact: mensministry@astoriachurch.org