

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 22, 2020 – 11:15 am
Fourth Sunday of Lent
www.AstoriaChurch.org

MEDITATION Lamentations 3:26

It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

SONG OF MEDITATION

“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 and Cockrell, CCLI#20219511

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 23

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

People: **He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.**

Leader: He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.

People: **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I 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 goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Be still, my soul”

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev’ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still my soul: your best, your heav’nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,
Then shall you better know his love, his heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.
Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay
From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast’ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.
FINLANDIA; von Schegel

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION II Corinthians 5:15
And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

SPOKEN CONFESSION

All: O Lord, this week I have lived for myself and not for you. I have not loved the things you love and hated the things you hate. Forgive me, for your mercy’s sake.

SILENT CONFESSION

SONG OF CONFESSION

“Lamb of God”

O Lamb of God,
Who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us. (Repeat)
(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 II Corinthians 5:17, 21
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Steadfast”

I will build my house whether storm or drought
On the rock that does not move.
I will set my hope in your love, O Lord,
And your faithfulness will prove
You are steadfast, steadfast.

By the word you spoke all the starry host
Are called out by name each night.
In your watchful care I will rest secure
As you lead us with your light.
You are steadfast, steadfast.

I will not trust in the strength of kings,
On your promise I will stand.
I will shout for joy, I will raise my voice,
Hallelujah to the Lamb!
You are steadfast, steadfast.

In the moment of emptiness, all was fulfilled.
In the hour of darkness, your light was revealed.
In the presence of death, your life was affirmed.
In the absence of holiness, you are still God.
You are steadfast, steadfast.

McCracken, Jordan, Silverberg, CCLI#20219511

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.

EPISTLE READING Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 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! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Hold to God's unchanging hand”

Time is filled with swift transition
Naught of earth unmoved can stand
Build your hopes on things eternal
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

*Hold to his hand, God's unchanging hand
Hold to his hand, God's unchanging hand
Build your hopes on things eternal
Hold to God's unchanging hand.*

Trust in him who will not leave you
Whatsoever years may bring
If by earthly friends forsaken
Still more closely to him cling.

Covet not this world's vain riches
That so rapidly decay
Seek to gain the heavenly treasures
They will never pass away.

When your journey is completed
When the valley you pass through
Fair, and bright the home in glory

Your enraptured soul will view.
Eiland; Wilson, CCLI#20219511

MINISTRY REPORT

OFFERTORY

“Walk with me, Lord”

Walk with me, Lord, won't you walk with me? (2x)
While I'm on this pilgrim journey,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me. (2x)
When my heart is almost breaking,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me. (2x)
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

You walked with Moses, won't you walk with me?
While I'm on this pilgrim journey,
I want Jesus to walk with me. *Traditional Spiritual*

SCRIPTURE READING John 9:1-7 NIV

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “The Light of the World” J. David Ellis

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC OF COMMITMENT

“How firm a foundation”

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled.

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;

I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

When through fiery trials your pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

E'en down to old age all my people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

FOUNDATION; Rippon

BENEDICTION Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as
you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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. We send out a weekly electronic newsletter.

COVID-19 UPDATE: ACC is suspending all in person church gatherings including worship until further notice. Please check our website regularly for details on how to join our virtual worship services and when we will resume in person worship.

COMMUNITY GROUPS: Many of our community groups are meeting virtually so now would be a good time to join a group if you are not currently in one. Please see our website for more details.

VIRTUAL PRAYER MEETINGS: We will be meeting virtually for prayer meetings on **Tuesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 26 at 7PM.** Please see our website for the link to join.

DIACONATE AND PASTORAL ASSISTANCE: If you are sick or home-bound and need assistance with shopping, medical appointments, etc., please contact our Diaconate at diaconate@astoriachurch.org or by calling 718-721-3440. If any of you need to connect with Pastor David, feel free to call him at 917-992-7062.

RESOURCES RELATED TO COVID-19: See our website for the list of resources under Ministries: Announcements. We will be adding to this list as more information is released.

COLLECTING TOGO LETTERS: To all who have participated in the Togolese child/family letter writing campaign, we are preparing our next round of letters to be sent off at the end of March. Since we are not meeting for worship currently, please email Annette and Andrea (diaconate@astoriachurch.org) your letters by **Sunday, March 29th.** You may also drop off your letters to the church office M, T, Th or F from 8-4PM. AND we still have 4 children that are unassigned and would love to connect with you. Please contact Annette Scattoni: gianlu19@yahoo.com with your letters and questions.

MAUNDY THURSDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES (TENTATIVE): We hope to hold both services either in person or virtually. Please check our website regularly for details.

EASTER OUTREACH OFFERING: Every year on Easter, we give a special offering above and beyond our normal giving to help fund our local and global missionaries, local outreach ministries and diaconal mercy fund that assists those in our congregation and community with practical needs. Please consider your giving goal for this year. We will be taking up this offering on **Easter Sunday, April 12.** If we are not meeting in person, please donate online on our website or mail your check to our PO Box. Thank you!

MEMBER NEWS: Email David@astoriachurch.org or Andrea at admin@astoriachurch.org with your news!

WELCOME TO

ASTORIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORSHIP: Sundays, 9:30AM (mixed style) & 11:15AM (contemporary)

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2102, Astoria, NY 11102

OFFICE: 22-07 Astoria Blvd., Cellar Entrance, Astoria, NY 11102

PHONE: 718-721-3440

WEBSITE: www.astoriachurch.org

WORSHIP LOCATION: Astoria Center of Israel Bldg

27-35 Crescent Street, Astoria, NY 11102

MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Andrea Mungo (admin@astoriachurch.org)

PASTOR: J. David Ellis (david@astoriachurch.org)

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Jeffrey Choi (jeffrey@astoriachurch.org)



Facebook.com/AstoriaCommunityChurch

*Our mission is to proclaim the good news of
Jesus Christ to our neighbors,
to welcome them into loving community,
and to equip them to glorify God.*

Helpful Information:

Children and Youth Ministries

Programs are available on Sundays for babies through 5th grade. Our Youth Group meets on Fridays. See below for more info.

Babies - Toddlers: Laurel Daniels (both services)
(acckids@astoriachurch.org)

Pre-K - Grade 2: Laurel Daniels (11:15 service only, no class on the 1st Sunday of the Month) (acckids@astoriachurch.org)

Grades 3 - 5: Bryan Taylor (in between services)
(bryantaylorlornyc@gmail.com)

Grades 6 - 12: Jeffrey Choi (Fridays, Sept – June)
(jeffrey@astoriachurch.org)

Community Groups

Small groups that meet in homes for fellowship, study, and prayer. Email: admin@astoriachurch.org for info

Physical, Financial, or Emotional Need

Church leaders are available to meet with you if you have a need. Please email diaconate@astoriachurch.org or call 718-721-3440. For the **Meals Ministry**, email accmeals@gmail.com

English as a Second Language Classes

(Saturdays) Info: QueensESL@gmail.com

Outreach Ministries

For info on service opportunities in Queens:
diaconate@astoriachurch.org

Men's and Women's Ministry

Info for women, contact: women@astoriachurch.org

Info for men, contact: mensministry@astoriachurch.org