

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

August 9, 2020
www.AstoriaChurch.org

REFLECTION

“We must dare to pray even as we doubt... True faith is like a light that begins to flicker, however faintly, in the darkness that beckons us to pray even when we can hardly find the faith to pray.” – Jerry Sittser

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 85

Leader: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

People: **Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

People: **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

All: **The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“How firm a foundation”

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled.

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

When through fiery trials your pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

E'en down to old age all my people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

FOUNDATION; Rippon

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION I John 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON I Corinthians 15:54-57

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”
“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Living hope”

How great the chasm that lay between us.
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke your name into the night.

Then through the darkness your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven.
The King of kings calls me his own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm yours forever.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken ev'ry chain.
There's salvation in your name.
Jesus Christ my living hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.

Jesus, yours is the victory!
Jesus Christ, my living hope.
Oh God, you are my living hope.

Wickham and Johnson CCLI#20219511

OLD TESTAMENT READING I Kings 19:9-18
There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one

left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

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

EPISTLE READING Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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

SONG OF RESPONSE

"He will hold me fast"

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.*

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost, his promises shall last;
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.

For my life he bled and died, he will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied, he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last!

Ada Habershon and Mathew Merker CCLI#20219511

OFFERTORY

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

“The fearsome trail”

Your Word has come in very many ways:
Through prophet, sage, and Virgin Mother's song,
In mountain cold or fiery desert blaze,
By infant voice or mighty angel throng.

An ass disclosed your will to Balaam's eye,
A desert bush drew Moses to your place,
Old Anna said the promised time was nigh,
And John saw through the clouds of time and space.
*May Word and sacrament your presence show
A glimpse of loving-kindness through the veil,
Or point the way of truth that we may know,
And knowing you not shun the fearsome trail.*

Let none pass by and scorn your bleeding word.
For, nailed to cross or humbly spoken out,
Or wrapped in shroud and in a tomb interred,
The Word is God in whisper or in shout.
*Let sages' word and holy prophets' call
Your church uphold, your people keep in peace.
Let gospel hope and worldly kingdoms' fall
Our faith confirm and loving trust increase.*

*May Word and sacrament your presence show
A glimpse of loving-kindness through the veil,
Or point the way of truth that we may know,
And knowing you not shun the fearsome trail.*

Liturgical Folk CCLI#20219511

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 14:22-33 NIV

²²Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” ²⁸“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” ³²And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “Trusting God in the storm”

J. David Ellis

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“Be still, my soul”

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still my soul: your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,
Then shall you better know his love, his heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.
Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay
From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

FINLANDIA; von Schegel

BENEDICTION 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at
all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

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.

WORSHIP REOPENING PLANS: Thank you to everyone

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

WELCOME TO