

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

September 27, 2020
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“We cannot expect the world to believe that the Father sent the Son, that Jesus’ claims are true, and that Christianity is true, unless the world sees some reality of the oneness of true Christians.”

– Francis Schaeffer

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 78

Leader: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable; I will
utter dark sayings from of old, things that
we have heard and known, that our
ancestors have told us.

People: **We will not hide them from their
children; we will tell to the coming
generation the glorious deeds of the
LORD, and his might, and the wonders
that he has done.**

Leader: In the sight of their ancestors he worked
marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of
Zoan. He divided the sea and let them pass
through it, and made the waters stand like a
heap. In the daytime he led them with a
cloud, and all night long with a fiery light.

People: **He split rocks open in the wilderness, and
gave them drink abundantly as from the
deep. He made streams come out of the
rock, and caused waters to flow down like
rivers.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art”

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
My only trust and Savior of my heart,
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
Reigning omnipotent in every place;
So come, O King, and our whole being sway;
Shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

Thou art the Life, by which alone we live,
And all our substance and our strength receive;
O comfort us in death’s approaching hour,
Strong-hearted then to face it by thy power.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,
No harshness hast thou and no bitterness:
Make us to taste the sweet grace found in thee
And ever stay in thy sweet unity.
Our hope is in no other save in thee;
Our faith is built upon thy promise free;
O grant to us such stronger hope and sure
That we can boldly conquer and endure.

TOULON; Strasbourg Psalter

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION Psalm 25:6-7

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your
steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not
remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for
your goodness sake, O LORD!

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Luke 1:77-79

He gives his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of our sins, because of the
tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will
come to us from heaven to shine on those living in
darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet
into the path of peace.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“There is a redeemer”

There is a redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my redeemer, name above all names.
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Hope for all sinners, slain.

When I stand in glory I will see his face,
There I’ll serve my King forever in that holy place.

Melody Green - CCLI#20219511

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you
people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of
Israel: ‘The parents eat sour grapes, and the
children’s teeth are set on edge’? As surely as I live,
declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer

quote this proverb in Israel. For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die... Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust? Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone,” declares the Sovereign LORD. “Repent and live!”

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

GOSPEL READING Matthew 21:23-32

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they

answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.”

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

EPISTLE READING Philippians 2:1-13

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,
 did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
 rather, he made himself nothing
 by taking the very nature of a servant,
 being made in human likeness.
 And being found in appearance as a man,
 he humbled himself
 by becoming obedient to death—
 even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
 and gave him the name that is above every name,
 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.
 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

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

SONG OF RESPONSE

“They’ll know we are Christians by our love”

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land.

We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.

Peter Scholtes - CCLI#20219511

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OFFERTORY

*To donate to ACC visit astoriachurch.org or
mail to PO Box 2102, LIC, NY 11102*

SCRIPTURE READING John 17:20-26 NIV

²⁰“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will

continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “United in Christ” J. David Ellis

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“The church's one foundation”

The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is his new creation
By water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her
And for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation,
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed:
Yet saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song!

The church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish,
Is with her to the end:
Though there be those who hate her,
And false sons in her pale,
Against or foe or traitor
She ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;

Till, with the vision glorious,
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won,
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee. AURELIA; Stone

BENEDICTION I Thessalonians 3:12-13
May the Lord make your love increase and overflow
for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does
for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you
will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God
and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his
holy ones.

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.

REOPENING – OCTOBER 4TH AT 10:30AM: WE ARE SO EXCITED TO WORSHIP TOGETHER AGAIN IN PERSON! If you haven't seen the ACC Reopening Video, check it out on our website or in your weekly newsletter. Or email Andrea at admin@astoriachurch.org. **SEE YOU ON OCTOBER 4TH!**

SHORT-TERM COMMUNITY GROUPS: Starting in October, we will have community groups running for 8-week sessions to discuss the new sermon series starting in October on the book of Colossians. **There are 3 groups to choose from: Tuesdays at 7:30PM, Wednesdays at 7PM and Sundays at 6:30PM.** These groups will all be remote meetings on Zoom. If you are interested in joining one, please contact David at david@astoriachurch.org.

PRAYER MEETINGS: Starting this month, we will have one weekly prayer meeting on Thursdays at 7PM. Please join us to lift our prayers up to our good Father! This Thursday 10/1 David will be sharing from his sermon today. The link for this Zoom meeting is sent separately in weekly emails.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR: For 4 years now, church leaders and other members have been reading through the same daily bible reading plan, starting every October 1st. It is thematic and the themes and connections are different each year. If you would like to join in, please email Andrea at admin@astoriachurch.org and she will send you the plan and add you to the Excel spreadsheet.

YOUTH GROUP PLANS: Our youth group is for 6th through 12th grade students. Plans are being made to start up again **Friday, October 2nd!** If you have a student in any of these grades, especially those entering 6th grade, and are not already on our YG email list, please contact Pastor Jeffrey at jeffrey@astoriachurch.org.

FELLOWSHIP TIME OVER ZOOM: Please join us for our last fellowship time over Zoom right after this Sunday's service from 12:30 – 1:30PM. The link to join is in your Sunday morning email. It has been so fun to do this throughout these months!

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! We are significantly behind in our budget so if you haven't given your tithe recently, please do. Look for an update next week in our newsletter. 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 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