

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent
www.AstoriaChurch.org

MEDITATION Psalm 16:5-6

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

Silence is kept

SUNG RESPONSE “Have mercy on me”

Have mercy on me, have mercy on me.

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

O help my unbelief, O help my unbelief.

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

McCracken, Cockrell

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 23

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.

People: He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Leader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

All: Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE

“The king of love my shepherd is” (see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION Joel 2:12-13

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

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

SONG OF CONFESSION “Lamb of God”

O Lamb of God,

Who takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us. (2x)

(Women) Grant us peace! (Men) Grant us peace!

(Women) Grant us peace! (Men) Grant us peace!

(All) Grant us peace! Amen.

John Wykoff

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Colossians 1:13-14

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

SONG OF RESPONSE “Christ be all around me”

As I rise, strength of God, go before, lift me up;

As I wake, eyes of God, look upon, be my sight.

As I wait, heart of God, satisfy and sustain;

As I hear, voice of God, lead me on,

Be my guide, be my guide.

Above and below me, before and behind me;

In every eye that sees me, Christ, be all around me.

Above and below me, before and behind me;

In every eye that sees me, Christ, be all around me.

As I go, hand of God, my defense, by my side;

As I rest, breath of God, fall upon, bring me peace.

Bring me peace.

Oh, oh, Christ, be all around me. (2x)

Your life, your death, your blood was shed

For every moment, every moment.

Leonard, Mooring, Mooring, Jordan

PASSING THE PEACE

OLD TESTAMENT READING 1Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.” But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I

will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

GOSPEL READING John 9:1,6,7,13-17,35-39
 As Jesus went along, he saw a man blind from birth... Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam"... So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about [Jesus]? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight... Jesus heard that they had thrown [the blind man] out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe,"

and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE "Amazing grace"

Amazing grace!--how sweet the sound--
 That saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 And grace my fears relieved;
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
 I have already come;
 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
 And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
 His Word my hope secures;
 He will my shield and portion be,
 As long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
 And mortal life shall cease,
 I shall possess within the veil
 A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
 We've no less days to sing God's praise
 Than when we'd first begun.
AMAZING GRACE; John Newton (vs 1-5), Sacred Ballads (vs. 6)

"Better is one day"
 How lovely is your dwelling place,
 O Lord Almighty.
 My soul longs and even faints for you.
 For here my heart is satisfied
 Within your presence;
 I sing beneath the shadow of your wings.

*Better is one day in your courts,
 Better is one day in your house,
 Better is one day in your courts,
 Than thousands elsewhere.*

One thing I ask and I would seek
 To see your beauty;
 To find you in the place your glory dwells.

My heart and flesh cry out for you, the living God.
 Your Spirit's water for my soul.

I've tasted and I've seen, come once again to me.
I will draw near to you, I will draw near to you.

Matt Redman

MINISTRY UPDATE

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 4:1-16 *ESV*

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?

¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "Growing Up in Christ"

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.

"Out of my bondage, sorrow and night" (see insert)

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

"Love divine, all loves excelling" (insert)

BENEDICTION Romans 15:5-6

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

EASTER OUTREACH OFFERING: Each year leading up to Easter we highlight our missionaries and our Diaconate ministries. **This year our goal is \$15,000.** This is giving above and beyond your normal giving. **We are at 5% of our goal so far!** We will be taking up a separate offering on Easter Sunday but you can give online before then. See our website giving page which explains the various ways you can give. Please note Easter Offering with your gift. Thank you!

CHESS CLUB: Our next Chess Club is **Saturday, March 21st from 2-4 pm.** Contact Eddie for details at bkln645@gmail.com.

INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK AND PRAYER

EVENT: Come break bread with the women of ACC at our “Potluck and Prayer” event on **Saturday March 21st from 6-8 pm** at Ashley Grey’s house. We will be celebrating flavors from around the world inspired by a country, culture, or cuisine you love. We will also pray for each other, our neighborhood, the global church, and more. More details and a sign up link will be sent out in the ACC newsletter. Hope to see you there!

MEALS FOR THE YOUTH GROUP: The YG would love some homecooked meals at their Friday evening meetings. If you would like to contribute a meal, please email Taylor Ann at accmeals@gmail.com.

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 microwaveable 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 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
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/astoriachurch](https://www.instagram.com/astoriachurch)
[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 (Pre-K – 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