

# ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

September 13, 2020  
www.AstoriaChurch.org

## REFLECTION

“Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord.”

– J.I. Packer

## CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 103:1-7

**Leader:** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**People:** **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,**

**Leader:** Who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

**People:** **Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

**Leader:** The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

**All:** **He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

“Bless the Lord”

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And all that is within me  
Bless his holy name. (2x)

He has done great things,  
He has done great things,  
He has done great things,  
Bless his holy name.

Andrae Crouch, CCLI# 20219511

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

### CALL TO CONFESSION Romans 8:5

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

## SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON Psalm 103:8-13

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us

according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

“He knows my name”

I have a Maker, he formed my heart.  
Before even time began, my life was in his hand.

*He knows my name;  
He knows my every thought.  
He sees each tear that falls  
And hears me when I call.  
He hears me when I call.*

I have a Father; he calls me his own.  
He'll never leave me, no matter where I go.

Tommy Walker, CCLI# 20219511

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Nicene Creed*

**All: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; born of the Father before all ages, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;**

**who for us men and our salvation came down from heaven. And he became flesh by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried.**

**And on the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. And of his kingdom there will be no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit—the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, and who spoke through the prophets—and one catholic, and apostolic church. I confess one baptism for the**

**forgiveness of sins. And I await the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen!**

**SONG OF RESPONSE**

**“Holy ground”**

This is holy, this is holy ground  
You are holy, you are holy, God.  
This is holy, this is holy ground.  
You are holy, you are with me now.

I wait upon you now,  
Lord, I wait upon you now.  
Let your presence fill me now,  
As I wait upon you now.

My heart cries holy.  
Crocker, Hastings, Fielding, King, CCLI# 20219511

**OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 14:19-31**

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the LORD saved Israel from the

hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

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

**GOSPEL READING Matthew 18:21-35**

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

**EPISTLE READING Romans 14:1-12**

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats

everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

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

**SONG OF RESPONSE**  
**"God of wonders"**

*God of wonders beyond our galaxy,  
You are holy, holy.  
The universe declares your majesty,  
You are holy, holy;  
Lord of heaven and earth,  
Lord of heaven and earth,  
Lord of heaven and earth.*

Lord of all creation,  
Of water, earth and sky.  
The heavens are your tabernacle;  
Glory to the Lord on high.

Early in the morning,  
I will celebrate the light.  
And as I stumble in the darkness,  
I will call your name by night.

Byrd and Hindalong, CCLI# 20219511

**MINISTRY TESTIMONY**

**OFFERTORY**

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

**"Psalm 114"**

*When Israel came out of Egypt: and the house  
of Judah from among the strange people,  
Judah was his sanctuary and Israel his dominion.  
The sea saw that and fled: Jordan was driven back.  
The mountains skipped like rams: and the little hills  
like young sheep.  
What aileth thee O thou sea that thou fleddest: and  
thou Jordan that thou wast driven back?  
Ye mountains that ye skipped like rams: and ye little  
hills, like young sheep?  
Tremble thou earth at the presence of the Lord: at the  
presence of the God of Jacob;  
Who turned the hard rock into standing water: and the  
flintstone into a springing well.  
Glory be to the 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.*

Edward Bairstow

**SCRIPTURE READING** John 17:1-8 NIV

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

<sup>6</sup> "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

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

**MESSAGE** "Knowing God" J. David Ellis

## **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

### **MUSIC OF COMMITMENT**

#### **“O God beyond all praising”**

O God beyond all praising,  
We worship you today  
And sing the love amazing  
That songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder  
At every gift you send,  
At blessings without number  
And mercies without end:  
We lift our hearts before you  
And wait upon your word,  
We honor and adore you,  
Our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior,  
Accept the love we bring,  
That we who know your favor  
May serve you as our King;  
For whether our tomorrows  
Be filled with good or ill,  
We'll triumph through our sorrows  
And rise to bless you still:  
To marvel at your beauty  
And glory in your ways,  
And make a joyful duty  
Our sacrifice of praise.

THAXTED; Perry

### **BENEDICTION**

2 Peter 1:2-3

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

## 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.

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

**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! **Added bonus:** on 9/17, 9/24 & 10/1 David will be sharing from his sermons which will be focused on the Vision & Mission of ACC. The link for this Zoom meeting is sent separately in weekly emails.

### FALL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASS:

*"Core Christianity 101"* **Sundays, 5:00pm, starting September 20 (online participation will be available)**

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 info is available in our newsletter and on our website. Email Andrea at [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org) with questions.

**YOUTH GROUP PLANS:** Our youth group is for 6th through 12th grade students. Plans are being made to start up again **Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**! 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](mailto:jeffrey@astoriachurch.org).

**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](mailto:wuwenjing.email@gmail.com) to find out more information.

**OUTDOOR COMMUNION SERVICES:** Please join us for 2 more services in September. **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.

**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](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org) and she will send you the plan and add you to the Excel spreadsheet.

**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.

**MEMBER NEWS:** Email [David@astoriachurch.org](mailto:David@astoriachurch.org) or Andrea at [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto: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](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)