

# Astoria Community Church

March 23, 2025  
Third Sunday of Lent  
[www.AstoriaChurch.org](http://www.AstoriaChurch.org)

## LENTEN MEDITATION Psalm 62:5

My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from him.

## CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 55:1-3

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

## SONG OF PRAISE

**“How firm a foundation”** (see insert)

## CALL TO CONFESSION Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Almighty and Everlasting Father, who alone amid the changes of this mortal life remains the same: We confess to you our many sins and transgressions. We have not set our minds on things above, where Christ is seated at the Right Hand of God; We have not lived our lives as pilgrims here in holy fear; We have not welcomed the promised things from afar; we have not longed for the better country and the city with foundations that you have built. We have forgotten times without number that to live is Christ and to die is gain and, having this hope, have not purified ourselves; we have not lived godly lives in this present age while we wait for the blessed hope—**

**the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy upon us, O Lord. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out our iniquity. Create in us a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; and uphold us with your Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

## SONG OF CONFESSION

**“Lamb of God”** (see insert)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON John 3:17

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

## SONG OF RESPONSE “Hear my cry”

Hear my cry, O Lord, at the gates of death  
My body is weak and I’ve lost all my breath.  
For you, O Lord, are the Righteous Judge  
Be my stronghold, my refuge, my solid rock  
Hear my cry!

Hear my cry, O Lord, when I’m lost in sin  
Search deep in my heart and restore me within  
For you, O Lord, are the Worthy Lamb  
Be my savior, redeemer, my living word  
Hear my cry!

*Oh, I love you, Lord  
For you have heard my voice  
When in my deepest need,  
You turn to me and hear my cry.*

Hear my cry, O Lord, make your church a light  
A city that stands to defend what is right  
For you, O Lord, are the Glorious King  
Be my shepherd, my master, my morning star  
Hear my cry!

Hear my cry, O Lord, when we face discord  
Send patience until fellowship is restored  
For you, O Lord, are the Faithful Friend  
Be my comfort, my healer, my Prince of Peace  
Hear my cry!

Kirk Ward

*\*\*Children ages 3-Grade 5 are dismissed for Sunday school.\*\**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 63

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land  
where there is no water.  
I have seen you in the sanctuary  
and beheld your power and your glory.  
Because your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify you.  
I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.  
I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;  
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.  
On my bed I remember you;  
I think of you through the watches of the night.  
Because you are my help,  
I sing in the shadow of your wings.  
I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.  
Those who want to kill me will be destroyed;  
they will go down to the depths of the earth.  
They will be given over to the sword  
and become food for jackals.  
But the king will rejoice in God;  
all who swear by God will glory in him,  
while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### EPISTLE READING Luke 13:1-9

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### SONG OF RESPONSE "Your labor is not in vain"

Your labor is not in vain  
Though the ground underneath you  
Is cursed and stained.  
Your planting and reaping are never the same,  
Your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown,  
Though the rocks they cry out  
And the sea it may groan.  
The place of your toil may not seem like a home,  
But your labor is not unknown.

*For I am with you, I am with you,  
I am with you, I am with you.  
For I have called you,  
Called you by name,  
Your labor is not in vain.*

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit.  
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth.  
For all that is old will at last be made new,  
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit.

The houses you labored to build  
Will finally with laughter and joy be filled.  
The serpent that hurts and destroys will be killed  
And all that is broken be healed.

Kimbrough, Wardell, Zach and Keyes

### MINISTRY REPORT

#### OFFERTORY "I waited for the Lord"

*I waited for the Lord. He inclined unto me.  
He heard my complaint, he heard my complaint.  
O blest are they that hope and trust in the Lord.*

Felix Mendelssohn; Text from Psalm 40:1, arr. Stan Pethel

### SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 1:15-23 *ESV*

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup>having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is

named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

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

**MESSAGE** “A Prayer for the Church” David Ellis

## INSTALLATION OF PASTOR

## PRAYER

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav’nly host:

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OLD HUNDRETH; Ken

**CHARGE TO THE PASTOR** Robert Tanzie

## 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.*

## “Is he worthy?”

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)

Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)

But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (We do)

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)

Is all creation groaning? (It is)

Is a new creation coming? (It is)

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,

He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.

Is he worthy? Is he worthy?

Of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is he worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)

Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)

And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those he loves? (He does)

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,

He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.

From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue, He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.

Is he worthy? Is he worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is he worthy of this? He is.

Andrew Peterson

## BENEDICTION I Thessalonians 3:12-13

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 to ACC, please email [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org) to be added to our email list. Or fill out a communication card at the Hospitality Table or use the QR code to the right or at the HT. We send out a weekly electronic newsletter and other announcement emails.

**PASTOR JIM'S INSTALLATION SERVICE AND LUNCHEON:** Today is Pastor Jim's Installation service and luncheon downstairs in the social hall.

**INTRO TO ACC:** We will be offering a 2 session class on **Sunday, April 6 and Sunday, April 13 from 12:30 - 1:30** in the Chapel. If you are interested in becoming a member or just learning more about Astoria Community Church, please attend these classes. In our time together, you will learn about ACC's mission, and ways you can grow spiritually and serve the church and community. Sign up link is in the newsletter.

**YOUTH GROUP DAY OF SERVICE:** The ACC Youth Group is planning a trip to bring students to the Lighthouse Mission in Long Island on **April 16th! For all the Sundays leading up to April 16th, please consider donating any clothing you may want to give (new or used) and any canned, dry and microwaveable food on all Sundays leading up to the trip.** If you have questions, please email George at [youth@astoriachurch.org](mailto:youth@astoriachurch.org).

**SAVE THE DATE:** The women of ACC will get together on **Saturday, April 12 for lunch at Astoria First.** More details to follow!

**SERVICE RECORDING TEAM:** We need just **ONE more member of this team.** Please contact Andrea at [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org). We will train you!

**SET UP AND BREAKDOWN TEAMS:** We need another person to help set up and breakdown on Sundays. You can do one or the other or both! Please inquire with Andrea for more details [admin@astoriachurch.org](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org).

**GODLY PLAY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** We are still in need of **2 more volunteers.** Please see Annette or email her at [ackids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:ackids@astoriachurch.org).

**HELP SHAPE OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS:** We want to hear from you! See the newsletter to complete the survey. TODAY is the last day to respond. Thank you to everyone who responded!

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS:** Please bring non perishable, microwavable food to donate to the Hour Children Food Pantry. Place in the bright green bin in the lobby.

## 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: Annette Scattoni  
([ACCKids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:ACCKids@astoriachurch.org))  
YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: George Dimitriadis  
([youth@astoriachurch.org](mailto:youth@astoriachurch.org))  
SAFEGUARDING EMAIL: [accsafeguarding@astoriachurch.org](mailto:accsafeguarding@astoriachurch.org)

[Instagram.com/astoriacomcommunitychurch](https://www.instagram.com/astoriacomcommunitychurch)  
[Facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch](https://www.facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch)

Communication Card QR Code



Venmo QR Code



### 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](mailto:admin@astoriachurch.org).

**God's Seedlings (Age 3- Grade 5): During worship** Sunday School class. Annette Scattoni, [ackids@astoriachurch.org](mailto:ackids@astoriachurch.org).

**Youth Group - Grades 6 - 12:** George Dimitriadis, [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: [raulwrojas@gmail.com](mailto:raulwrojas@gmail.com) or [gianlu19@gmail.com](mailto:gianlu19@gmail.com)