

Astoria First United Methodist Church  
*March 21, 2021*

---

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

---

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mary Frances Gunn

**CENTERING MUSIC**

*“Walk Hand in Hand”*  
*by Johnny Cowell*

Jane Hill

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Pastor Michael

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sue Hicks

God of boundless mercy and unfailing love, our Creator, Savior, and Redeemer, we are part of the body of Christ around the world. You call us to live as light to the families and communities where you have led us. As we gather together to worship You: to proclaim Your goodness and to offer our thanks and praise, we know you are present with us. Breathe Your word into us, and engrave Your sacred promise of divine favor into our minds and hearts. Cultivate Your character in us, inspire and shape us, unite and encourage us, that our lives may reflect Your love and justice to the world, as we commit our lives to you.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Pastor Michael

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*“Jeremiah 31:31-34”*

Sue Hicks

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when *I will make a new covenant* with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, *not like the covenant* that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that *they broke*, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. **For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. *For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*”

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“God Leads Us All”*

Jane Hill

## SCRIPTURE READING

*“Psalm 51:1-12”*

Sue Hicks

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sue Hicks

Merciful God; Have mercy on our souls, according to your unwavering love; according to your abundant mercy wipe away our sins and the guilt we have carried for so long. Instead write on our hearts your love Your boundaries for our lives Your salvation that sets us free from our sins. To live the abundant life you have for each of us. Lord we would see Jesus, We would love Jesus, We would follow Jesus We would serve Jesus. Lord, Create in us clean hearts, Renew your spirit within us. Do not turn us away from your presence, do not take your holy spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit. Write on our hearts, your love O God. In the Name of Christ, we pray, AMEN

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sue Hicks

Lord you give us a new heart. May we live as people who are just, loving mercy, and walking humbly with you as you come alongside us on our journey. This is your gift to us, a new heart, a new spirit, restored and forgiven, so that we can live as the beloved children of God, with whom God is well pleased and upon whom God’s favor rests. Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and healed. AMEN.

## SCRIPTURE READING

*“Hebrews 5:5-10”*

Sue Hicks

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” *In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation* to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**

**“My Hope Is Built”**

**Mary Frances Gunn  
UMH#368**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**“John 12:20-33”**

**Pastor Michael**

**SERMON**

***“The Thrill of Defeat, The Agony of Victory”  
“Lifting Up Without Watering Down”***

**Pastor Michael**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Mary Frances**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.*

**BENEDICTION:**

**Pastor Michael**

---

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC  
as they join us for worship.**

**Join us for Bible Study!**

**Topic: Extraordinary Men and Women in the Bible**

**Our last study will be Tuesday, March 23, 2021.**

**Time: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. by Zoom**

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.**

**Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.**

**If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.**

**We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.**

---