

Astoria Community Church

August 16, 2026
www.AstoriaChurch.org

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 67

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us—so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

People: May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.

Leader: May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.

All: May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION Isaiah 55:7

Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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 “Give us clean hands”

We bow our hearts, we bend our knees;
Oh Spirit, come make us humble.
We turn our eyes from evil things;
Oh Lord, we cast down our idols.

Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts;

Let us not lift our souls to another.

Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts;

Let us not lift our souls to another.

And oh God, let us be a generation that seeks,

That seeks your face, oh God of Jacob;

*And oh God, let us be a generation that seeks,
That seeks your face, oh God of Jacob.*

Charlie Hall

“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! Wickham and Johnson

PASSING THE PEACE

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

This is what the LORD says:

“Maintain justice and do what is right,
for my salvation is close at hand
and my righteousness will soon be revealed....And
foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD
to minister to him,
to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold fast to my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations.”

The Sovereign LORD declares—
he who gathers the exiles of Israel:
“I will gather still others to them
besides those already gathered.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.” Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?” He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.” “Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.” Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.” Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE "Psalm 46"

God is our refuge, our strength and our shield,
An ever present help.
We will not fear though the earth gives way,
And the mountains crash into the sea.

*There is a river whose streams will make glad
The city of our most High King.*

*God is within her, and she will not fail;
He helps her at break of the day.
Be still, and know that I am God (2x).*

Nations in uproar, men’s kingdoms, they fall,
He speaks and the earth melts away.
The worst we imagine, the strongest of storms,
Our fortress, it will still remain.

Come, let us see what the Lord has done,
The ruins he brings to the earth.
He makes wars to cease to the ends of the earth,
He shatters the bow and the spear.

*There is a river whose streams will make glad
The city of our most High King.
God is within her, and she will not fail;
Listen and hear the Lord say:
Be still, and know that I am God (2x).*

Mike Crawford

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 32:22-31 *ESV*

²² The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” ²⁷ And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸ Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.” ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE “Wrestling with God” Pastor Doug Estella

OFFERTORY

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.

Pews will be released from the back by ushers to come forward.

“O, to see the dawn”

O, to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This the pow'r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame bore the wrath,
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

O, to see the pain written on your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed
Crowning your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath
Quakes as its maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life—
Finished! the victory cry.

O, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through your suffr'ing I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through your selfless love!

Final refrain:

*This the pow'r of the cross:
Son of God—slain for us.
What a love, what a cost!*

We stand forgiven at the cross.

Getty; Townend

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“Yet not I, but through Christ in me”

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Savior, he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need his power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,
The future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now, and ever, is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Robinson, Thompson and Farren

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, please email admin@astoriachurch.org to be added to our email list. We send out a weekly electronic newsletter and other announcement emails.

NEED PRAYER?: Leaders will be available up front after the service.

BACK AT THE SYNAGOGUE: We'll be back at the synagogue this coming Sunday, August 23rd at 10:30 a.m. Thanks for your flexibility while they do work on the building.

VACATION BIBLE CLUB: It's still not too late to sign up if you are available one or more evenings. Please see the newsletter to sign up to volunteer and for more details. It is the week of **August 24, every evening from 6-8** at Van Alst playground. Come for one or more evenings! It is a lot of fun!! **We have raised \$224 so far to cover the backpacks! Thank you! We have \$160 more to raise to cover the backpacks.** If you have any questions, reach out to judith.newlin@gmail.com.

INTRODUCTION TO ACC: We hope to see you this fall! This class is designed to help you discover who we are as a church and how you can become part of what God is doing through our community. Together, we'll explore our **mission, vision, and core values**, learn what **church membership** means and why it matters, and discover the many opportunities to **serve** using your gifts to make a difference. Whether you're new to the faith or looking to make this your church home, this class is your next step toward belonging and serving with purpose. The class will meet **via zoom over 2 Sundays, September 6 and 13, 5pm until 6:15pm**. Sign up link will be in the Tuesday newsletter. Questions? Email Jim@astoriachurch.org.

HELP SUPPORT NEIGHBORS WITHOUT KITCHENS: The Hour Children Food Pantry is more than just a source of groceries—it's a lifeline for many families in our community. We are accepting donations of microwavable items every Sunday for the pantry. Items may be dropped off in the box in the lobby. **We need pouches – beans/lentils, salmon, chicken, tuna and noodle soups. NO CANS, NO PEANUT BUTTER & NO COLD CEREAL please.** Questions? Please speak to Miriam or email her at mtielmann@ymail.com. Thank you for your continued generosity and compassion!

MEMBER AND REGULAR ATTENDER NEWS AND NETWORKING: This is a place 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

WORSHIP: Sundays, 10:30AM
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2102, Astoria, NY 11102
WORSHIP and OFFICE LOCATION: Astoria Center of Israel
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: Carin Fredere
(ACCKids@astoriachurch.org)
YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Jim Fredere
(youth@astoriachurch.org)
SAFEGUARDING EMAIL: accsafeguarding@astoriachurch.org

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

Communication Card QR Code



Venmo QR Code



Helpful Information:

God's Seeds: During worship. Nursery is provided for **newborns – 3 year olds**. Andrea Mungo, admin@astoriachurch.org.

God's Seedlings (4K – 3rd Grade): Sunday School class happens 30 minutes into the worship service. Carin Fredere, acckids@astoriachurch.org. (Sept – June)

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