

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 26, 2025
www.AstoriaChurch.org

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 19

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE

“Jesus shall reign” (see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION from Psalm 19

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

All: The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON I Peter 3:18a

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE “Thy Word”

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.*

When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way,
Still you're there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear

As long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.

I will not forget
Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide,
And hold me to your side.
I will love you to the end.

Grant and Smith

OLD TESTAMENT READING Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-10

All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law....Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING I Corinthians 12:12-31a
Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE “Blessed be your name”
Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where your streams of abundance flow,
Blessed be your name.
Blessed be your name,
When I’m found in the desert place.

Though I walk through the wilderness,
Blessed be your name.

Ev’ry blessing you pour out I’ll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
Still I will say:

*Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be your glorious name.*

Blessed be your name,
When the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's all as it should be,
Blessed be your name.
Blessed be your name on the road marked with
suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering,
Blessed be your name.

You give and take away,
You give and take away,
My heart will choose to say,
Lord, blessed be your name. **Matt and Beth Redman**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY “Psalm 116 (I love you, Lord)”

I love you, Lord, for you have delivered me.
I love you, Lord, for you have delivered
My soul from death, my feet from stumbling,
I will walk in the land of the living.

I will bless you, Lord, for you heard my cry.
I reached out my hand and you saved my life.
I will bless you, Lord, for you heard my plea,
And the God of heaven turned his ear to me.
I will bless you, Lord, for unending love,
For your grace and mercy raining down from above.
And I will bless you, Lord, to the very end.
I will call on you as long as I may live.

Jessica Ray Langdon

SCRIPTURE READING John 3:1-21 *NIV*

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” ³Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” ⁴“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into

their mother's womb to be born!"⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit."⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "Epiphany, Mystery, Miracle: Born Again"
Joe Kickasola

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

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER

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.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Bread is gluten-free.

Outer cups - juice. Inner rings - wine.

"For thine is the kingdom" (see insert)

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

"And can it be" (see insert)

BENEDICTION from Revelation 1

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

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 Hospitality Table or use the QR code to the right or at the HT. We send out a weekly electronic newsletter and other announcement emails.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: TODAY, about 15 minutes after the service ends, our meeting will begin in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new ruling elder and two new trustees for ACC. As a reminder, you must be a member to vote. However, regular attenders are welcome to attend.

WINTER COMMUNITY GROUPS: Community groups just started but it's not too late to sign up! We will be studying what the Bible says about Gospel Centered Work. The Bible offers a rich perspective on work, emphasizing its purpose, dignity, and connection to God's broader mission. Community Groups will run through the week of 4/6/25. Sign up link is in the newsletter.

CG LEADERS AND HOSTS NEEDED: If you would like to host or lead a community group, please reach out to Pastor Jim. We are in need of more hosts and leaders to help with our community group ministry. You can email him at jim@astoriachurch.org.

GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Consider joining the team and hanging out with our children once a month during the service. Speak with Annette or email her at ackkids@astoriachurch.org.

BIBLE CLUB UPDATE AND RECRUITMENT: Bible Club is going very well! We finished the Fall off with a very fun Christmas Party. **We could use a couple more volunteers.** You don't need to come every week and it's only from 6-6:30 on Tuesdays. Please speak with Andrea on Sunday or email her at diaconate@astoriachurch.org if you are interested. Thanks!

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR: Every year at ACC, a group of us individually read through the bible in a year using a thematic format. The Word of God is our primary means of knowing God's will, character, and ways. This can be a great time to grow and learn together. Sign up link is in the newsletter.

CHESS CLUB: Join the Chess Club for their next class on **Saturday, February 8th from 2-4PM.** Note the time change. Speak with Eddie or email him at bkln645@gmail.com with any questions. All are welcome!

NEW CHILDREN TO GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Please bring your child up the first time your child attends Sunday school class to fill out a brief registration form.

WELCOME TO ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

WORSHIP: Sundays, 10:30AM (Mixed Style) MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2102, Astoria, NY 11102

WORSHIP and OFFICE LOCATION: Astoria Center of Israel Building
27-35 Crescent Street, Astoria, NY 11102

ESL and YOUTH GROUP LOCATION: Astoria First Art House
23-35 Broadway, Ground Floor Offices, btw 23rd and Crescent Streets,
West Entrance

PHONE: 718-721-3440

WEBSITE: www.astoriachurch.org

SENIOR PASTOR: Jim Fredere (jim@astoriachurch.org)

WORSHIP DIRECTOR: Linnea Kickasola (music@astoriachurch.org)

MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Andrea Mungo (admin@astoriachurch.org)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Annette Scattoni
(ACCKids@astoriachurch.org)

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: George Dimitriadis
(youth@astoriachurch.org)

[Instagram.com/astoriacomunitychurch](https://www.instagram.com/astoriacomunitychurch)

[Facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch](https://www.facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch)

Communication Card QR Code:



Helpful Information:

Children and Youth Ministries

We provide nursery during our worship service. Two Sunday School classes happen on Sunday mornings. Our Youth Group meets on Fridays Sept - June. The last Sunday of every month is Family Sunday (no classes provided) and a children's bulletin is provided. See below for more info.

God's Seeds: During worship. Nursery is provided for **newborns – 3 year olds.** New Parents must register in advance. Link is in the newsletter. Andrea Mungo, admin@astoriachurch.org.

God's Seedlings (Age 3- Grade 5): During worship Sunday School class. Annette Scattoni, ackkids@astoriachurch.org.

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

Community Groups

Small groups that meet on Zoom and in person for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. Email jim@astoriachurch.org for info.

Financial Need

Members of the Diaconate team are available to meet with you if you have a financial need. Please email diaconate@astoriachurch.org or call 718-721-3440.

English as a Second Language Classes

Saturdays 10-11:30AM (on zoom) and Wednesdays 6:30 – 8PM (in person) Info: QueensESL@gmail.com

Outreach and Helps Ministries

If you have a practical need, email Helps@astoriachurch.org. For the **Meals Ministry**, email accmeals@gmail.com. For info on service opportunities email diaconate@astoriachurch.org.

Men's and Women's Ministry

Info for women, contact: women@astoriachurch.org

Info for men, contact: raulwrojas@gmail.com or gianlu19@gmail.com