

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 5, 2025
Epiphany Sunday
www.AstoriaChurch.org

CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 60:1-6

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

People: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

People: Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

Leader: A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE

“The people who in darkness walked”

The people who in darkness walked
Have seen a glorious light;
On them broke forth the heavenly dawn
Who dwelt in death and night.

To hail thy rising, Sun of life,
The gathering nations come,
Joyous as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home.

To us the promised Child is born,
To us the Son is given;
Him shall the tribes of earth obey,
And all the hosts of heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace
For evermore adored,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The mighty God and Lord.

His power increasing still shall spread,
His reign no end shall know;
Justice shall guard his throne above,
And peace abound below. **DUNDEE; Morison**

EPIPHANY READING Matthew 2:1-12 *NIV*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Children, go where I send thee”

*Children, go where I send thee.
How shall I send thee?*

*I'm gonna send you one by one,
One for the itty-bitty baby
Born, born, born in Bethlehem.*

*Children, go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?*

*I'm gonna send you two by two,
Two for Paul and Silas...*

*Children, go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?*

*I'm gonna send you three by three,
Three for the Hebrew children...*

*Children, go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?*

*I'm gonna send you four by four
Four come a-knockin' at the door...*

*Children, go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?*

*Anyway I send you, better go, now,
Anyway I send you, better go, now,
Anyway I send you, better go, now.*

*Go and find that itty-bitty baby
Born, born, born in Bethlehem.*

Yes, he was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Yes, he was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Born in Bethlehem!

Traditional, arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

CALL TO CONFESSION from John 3:19

The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of grace, you have given us Jesus, the light of the world, but we choose darkness and cling to things that hide the brightness of your love. Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life. Baptize us with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may preach your Word to the nations and tell of your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light forever. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON I John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in the darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

SONG OF RESPONSE

"I want to walk as a child of the light"

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The light of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,

And show me the way to the Father.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,

We shall know the joy of Jesus. **Kathleen Thomerson**

Children ages 3-Grade 5 are dismissed for Sunday school.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (see insert)

EPISTLE READING (see insert)

SONG OF RESPONSE "All glory be to Christ"

Should nothing of our efforts stand,

No legacy survive;

Unless the Lord does raise the house,

In vain its builders strive.

To you who boast tomorrow's gain,

Tell me what is your life?

A mist that vanishes at dawn; all glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king!

All glory be to Christ!

His rule and reign we'll ever sing,

All glory be to Christ!

His will be done, his kingdom come,

On earth as is above,

Who is himself our daily bread;

Praise him the Lord of love.

Let living water satisfy

The thirsty without price;

We'll take a cup of kindness yet; all glory be to Christ!

When on the day the great I Am,

The faithful and the true,

The Lamb, who was for sinners slain,

Is making all things new.

Behold our God shall live with us

And be our steadfast light.

And we shall ere his people be; all glory be to Christ!

AULD LANG SYNE; Dunstin Kensrue

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY "What sweeter music"

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol,

For to sing the birth of this our heavenly King?

Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,

And give the honor to this day

That sees December turn'd to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn smile,

Like a field beset with corn?

Or smell like a meadow newly shorn

*Thus on the sudden?
Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth
Gives life and lustre,
Public mirth, to heaven and the underearth.
We see him come and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his show'rs,
Turns all the patient ground to flow'rs.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room to welcome him.
The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give him;
And bequeath this holly and this ivy wreath,
To do him honor; who's our King
And Lord of all this revelling.*

John Rutter; Robert Herrick

SCRIPTURE READING (see insert)

MESSAGE "Using the gift" Robert Tanzie

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Great is thy faithfulness" (see insert) xs

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.

"Joy has dawned" (see insert)

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT "The first Nowell"

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

Choir only: *They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far:
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:*

All: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:

Choir only: *This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:*

All: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offer'd there in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:

English traditional carol

BENEDICTION

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the gospel. 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 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: Please mark your calendars for a congregational meeting on **January 26, 2025** immediately after the service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new ruling elder and new trustees for ACC. As a reminder, you must be a member to vote.

WINTER COMMUNITY GROUPS: Join us this winter as we look at Gospel Centered Work. The Bible offers a rich perspective on work, emphasizing its purpose, dignity, and connection to God's broader mission. Let's gather for a time of study, prayer, and fellowship. Community Groups will run through the weeks of 1/19/25 - 4/6/25. Please use the link in the newsletter to sign up.

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. We keep track of our progress on a shared google spreadsheet and add comments and questions along the way. 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.**

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.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS: Please bring non perishable, microwavable food to donate to the Hour Children Food Pantry. Place in the bright green bin in the lobby.

MEMBER AND REGULAR ATTENDER NEWS: We have a place in our newsletter for ACC Members and Regular Attenders to update one another on our lives and to network and share resources. Please email Andrea at admin@astoriachurch.org with any news or networking you have to share!

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