



**March 16, 2025 – 9:30am**  
**Purim (Feast of Lots)**  
**Pastor James Gomez**

**Prepare for Worship:**

*“Purim” (pooH-REEM) is the Biblical holiday celebrated worldwide by Jewish communities in the Hebrew month of Adar (March 13-14 this year). Purim has been celebrated by masquerading for about the last 500 years, despite the fact that masquerading is generally not looked upon favorably by Jewish people (cf. Deuteronomy 22:5). The reason for these festivities is simple—**Purim is a joyous day on which the Jewish people celebrate the rescue of their people group, as recorded in the Biblical book of Esther.***

*Christians, those who love and serve the King of the Jews and who believe that the LORD God of Israel is true to His word, should indeed recognize the value of the Book of Esther and celebrate the Biblical holiday of Purim. God does not “play dice with the universe,” and we can trust in His sovereign care and plans – both for the nation of Israel and for those who accept Yeshua.*

*Purim is a time to celebrate that the LORD God of Israel is our Sovereign King, our Faithful Protector, and our magnificent Savior. Like the Jews of ancient Persia, we were delivered by God in order to experience the joy of His love, and to let our gentleness be evident to all (Philippians 4:5). The goal or end of salvation is abundant life (John 10:10) filled with unspeakable joy and full of glory (1 Peter 1:8).*

**Welcome, Introduction & Invocation**

**Purim Blessing**

Leader: Barukh atah Adonai Elohenu melek ha-olam!

**People: Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time. Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”**

[Children may bring their offerings up at this time.]

**Confession & Promise of Forgiveness:**

Leader: This is the message we have heard from Jesus Christ and proclaim to you,

**People: that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. [1 John 1:5]**

Leader: If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,

**People: we lie and do not practice the truth. [1 John 1:6]**

Leader: But, if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

**People: and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. [1 John 1:7]**

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us,

**People: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [1 John 1:8-9]**

Leader: Dear Friends, according to God’s Word and Promise: Your sins are forgiven for His name’s sake. [1 John 2:12]

**People: Amen!**

**Responsive Reading (based on Psalm 22):**

Leader: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**People: Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?**

Leader: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

**Welcome!!**

Parking Lot Worship: Tune in to **FM 107.7**

**Sunday, March 23**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**Scripture Readings:**

**Joshua 9:16-27, Luke 13:1-9**

Sanctuary will have an offering plate at Ushers stand, available upon arrival.

Scan the Donation QR to give electronically (the name on the Venmo church account is Jim Kellow, our Treasurer).

**Donation:**



**Bible App:**



**People: and by night, but I find no rest.**

Leader: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**People: In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

Leader: To you they cried and were rescued;

**People: in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

**Scripture Readings: Joshua 9:1-15, John 8:54-59**

**Hymn: "God Is On Your Side"**

**Purim Spiel & Homily: "Hiding, Deception, and Masquerades"**

**Communion – Words of Institution & Covenant Meal: "Before the Throne of God Above" & "Behold Our God" (words on screen)**

**Prayers & Lord's Prayer**

**Announcements & Blessing**

**Closing: "No Longer Slaves"**

\*\*\* **Gluten-free wafers** are available, along with white grape juice (center rings) in case of allergies or preference to avoid



*Hamantaschen is a fruit-filled pastry available in the Coffee House after service. Enjoy.*

**Come, Now Is the Time to Worship**

**Come now is the time to worship Come now is the time to give your heart**

**Come just as you are to worship Come just as you are before your God, Come**

One day every tongue Will confess You are God One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains For those who gladly choose You now

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives, Willingly our knees will bow  
With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength We gladly serve you now

***Come, come, come, Just as you are, Come***

**God Is On Your Side**

Where is God when the world is broken, When it feels like the night has won?  
Can we wait just a little longer, Wait for the breaking dawn.

*God is on the side of the afflicted. God is on the side of the oppressed;  
He will carry justice to the victim, He will give His weary children rest.  
He upholds the cause of all the needy, There is not a wrong He won't set right.  
Oh, friend, put your hope in Him: God is on your side.*

Where is God when our joy is stolen, When our peace, it is nowhere to be found?  
Can we trust in Your kingdom coming, Oh, trust that it's coming now?

***Give thanks, give thanks, For the Lord has heard your cry.***

***Give thanks, give thanks, For the Lord is on your side.***

We will sing on the day of trouble, Though we grieve ev'ry loss, every harm;  
We will lean when the mountains crumble, We will lean on the everlasting arms.

*Oh, friend, put your hope in Him: God is on your side.*

**No Longer Slaves**

CCLI Song # 7030123

You unravel me with a melody, You surround me with a song  
Of deliverance from my enemies Till all my fears are gone *(Sing Twice)*

***I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God (Sing Twice)***

From my mother's womb, You have chosen me  
Love has called my name, I've been born again into Your family  
Your blood flows through my veins

*You split the sea so I could walk right through it,*

My fears were drowned in perfect love  
You rescued me so I could stand and sing, I am a child of God *(Sing Twice)*

I am a child of God, I am a child of God