

# ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 1, 2026  
Second Sunday of Lent  
www.AstoriaChurch.org

## MEDITATION Psalm 46:10

Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

*Silence is kept*

## SUNG RESPONSE “Have mercy on me” (see insert)

Have mercy on me, have mercy on me.

O Lord, have mercy, O Lord, have mercy.

McCracken, Cockrell

## CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 121

**Leader:** I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**People:** He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

**Leader:** The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

**All:** The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

### SONG OF PRAISE

“What wondrous love is this” (see insert)

## CALL TO CONFESSION Psalm 51:17

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All:** Turn us, O Lord, and we shall be turned. Be favorable, O Lord, be favorable to your people, who turn to you in weeping, fasting and praying. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering and of great pity. You spare us when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath, you remember mercy. Spare your people, O Lord, spare them, and let not your heritage be brought to confusion. Hear us, O Lord, for your mercy is great, and after the multitude of your mercies look upon us; through the merit and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SONG OF CONFESSION

“Lamb of God” (see insert)

## 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 “This is amazing grace”

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder  
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings.

*This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,  
That you would take my place,  
That you would bear my cross.  
You laid down your life that I would be set free.  
Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.*

Who brings our chaos back into order,  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?  
The King of glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice,  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!  
Worthy, worthy, worthy! Riddle, Farro, Wickham

## PASSING THE PEACE

*\*\*Children Pre-K - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade are dismissed for Sunday school.\*\**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 12:1-4a

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL READING** John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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

**People:** Thanks be to 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

**“All who are thirsty”**

All who are thirsty, all who are weak  
Come to the fountain,  
Dip your heart in the stream of life.  
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away  
In the waves of his mercy,  
As deep cries out to deep (we sing)

*Come, Lord Jesus, come,  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Holy Spirit, come,  
Holy Spirit, come.*

As deep cries out to deep,  
As deep cries out to deep,  
As deep cries out to deep (we sing)

Brenton Brown, Glenn Robertson

**MINISTRY UPDATE**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ephesians 3:1-13 *ESV*

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we

have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

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

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

**MESSAGE** “The Mystery, the Minister and the Manifold Wisdom of God”  
Pastor Jim Fredere

## 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.*

**“Come, all ye pining, hungry, poor”**

Lord, we adore thy boundless grace,  
The heights and depths unknown,  
Of pardon, life, and joy, and peace,  
In thy beloved Son.

*Come, all ye pining, hungry, poor,*

*The Savior’s bounty taste;*

*Behold a never-failing store*

*For every willing guest.*

O wondrous gifts of love divine,

Dear Source of every good;

Jesus, in thee what glories shine!

How rich thy flowing blood!

Here shall your numerous wants receive

A free, a full supply;

He has unmeasured bliss to give,

And joys that never die.

**Brian Murphy; Anne Steele**

## MUSIC OF COMMITMENT. “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**

## BENEDICTION 2 Corinthians 13:14

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, please email [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto: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.

**TOWN HALL MEETING: Today**, immediately after the service. We will hear from our member care team and the next steps for caring for ACC members.

**CHOIR STARTING UP AGAIN:** The ACC choir will begin rehearsals in early March. Contact Linnea at [music@astoriachurch.org](mailto:music@astoriachurch.org) if you are interested in joining. And if you have any children who want to sing in a children's choir, please contact Linnea as well.

**MEN'S MINISTRY:** The men of ACC meet every first Monday of the month – **THIS Monday, March 2nd at 6:30 at Pastor Jim's home.** Check the Men's WhatsApp channel for further details. See Jim for his address or email him at [jim@astoriachurch.org](mailto:jim@astoriachurch.org). If you would like to join the group chat, please contact Jim as well.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** The Synagogue will be holding a blood drive again on **Sunday, March 8 from 10:30 am - 4:30 pm.** Link to sign up is in the newsletter or just walk in after our worship service.

**REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS NEEDED:** If you have any extra reusable grocery bags, the food pantry will happily take them off your hands. Please bring them next **Sunday, March 8** and place them in the bin. This is a one time ask only.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org) with any news or networking you have to share in the Tuesday newsletter.

## WELCOME TO ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORSHIP: Sundays, 10:30AM (Mixed Style)  
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](http://www.astoriachurch.org)  
SENIOR PASTOR: Jim Fredere ([jim@astoriachurch.org](mailto:jim@astoriachurch.org))  
WORSHIP DIRECTOR: Linnea Kickasola  
([music@astoriachurch.org](mailto:music@astoriachurch.org))  
MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Andrea Mungo  
([admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org))  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Carin Fredere  
([ACCKids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:ACCKids@astoriachurch.org))  
YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Jim Fredere  
([youth@astoriachurch.org](mailto:youth@astoriachurch.org))  
SAFEGUARDING EMAIL: [accsafeguarding@astoriachurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org).

**God's Seedlings (Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade):** Sunday School class happens 30 minutes into the worship service. Carin Fredere, [ackkids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:ackkids@astoriachurch.org). (Sept – June)

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