

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

September 12, 2021
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“Without theological vision, a vision that wrestles with what it means to be God’s people, in God’s world, under God’s rule, the church inevitably loses both its identity as God’s possession and its purpose as the people and the place where God’s glory is displayed...”

– Michael Lawrence

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 19

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

People: **The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors?

All: **Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (see insert)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION Ephesians 4:30-32

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON from Romans 8

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life sets us free from the law of sin and death. And if the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us, God who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies through the Spirit, who lives in us.

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

Question One from *The Heidelberg Catechism*

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: **That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death, not to myself, but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins, and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil;**

I believe he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation.

Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Goodness of God”

I love you, Lord. Oh your mercy never fails me.
All my days I've been held in your hands.
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head,
I will sing of the goodness of God.

*All my life you have been faithful.
All my life you have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
I will sing of the goodness of God.*

I love your voice. You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night, you are close like no other.
I've known you as a father, I've known you as a friend.
I have lived in the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now;
I give you everything.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Fielding, Johnson, Cash, Ingram

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 116:1-9

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and
my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call
on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol
laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I
pray, save my life!”
Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is
merciful.
The LORD protects the simple; when I was brought
low, he saved me.
Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has
dealt bountifully with you.
For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes
from tears, my feet from stumbling.
I walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING Mark 8:27-38

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

“I love the Lord” (see insert)

PRAYER FOR MINISTRY LEADERS

SCRIPTURE READING I Peter 2:4-10 *NIV*

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸ and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which
is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy
nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare
the praises of him who called you out of darkness into
his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but
now you are the people of God; once you had not
received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “Glory in the church” 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.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“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 he worthy? Is he worthy of all blessing and honor and
glory?

Is he worthy of this? He is.

Andrew Peterson

BENEDICTION Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than
all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at
work within us, to him be glory in the church and in
Christ Jesus throughout all generations, 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 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.

NEW STAFF NEWS: We are pleased to announce that we have hired Annette Scattoni as Children's Ministry Coordinator and JC Cha as Youth Ministry Coordinator. See the newsletter and our website to learn more about them!

YOUTH GROUP: On **Thursday, Sept. 16, 7:30PM** there will be a zoom meeting for parents and teens with JC Cha to discuss plans for the Youth Group. To receive the zoom link, email youth@astoriachurch.org.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS: If you are interested in volunteering for the children's ministry programs (pre-K through 5th grade), please reach out to Annette Scattoni, ackids@astoriachurch.org. We will hold a meeting on **Sunday, October 24th** after church at the church office. **This meeting will be for parents and those interested in being on the volunteer team. Please RSVP to Annette Scattoni.**

FALL COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS: **It's not too late to join a 4-week Community Group to study Bible passages related to ACC's new mission statement.** These groups will discuss ACC's new mission statement and dig into scripture passages that guide and inform our mission statement. **There are 4 groups being offered. See the newsletter or our website for the link to sign up! Or email Andrea at admin@astoriachurch.org.**

OUTREACH MINISTRY ROLES NEEDED: The Outreach Arm of the Diaconate is recruiting for the following people:

- **ESL volunteers** for the Fall trimester which will continue to be remote on Zoom. If you have a love for immigrants and helping them learn conversational English, join the ESL team! Contact Annie Gao at QueensESL@gmail.com.
- **Bible Club Administrative Volunteer:** We are looking for someone who loves emailing and coordinating people for our robust Bible Club ministry. Interested? Questions? Contact Laura at laurakaufmann@gmail.com.
- **Tutoring Program Leader Volunteer:** We are also looking for someone who could lead our tutoring program at the Variety Boys and Girls Club. Contact Laura as well.

PRAYER MEETINGS: Thursdays at 7PM meeting remotely. See weekly newsletter for zoom link. Join us!

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.

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 Building
27-35 Crescent Street, Astoria, NY 11102
MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Andrea Mungo (admin@astoriachurch.org)
PASTOR: J. David Ellis (david@astoriachurch.org)
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Annette Scattoni
(ACCKids@astoriachurch.org)
YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: JC Cha
(youth@astoriachurch.org)



Facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch

Our mission is to glorify God by learning of God, living in Christ, and loving God and our neighbors.

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: We hope to relaunch soon. Annette Scattoni, ACCKids@astoriachurch.org

Grades 3 - 5: We hope to relaunch soon. Annette Scattoni, ACCKids@astoriachurch.org

Youth Group - Grades 6 - 12: JC Cha, youth@astoriachurch.org, on Fridays (Sept – June)

Community Groups

Small groups that meet on Zoom and in person for fellowship, study, and prayer. 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