

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

September 8, 2024
www.AstoriaChurch.org

CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 35:4-7

Leader: Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”

People: Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Leader: Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE

“O for a thousand tongues to sing”

O, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!
My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of thy name.

*O, for a thousand, O, for a thousand,
O, for a thousand tongues to sing!*

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease
‘Tis music in the sinner’s ears.
‘Tis life and health and peace.
He breaks the power of reigning sin,
He sets the pris’ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me

He speaks, and list’ning to his voice,
New life the dead receive
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
The humble poor believe.
Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
Your loosen’d tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy! **James Ward; Charles Wesley**

CALL TO CONFESSION II Corinthians 5:15

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

SPOKEN CONFESSION

All: O Lord, this week I have lived for myself and not for you. I have not loved the things you love and hated the things you hate. Forgive me, for your mercy’s sake.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON II Corinthians 5:17, 21
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“There’s a wideness in God’s mercy”

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There’s a kindness in his justice
Which is more than liberty.
There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of our mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple
We should take him at his word,
And our lives would all be resting
In the goodness of our Lord.

But we make his love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify its strictness
With a zeal he does not own.
Was there ever kindest shepherd
Half so gentle, half so sweet,
As the Savior who would have us
Come and gather round his feet?
Fearful souls, why will you scatter
Like a crowd of frightened sheep?

Foolish hearts, why will you wander
From a love so true and deep?
There is welcome for the sinner
And a promised grace made good;
There is mercy with the Savior,
There is healing in his blood. **ST HELENA; Faber**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 146
Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul.
I will praise the LORD all my life;
 I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
Do not put your trust in princes,
 in human beings, who cannot save.
When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
 on that very day their plans come to nothing.
Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
 whose hope is in the LORD their God.
He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
 the sea, and everything in them—
 he remains faithful forever.
He upholds the cause of the oppressed
 and gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets prisoners free,
 the LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
 the LORD loves the righteous.
The LORD watches over the foreigner
 and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
 but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.
The LORD reigns forever,
 your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD.

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

EPISTLE READING James 2:1-17
My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you

belong? If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

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

SONG OF RESPONSE “The fearsome trail”
Your Word has come in very many ways:
Through prophet, sage, and Virgin Mother’s song,
In mountain cold or fiery desert blaze,
By infant voice or mighty angel throng.

An ass disclosed your will to Balaam’s eye,
A desert bush drew Moses to your place,
Old Anna said the promised time was nigh,
And John saw through the clouds of time and space.

*May Word and sacrament your presence show
A glimpse of loving-kindness through the veil,
Or point the way of truth that we may know,
And knowing you not shun the fearsome trail.*

Let none pass by and scorn your bleeding word.
For, nailed to cross or humbly spoken out,
Or wrapped in shroud and in a tomb interred,
The Word is God in whisper or in shout.

*Let sages’ word and holy prophets’ call
Your church uphold, your people keep in peace.
Let gospel hope and worldly kingdoms’ fall
Our faith confirm and loving trust increase.*

*May Word and sacrament your presence show
A glimpse of loving-kindness through the veil,
Or point the way of truth that we may know,
And knowing you not shun the fearsome trail.*

Liturgical Folk

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY “All the way my Savior leads me”

All the way my Savior leads me,
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy,
Who through life has been my guide.
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in him, in him to dwell,
For I know whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me,
Cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial,
Feeds me with the living bread;
Though my weary steps may falter,
And my soul, my soul athirst may be,
Gushing from the rock before me,
Lo! a spring of joy I see.

When my spirit clothed immortal
Wings its flight to realms of day,
This my song through endless ages,
“Jesus led me all the way,
Jesus led me all the way.” Greg Sewell; Fanny Crosby

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 7:24-37 NIV

²⁴ Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. ²⁵ In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. ²⁶ The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ “First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” ²⁸ “Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹ Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰ She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹ Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³² There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. ³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “*Ephphatha!*” (which means “Be opened!”). ³⁵ At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “Jesus does all things well”

Rev. Doug Estella

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.

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“It is well with my soul” (see insert)

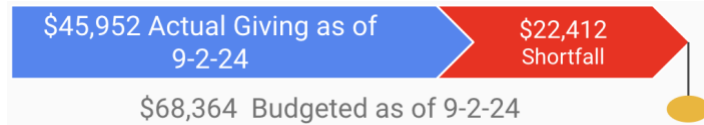
BENEDICTION Hebrews 13:20-21

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. 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 (hard copy or QR code). We send out a weekly electronic newsletter and other announcement emails.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: The below bar graph shows where we are at with our current fiscal year - giving and budget. Stay tuned for a **congregational meeting in October** where we will give a full report about our last fiscal year and our current budget. Date TBD.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - there is something for everyone!:

- **HOOR CHILDREN** - is looking for helpers to clean out a garage in the Hour Flushing House on Saturday, **September 14th from 11-3PM**. Anyone interested can speak to Miriam to get more info or email her at miriam@astoriachurch.org.
- **YOUTH GROUP** - Hang out with our youth once or twice a month! Reach out to Jim in person or at jim@astoriachurch.org.
- **ESL** - Meet some of our neighbors on **Wed evenings** in person or **Saturday mornings** on Zoom. See or email AI at Queensesl@gmail.com.
- **GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** - Consider joining the team and hanging out with our children once a month during the service. Speak with Annette or email her at acckids@astoriachurch.org.
- **BIBLE CLUB** - Attend the orientation and prayer walk **TODAY** right after the service. Lunch provided!

CHESS CLUB IS BACK! Eddie and his team will be offering Chess Club starting **Saturday, September 21st from 2-4PM** at **Astoria First Art House at 23-35 Broadway**. Please reach out to Eddie at bkln645@gmail.com to let him know you will be coming! The other dates are October 19th and November 16th. All are welcome from young kids to the young at heart!

FALL COMMUNITY GROUPS: CGs are starting up again the week of **September 22nd**. We'll be studying the book of Daniel. 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.

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. Sign up link is in the newsletter Questions? Email Pastor Jim at jim@astoriachurch.org.

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: JC 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