

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent
www.AstoriaChurch.org

ADVENT MEDITATION Matthew 25:31-33, 41-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.... Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

All (Sung response):

*For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait. (2x)
Truly our hope is in you; truly our hope is in you.*

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 22

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!” Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE

“O come, O come, Emmanuel” (see insert)

**Only Choir on verse 3*

CALL TO CONFESSION Isaiah 30:15, 18

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been

shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ADVENT SONG “Wait for the Lord”

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near,
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.
Taizé Community

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Hark! A herald voice is calling”

*Hark! A herald voice is calling:
“Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
“Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!”*

*Wakened by the solemn warning,
Let her earthbound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.*

*Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven.*

*So when next he comes in glory,
Wrapping all the earth in fear;
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.
And with words of love draw near. 6th cent. text; Shephard*

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for

David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING I Thessalonians 3:9-13

For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE "Make a way"

Come, Son of God, and make us new;
Light of the world, our hearts renew.
Hope in our inner darkness lies:
Oh, healing sun of justice rise!

Come, promised since our Eden's end;
Child of the woman, come defend.
Long have we felt the serpent's sting:
Come, strike his head, and mercy bring!

*O make a way! open wide the gates.
O make a way! through the sorrow and the pain.
O make a way! though the road is dark and winding.
O come, come!*

Come, Son of Man, to show the way.
O, through the tears, may we see the day.
So long did we in darkness dwell.
Come down to break the chains of hell!

Bluett, Wardell, Zach

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY "Praise you in the hardship"

Our daily struggles
Feel like war with an army outnumbered;
And our broken bodies
Make it hard to look past what we've suffered.

Yet my heart is glad
And my tongue shall rejoice,
You are with me to the end,
So, I'm raising my voice.

*We will worship you in the hardship;
We will sing with joy, even in our weakness.
We will praise your name, just like Job did,
Even when we're broken.
We won't be fearful for tomorrow,
Because you're with us in all our sorrows.
You're the stronghold for the oppressed
And the shield under which I rest.
We will praise you in the hardship
Oh, oh, oh.
We will praise you in the hardship
Oh, oh, oh.*

Like no other,
Your unfailing love is our rod and our tether.
So, we cling so closely
To the joy that you bring with your mercy

Yet my heart is glad
And my tongue shall rejoice.
You are with me to the end,
So, I'm raising my voice.

Bronwyn Kickasola

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:39-55 *ESV*

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

MESSAGE "Mary's song" Jim Fredere

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.

"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand"

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains, shines one eternal day.
There God the Son forever reigns, and scatters night away.

*I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the Promised Land. (2x)*

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath,
Can reach that healthful shore,
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place, and be forever blessed
When shall I see my Father's face, and in his bosom rest?

Christopher Miner; Samuel Stennett

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

"Come, thou Redeemer of the earth" (see insert)

BENEDICTION I Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

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.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES: The Lessons and Carols service will be **THIS COMING Sunday morning, December 8th** and we will also have a **Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 6PM.**

PCS REMINDER - Q&A SESSIONS WITH JIM: For those with questions for Jim or anyone interested in joining the Q&A session, we have two upcoming opportunities: **Today, December 1st** – Immediately following the service in the Small Chapel. **Thursday, December 5th** – 7:00 PM on the 2nd floor of the synagogue. Feel free to come to either session! Don't forget to come back for the **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on December 8th** after the service. You must be present to vote.

HOURLY CHILDREN HOLIDAY PARTY:

The annual **Holiday Party here in LIC on December 14th!** This event is a fantastic opportunity to give back to the community and spread some holiday cheer. If interested and want to sign up for a 3 hour shift please email Miriam (miriam@astoriachurch.org).

ADVENT OFFERING: We have received \$2,750 in donations! Thank you ACC! Anything donated above \$2,200 will go towards our Missions budget.

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: Giving Tuesday is coming up and so is Thanksgiving. Please bring non perishable, microwavable food to donate to the Hour Children Food Pantry. Place in the bright green bin in the lobby. Thank you!

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

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

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

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Annette Scattoni

(ACCKids@astoriachurch.org)

INTERIM YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Jim Fredere

(jim@astoriachurch.org)

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

[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, acckids@astoriachurch.org.

Youth Group - Grades 6 - 12: Jim Fredere, jim@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