

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

September 29, 2024
www.AstoriaChurch.org

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 124

Leader: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—let Israel now say—if it had not been the LORD who was on our side when people rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.

All: Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth! We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped! Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE

“Have you not known” (see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION Acts 3:19-20

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

SILENT CONFESSION

SONG OF CONFESSION “Trisagion” (see insert)

Holy God, holy and mighty,
Holy Immortal one, have mercy,
Have mercy on us. (3x)

Fernando Ortega

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Romans 6:18

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

SONG OF RESPONSE “Heal us”

*Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are,
We long to feel thy touch.
Deep wounded souls to thee we fly,
O Savior, hear our cry.*

Our faith is feeble, we confess;
We faintly trust thy word.
But will you pity us the less?
Be that far from you, Lord.

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief.
“Lord, I believe,” with tears, he cried,
“O, help my unbelief!”

She, too, who touched you in the press,
And healing virtue stole
Was answered, “Daughter, go in peace,
Thy faith has made thee whole.”

Like her, with hopes and fears we come
To touch you, if we may.
O, send us not despairing home;
Send none unhealed away.

Twit, Morton; Cowper

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Question One from

The Heidelberg Catechism

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death, not to myself, but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins, and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; I believe he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

SONG OF RESPONSE “Jesus loves me” (see insert)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Esther 7:1-6, 9-10,9:20-22

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me -- that is my petition -- and the lives of my people -- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace, but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to

Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and an enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen....Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very pole that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hung Haman on the pole that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated....Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday, that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Mark 9:38-50

"Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us." "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward. "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where
"the worms that eat them do not die,
and the fire is not quenched."

Everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty

again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE "If it had not been"

If it had not been for the Lord on my side,
Where would I be? Where would I be? (2x)

He chased my enemies away;
He gave me sunshine through a cloudy day;
He rocked me in the cradle of his arms,
When he knew I had been battered by the storm.

He's never left me all alone;
He gave me peace and joy I've never known;
He heard me when I came to him to pray,
And the Lord came and showed me the way.

Margaret Douroux

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

SCRIPTURE READING Daniel 1 *NIV*

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. ³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— ⁴ young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ⁵ The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. ⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. ⁸ But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. ⁹ Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰ but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and

drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,¹² “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.”¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.”¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.¹⁷ To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.¹⁸ At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.¹⁹ The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service.²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.²¹ And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “Living faithfully in exile” 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.*

“All the poor and powerless”

All the poor and powerless,
 And all the lost and lonely,
 And all the thieves will come confess
 And know that you are holy,
 And know that you are holy.

*And all will sing out hallelujah,
 And we will cry out hallelujah.*

All the hearts who are content
 And all who feel unworthy,
 And all who hurt with nothin' left
 Will know that you are holy.

Shout it, go on and scream it from the mountains;
 Go on and tell it to the masses,
 That he is God.

We will sing out hallelujah
 And we will cry out hallelujah.
 We will sing out hallelujah
 And shout!

Jordan and Leonard

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“Guide me, O thou great Jehovah” (see insert)

BENEDICTION Ephesians 2:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14
 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God....May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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 (hard copy or QR code). We send out a weekly electronic newsletter and other announcement emails.

DIAPER/ BABY WIPE DRIVE: The youngest generation in our community needs your help. Beginning next Sunday for the whole **month of October** we are going to be collecting diapers and baby wipes for the Hour Children community in LIC. We are looking for **specific sizes 2, 3 and 4** for these rapidly growing little ones. Any questions please see Miriam or email her at miriam@astoriachurch.org.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT: We invite those of us in our 50's, 60's, 70's and older to a book launch event on **Friday, October 25th from 2-3:30** at Fabrik (12-16 Vestry St 4th Floor, New York, NY 10013) Book title is **Beyond: Create a Life You Love Beyond 50, 60, 70 and More** written by some Cru staff women. Email Andrea at clarkmungo@gmail.com if you plan to go.

INTRO TO ACC: Our next Introduction to ACC will be on **today, September 29th and October 6th via zoom from 5-6:30pm (two part series.)** If you are interested in becoming a member or just learning more about Astoria Community Church, please sign up in the newsletter or email Pastor Jim at jim@astoriachurch.org.

FALL CHURCH POTLUCK: Please join us for another fun-filled ACC potluck / family dinner! **Saturday, October 12th, 6:30 - 8:30pm.** We'll be gathering at a new location, Astoria First, 2335 Broadway (between Crescent & 23rd street). Signup sheet can be found in the newsletter.

CIVIC DISCIPLINES CLASS: What does it look like to act Christianly in politics? Join us in the chapel **through October 20th from 12:30 - 2PM.** Grab some lunch and come back for class.

FALL COMMUNITY GROUPS: CGs have started up again! It's not too late to join one. We are studying the book of Daniel. Sign up link is in the newsletter.

YOUTH GROUP IS BACK! All youth grades 6th - 12th have started meeting on Fridays at 6:30PM. Our new ministry location is Astoria First Art House at 23-35 Broadway, west entrance, between Crescent and 23rd Street. Questions? Speak to Pastor Jim on Sunday or email him at jim@astoriachurch.org.

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.

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/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.

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