

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 8, 2026
Third Sunday of Lent
www.AstoriaChurch.org

MEDITATION Habakkuk 2:20

The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.

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 95

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

People: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Leader: Today, if only you would hear his voice, “Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did. For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.’ So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’”

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE

“Lord Jesus Christ, be present now” (see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION Jeremiah 2:11-13

“But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols. Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror,” declares the Lord. “My people have committed two sins: they have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in my daily life. My sins and shortcomings present me with a list of accusations, but I thank you that they will not stand against me, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver me from every evil habit, every interest of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in me, all that prevents me taking delight in you. Amen.

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 Romans 5:8-10

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

SONG OF RESPONSE “His mercy is more”

Praise the Lord, his mercy is more.

Stronger than darkness, new every morn.

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?

Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum.

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?

What Father, so tender, is calling us home?

He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

What riches of kindness he lavished on us.

His blood was the payment, his life was the cost.

We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

Matt Papa and Matt Boswell

PASSING THE PEACE

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING John 4:5-24

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?"

(For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus

said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE "Goodness of God"

I love you, Lord. Oh, your mercy never fails me.
All my days I've been held in your hands.
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head,
I will sing of the goodness of God.

All my life you have been faithful.

All my life you have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able,

I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love your voice. You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night, you are close like no other.
I've known you as a father, I've known you as a friend.
I have lived in the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now;
I give you everything.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Fielding, Johnson, Cash, Ingram

"Psalm 139 (Far too wonderful)"

You wrote the story of my life.
You go before you fall behind.
Before a breath, beyond my death,
You are with me on the way to everlasting.

*Oh, I can't run, I can't hide, even darkness is a light.
From the lowest place to the highest praise,
You are worthy.*

Amazing love, how can it be?

Far too wonderful for me,

There's only one thing left to say, you are worthy.

Search me, God, and know my heart.
Try me, know my anxious thoughts.

Find the wickedness in me
And lead me in the way everlasting.

You formed me in my mother's womb,
You know my frame my flesh and bone,
I'm wonderfully made.
Oh, I can't describe, it's way too high,
You see me through and through and call me loved.
What a wonderful grace! Shane and Shane

MINISTRY TESTIMONY

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 3:14-21 *ESV*

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“When the Gospel Becomes Personal”

Pastor Jim Fredere

OFFERTORY “Guide me (Psalm 25)”

*In you, O Lord, O Lord my God,
I put my trust—I trust in you.
O let me not be put to shame;
Let not my foes rise over me.*

*Those who hope in you will not be ashamed.
Those who follow you shall not lose their way.*

*O my God, show me your ways,
Guide me in your great truth.
By your love remember me for you, O Lord, are good.*

*My eyes are ever on the Lord
For He alone can set me free.
Though I've done wrong—yes, I have sinned,
He reaches out to rescue me.*

*Guard my life and rescue me
...for I am lonely and in pain
...so many enemies surround
...do not let me be put to shame
...relieve the troubles of my heart
....O Lord I hope in you alone*

Ordinary Time

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.*

“Agnus Dei”

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere nobis.*

(Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.)

from the B Minor Mass by J.S. Bach

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT “O love of God” (insert)

BENEDICTION Jude 1:1b-2

To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

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.

BLOOD DRIVE: Today from **10:30 am - 4:30 pm**. You can just walk in – downstairs in the Social Hall.

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 on our way with 2% of our goal donated 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!

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.

ATTENTION KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS: The Synagogue is seeking donations of red hats for full-term newborn babies with congenital heart disease! There is a large, round, red container to place hats in on the hospitality table. Please let Andrea know if you will be donating some red hats! And the women's ministry will be hosting a crochet hat making event in the coming months. Stay tuned!

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 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, acckids@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