

# ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

September 1, 2024  
www.AstoriaChurch.org

## CALL TO WORSHIP Song of Solomon 2:10-13

**Leader:** My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away, for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

## SONG OF PRAISE

"Arise, my soul, arise" (see insert)

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

## PRAYERS OF PRAISE

## CALL TO CONFESSION Psalm 15

Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary?  
Who may live on your holy hill!  
He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous,  
Who speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue,  
Who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellow man,  
Who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the Lord,  
Who keeps his oath even when it hurts,  
Who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent.  
He who does these things will never be shaken.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

## 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.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

### "You are my king"

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken.  
I'm accepted; you were condemned.  
I'm alive and well, your Spirit is within me  
Because you died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be  
That you, my King, would die for me?  
Amazing love, I know it's true;  
It's my joy to honor you.  
In all I do I honor you. Billy Foote

### "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

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9  
Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you....Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL READING** Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23  
The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?” He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ““These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”... Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”... For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander,

arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE READING** James 1:17-27  
Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**SONG OF RESPONSE “Jesus Messiah”**  
He became sin, who knew no sin;  
That we might become his righteousness;  
He humbled himself, and carried the cross.  
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

*Jesus, Messiah; name above all names;  
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.  
The rescue for sinners,  
The ransom from heaven;  
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.*

His body the bread, his blood the wine  
Broken and poured out, all for love.  
The whole earth trembled,  
And the veil was torn.  
Love so amazing; love so amazing.

All our hope is in you, all our hope is in you;  
All the glory to you, God,  
The light of the world. Tomlin, Carson, Cash, Reeves

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

### OFFERTORY

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ephesians 1:1-10 *ESV*  
Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE** "Seen by God: Forgiven" 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.*

#### "O come to the altar"

Are you hurting and broken within,  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?  
Jesus is calling.  
Have you come to the end of yourself,  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?  
Jesus is calling.

*O come to the altar,  
The Father's arms are open wide;  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ.*

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes,  
Come today there's no reason to wait,  
Jesus is calling.  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy,  
From the ashes a new life is born,  
Jesus is calling.

Oh, what a Savior,  
Isn't he wonderful;  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen.  
Bow down before him,  
For he is Lord of all;  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen.

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown;  
Tell the world of the treasure you've found.

*Brown, Brock, Furtick and Joye*

### MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

"Jesus, what a friend for sinners" (see insert)

### BENEDICTION

 Jude 1:1b-2

To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

## 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. Or fill out a communication card at the Hospitality Table (hard copy or QR code). We send out a weekly electronic newsletter and other announcement emails.

**FALL COMMUNITY GROUPS:** This fall Community Groups will be meeting to study and learn from the book of Daniel. Daniel wrote this book in the 6th century BC while in Babylon in exile. He gives us a picture of his life in exile, and he presents the central theme that God is sovereign over history, empires and kings. Let's learn together and deepen our relationships with God and each other. Community Groups will begin the week of **September 22nd and run for 10 weeks.** Check newsletter to sign up.

**INTRO TO ACC:** Our next Introduction to ACC will be on **Sunday, September 29 and October 6th** via zoom from 5-6:30pm. If you are interested in becoming a member or just learning more about Astoria Community Church, please attend these classes. In our time together, you will learn about ACC's mission, and ways you can grow spiritually and serve the church and community. Check newsletter to sign up. Questions? Email Pastor Jim at [jim@astoriachurch.org](mailto:jim@astoriachurch.org).

**GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** Consider joining the team and hanging out with our children (age 3 - 5th graders) once a month during the service. Please contact Annette at [ackkids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:ackkids@astoriachurch.org) to find out more!

**ESL VOLUNTEERS:** Our ESL classes are starting up again in mid September and could use more help. If you would like to help on **Saturdays (Zoom) 10-11:30AM** and/or **Wednesdays in person from 6:30 - 8PM**, please contact Al at [Queensesl@gmail.com](mailto:Queensesl@gmail.com).

**THE YOUTH GROUP NEEDS YOU:** Do you enjoy working with youth? Would you like to serve the youth of ACC? We need more volunteers to assist the youth group beginning in mid September. The youth meet on **Friday evenings from 6:30-8:30.** You do not need to commit to every Friday. If you have one Friday a month to give, would you consider serving with us? If you are interested please reach out to Pastor Jim at [jim@astoriachurch.org](mailto:jim@astoriachurch.org).

**BIBLE CLUB ORIENTATION AND PRAYER WALK:** Please join us on **September 8th after the service at 12 noon** to learn more about how Bible Club is run. We will walk to the community center where we will be holding Bible club this Fall and then walk/pray through Astoria Houses. Lunch included. Sign up link is in the newsletter.

**CIVIC DISCIPLINES CLASS:** What does it look like to act Christianly in politics? The aim is not uniformity in political opinion but unity in Christ-centered thought and action. Our political activity should reflect both love for neighbors and adherence to biblical truths. Join us for a Christian Education class using the AND Campaign's curriculum. **Dates are September 22, 29, October 6, 13 & 20 after the service from 12:30 - 2PM in the chapel.** Go grab some lunch and come back for class! See the newsletter for the sign up link.

## 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](http://www.astoriachurch.org)

INTERIM PASTOR: Jim Fredere ([jim@astoriachurch.org](mailto:jim@astoriachurch.org))  
MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Andrea Mungo ([admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org))  
WORSHIP DIRECTOR: Linnea Kickasola ([music@astoriachurch.org](mailto:music@astoriachurch.org))  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Annette Scattoni  
([ACCKids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:ACCKids@astoriachurch.org))  
INTERIM YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Jim Fredere  
([jim@astoriachurch.org](mailto:jim@astoriachurch.org))  
[Instagram.com/astoriacomunitychurch](https://www.instagram.com/astoriacomunitychurch)  
[Facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch](https://www.facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch)

### 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](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org).

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

**Youth Group - Grades 6 - 12:** JC Jim Fredere, [jim@astoriachurch.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:QueensESL@gmail.com)

#### Outreach and Helps Ministries

If you have a practical need, email [Helps@astoriachurch.org](mailto:Helps@astoriachurch.org). For the **Meals Ministry**, email [accmeals@gmail.com](mailto:accmeals@gmail.com). For info on service opportunities email [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: [raulwrojas@gmail.com](mailto:raulwrojas@gmail.com) or [gianlu19@gmail.com](mailto:gianlu19@gmail.com)