

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter
www.AstoriaChurch.org

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: You have turned our mourning into dancing; you have removed our sackcloth and clothed us with joy, that our hearts may sing your praises and not be silent.

People: O Lord, our Lord, we will give thanks to you forever!

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

SONG OF PRAISE

“Jesus Christ is risen today” (see insert)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

EASTER READING John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION I John 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON I Peter 1:18-21

You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“How deep the Father’s love for us”

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That he would give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My guilt upon his shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life

I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no pow'rs, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend

PASSING THE PEACE

Children 4K - 3rd Grade are dismissed for Sunday school.

EPISTLE READING I Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”
and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE “You have called us”

You have called us out of darkness,
Out of darkness into your marvelous light.
You have saved us from the darkness;
We rejoice in your power and might. (2x)

We are chosen race, a royal priesthood
By your grace we are a holy nation,
Set apart by you.

We are to take your light
To every nation, tongue, and tribe;

So they may see your glory,
Shining thru our lives

Lynn DeShazo and Martin Nystrom

“Cornerstone”

My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

Christ alone. Cornerstone.

Weak made strong in the Savior's love.

Through the storm, he is Lord,

Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found.
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

Mote and Bradbury, arr. Liljero, Myrin, Morgan

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING II Corinthians 8:1-15 *ESV*

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶ Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. ⁸ I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. ¹⁰ And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. ¹¹ So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. ¹² For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. ¹³ For I do not mean

that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴ your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. ¹⁵ As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "Giving is a Gift" Alan Charnock

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.*

"The beauty of the heart of Christ"

May my life carry the heart of Christ,
Lord, in all I say and all that I do.
Selfless love, lowly in sacrifice,
Laying down my pride, nothing to prove.

*Now that I have seen, now that I have tasted,
Of your mercy, of your love divine,
May my life be full, full of one thing only,
Just the beauty of the heart of Christ,
Just the beauty of the heart of Christ.*

For the least of these, even my enemies,
Who am I to dare, dare to withhold
What I've received, forgiveness and grace so free?
Let your fire in me never grow cold.

Oh, what a privilege, oh, what an honor it is,
No joy greater than this, to carry your heart,
Carry your heart. Wong, Timmons, Ryan

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

"This is the feast" (see insert)

BENEDICTION I Thessalonians 3:12-13

And may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow with love for one another and for everyone, just as we do for you. May he make your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Amen.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Hospitality Team, Seedlings Sunday School and the Nursery could use a few more volunteers. If you are interested, please reach out to Andrea at admin@astoriachurch.org for the HT and Nursery and Carin at ackkids@astoriachurch.org for Seedlings. You need to be a member for these roles. Thanks!

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER MEETING: Starting in May, Sunday morning prayer will be moving to once a month from **9:45 - 10:15AM**. We warmly invite you to join us for our first gathering on **May 17th** as we pray together for ACC, our world, and one another. We hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE -- May 23rd: We will be participating in a prayer walk with other churches in Western Queens on **Saturday, May 23rd from 10-11AM**. Location and sign up details to come soon!

SAVE THE DATE -- MAY 31st: Right after worship, we're gathering for a pizza party, and we'd love for you to join us! It's a wonderful opportunity to slow down, share a slice, and get to know the people around you. Come as you are, bring your smile, and let's enjoy some good food and even better company. We can't wait to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE: This summer's Vacation Bible Club will be **August 24th-28th**. This year's theme is space, and we'll be exploring the cosmos while talking about God's incredible act of creation. We'll be sharing more details and ways to volunteer in the coming weeks.

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 – bean/lentil, 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, ackkids@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