

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 9, 2025
First Sunday of Lent
www.AstoriaChurch.org

CALL TO WORSHIP from Joel 2

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE

“God, be merciful to me” (see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Most holy and merciful Father: we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole community of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Leader: We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Leader: We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ has served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Leader: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.

People: We confess to you, O Lord.

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People: We confess to you, O Lord.

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: We confess to you, O Lord.

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: We confess to you, O Lord.

Leader: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Leader: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Leader: By the cross and passion of your only Son our Lord,

People: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

SILENT CONFESSION

SONG OF CONFESSION “Lamb of God” (see insert)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Psalm 130:5-8

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

SONG OF RESPONSE “You are my king”

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken.

I'm accepted; you were condemned.

I'm alive and well, your Spirit is within me

Because you died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be

That you, my King, would die for me?

Amazing love, I know it's true;

It's my joy to honor you.

In all I do I honor you.

Billy Foote

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 58:1-12

“Cry aloud; do not hold back;
lift up your voice like a trumpet;
declare to my people their transgression,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet they seek me daily
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that did righteousness
and did not forsake the judgment of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they delight to draw near to God.
‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not?
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no
knowledge of it?’
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own
pleasure, and oppress all your workers.
Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with a wicked fist.
Fasting like yours this day
will not make your voice to be heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day for a person to humble himself?
Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?
Will you call this a fast,
and a day acceptable to the LORD?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’
If you take away the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,
if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.
And the LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail.

And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many
generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING Luke 4:1-13

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’”
And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’
and
“‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”
And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Lord, who throughout these forty days”

Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sin
And close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend,
And did the victory win,
O give us strength in you to fight,
In you to conquer sin.

As you did suffer hunger, thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and only live
By your most holy word.

And through these days of penitence,
And through your Passiontide,
Forevermore in life and death,
O Lord with us abide.

Abide with us, that through this life
Of doubts and hope and pain,
An Easter of unending joy we may at last attain.

LAND OF REST; Hernaman

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 2:1-8 *ESV*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “Christian unity in love” Brandon Doyle

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.

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“The church’s one foundation” (see 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 to ACC, please email 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:

Jim will be installed as the Pastor of ACC on **March 23rd**. We are also blessed to have Rev. David Ellis preaching for this special occasion and the Rev. Robert Tanzie assisting. Please make plans to attend to welcome Jim and to see David. May the Lord bless our journey ahead as we seek to glorify Him in all things. A luncheon in the basement social hall will follow from 12-2PM. Sign up link is in the newsletter. Deadline to sign up is March 16.

PRAYER WALK: Please join ACC and our other church partners for a prayer walk through Astoria, ending in northern LIC with optional lunch after (at your own expense) on **Saturday, March 22nd from 10AM - 12 Noon**. See the newsletter for more details and to sign up. Let's come together and pray for our community!

BLOOD DRIVE: The ACI Synagogue is hosting another blood drive **TODAY from 10:30 - 4:30PM** in the basement social hall.

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

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

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!** During this trip we will help the staff at Lighthouse Mission load up trucks with food, clothes, and Bibles, to bring to one of their various distribution locations where given to the homeless. For all the Sundays leading up to April 16th, please consider donating any clothing you may want to give (new or used) and any food that was not previously cooked as we look forward to this trip in a little over a month! If you have questions, please email George at youth@astoriachurch.org.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS: We are taking nominations for **Elder, Deacon and Deaconess through THIS Saturday, March 15th**. You must be a member to nominate and a member to be nominated. Please start considering who you may want to approach to ask if they would be willing to be nominated.

ACC MEN'S MINISTRY GROUP: Please join us for our March bowling outing at Bowl 360 Astoria 19-45 49th Street, Astoria, NY 11105 **THIS Saturday, March 15th** at 11am. Please RSVP or send any questions to Sebastien at sebastien1604@gmail.com or Rogerat rxj1011@gmail.com.

CHESS CLUB: Join the Chess Club for their next class **THIS Saturday, March 15th from 1-3PM**. Note the time change. Speak with Eddie or email him at bkl645@gmail.com with any questions. All are welcome!

HELP SHAPE OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS:

We want to hear from you! See the newsletter to complete the survey by March 23rd.

WELCOME TO ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Our mission is to glorify God by learning of God, living in Christ, and loving God and our neighbors.

WORSHIP: Sundays, 10:30AM (Mixed Style) MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2102, Astoria, NY 11102

WORSHIP and OFFICE LOCATION: Astoria Center of Israel Building
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: Annette Scattoni
(ACCKids@astoriachurch.org)

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: George Dimitriadis
(youth@astoriachurch.org)

[Instagram.com/astoriacomunitychurch](https://www.instagram.com/astoriacomunitychurch)

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

Communication Card 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.

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

Youth Group - Grades 6 - 12: George Dimitriadis, 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: raulwrojas@gmail.com or gianlu19@gmail.com