



# THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

23 AUGUST 2020

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

### [Announcements](#)

### [Prelude](#)

It Is Well With My Soul  
The ACP Handbell Ensemble

arr. *Sandra Eithun*

### [Call to Worship](#) (Romans 12)

Allison Wheeler

Our help is in the name of the Lord our God, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**Who comes to our aid in times of need,  
who gives us the courage to do what we know is right.**

Who invites us to turn away from the influences of the world around us,  
**and invites us instead into a transforming relationship with Him  
and with one another.**

This is our God!

**Let us worship together.**

### [Hymn](#)

Beloved

*Devon Graves*

Devon Graves, *vocals* John Arndt, *piano* Natalie Raynal, *vocals*  
Alexia Rabé, *videography* John Arndt, *production*

### [Invitation to Confession:](#)

Though our hearts yearn to be in right relationship with God and our neighbors, we know that we often fall woefully short. Thankfully, our gracious God invites us to bring our shortcomings before him in order to receive his grace and be transformed.

### Prayer of Confession

**Caring God, you call us to be the body of Christ: to live in community, to care for one another, to use our different gifts. Instead of working to sustain community, we follow our own desires. Instead of trusting in your care, we think we can do it alone. We conform to the world around us instead of working for change and transformation. Forgive our neglect of others. Give us obedient spirits, that we may care for one another, depend on your love, and use our gifts for your gospel. Hear our silent prayers as we humbly confess our sins to you.**

*(A time of silent confession)*

We pray in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

### Assurance of Forgiveness

The Lord is on our side, offering words of forgiveness, protecting us from danger.

We are a forgiven people, bound together in God's love.

So, friends, hear and believe the good news:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous. Amen.**

### [Gloria Patri](#)

### [Welcome](#)

Victor Greene

### [Blessing of the Children](#)

Allison Wheeler

[Musical Offering](#)

I Will Lift My Eyes

Antonín Dvořák

Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *accompanist*

[Lighting the Candle for God's Global Vision of Compassion, Justice and Peace](#)

Prayer for Illumination

Doug Fondell

[The First Lesson – Isaiah 51:1-6](#)

MaryClaire King

*Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord.*

*Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.*

*Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.*

*Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

[Musical Offering](#)

Great Are You Lord

Leslie Jordan, David Leonard

Kym Stewart, *vocals* Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals*

Josiah Woodson, *production* Jeff Hohener and Josiah Woodson, *videography*

[The Second Lesson - Romans 12:1-8](#)

Walter Dickerson

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

[Sermon](#)

Conformed or Transformed

Jodi Fondell

[Musical Offering](#)

Magnificent Reflections

Devon Graves

Josiah Woodson, *piano* Devon Graves, *lead vocals* Natalie Raynal, Kym Stewart, *backing vocals*

[Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer \(in your mother tongue\)](#)

Allison Wheeler

[The Offering of Tithes and Gifts](#)

[Musical Offering](#)

The Wisdom, Riches and Knowledge of God (Romans 11:33-36)

Robert Powell

Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *accompanist*

[Dedication of Our Tithes and Offerings](#)

Doug Fondell

***There are many ways of sharing, But God's Spirit gives each one.  
There are different ways of caring; It's one Lord whose work is done.  
God, whose gifts are overflowing, May we hear you when you call;  
Keep us serving, keep us growing For the common good of all.***

***We've been baptized in the waters! We've been given work to do.  
When you call your sons and daughters, You give gifts for serving you.  
God, we join in celebration Of the talents you impart.  
Bless each baptized one's vocation; Give each one a servant's heart.***

***All are blest by gifts you give us; Some are set apart to lead.  
Give us Jesus' love within us As we care for those in need.  
Give us faith to make decisions; Give us joy to share your Word.  
Give us unity and vision As we serve your church and world.***

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## **The American Church in Paris Re-gathered and also virtual**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the **American Church in Paris** has been dedicated to remaining a vibrant community and to providing online resources for worship, learning, spiritual formation, and holistic health. Now, in this “post-confinement” period, we are taking steps to re-open the church buildings for worship, schools and other community groups in a way that is safe, sustainable, and fair for all.

Please continue to check our website for the latest news. We have begun re-gathering for **Worship in the Sanctuary** on Sundays at 11h. Capacity is limited and seating is reserved because of Covid-19 protocols. To register, please visit [acparis.org/register](http://acparis.org/register). These services are different from those before the pandemic, but we hope are still honoring to God and inspiring to our congregation and our extended community. We will continue the **Virtual Worship Services** on [acparis.org](http://acparis.org) for the foreseeable future.

Whether you are one of the thousands of viewers from over 70 different countries who join us for online worship, or new to Paris and seeking a church family, we hope you will be patient until we can meet without restrictions again!

In the meantime, we continue to pursue our mission "**to bear witness in word and deed to the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.**" God's grace and peace be with you!

### **Announcements**

**In need of prayer?** During this difficult season of social distancing our attempts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus bring stressors, worries, and fears that we may be struggling to manage. If you would like members of the lay care ministry team, members of the prayer chain, and the pastoral team to uphold you in prayer during your time of struggle please contact us at [prayerrequests@acparis.org](mailto:prayerrequests@acparis.org).

**Sanctuary Worship Volunteers Needed - Ushers and Live-streaming:** ACP is committed to moving forward with in-sanctuary worship services as Covid-19 protocols allow, and also providing a quality online experience for those not able to return to church for live worship. Volunteers are needed for each service to welcome and seat worshipers in a safe and efficient manner. Training is available and the commitment is for about 2.5 hours on a Sunday. Please do prayerfully consider how you could help out as we continue to adjust to worshiping in new and different ways. Interested? Please email [connections@acparis.org](mailto:connections@acparis.org).

**Youth and Young Adults program - Fall 2020-2021** *Out There: Together in One Place* For more information contact Pastor Victor Greene at [youthpastor@acparis.org](mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org).

**ACP Youth Music Ministry Fall program 2020:** Lifting a joyful noise unto the Lord through voice and instrument, in praise, prayer, and thanksgiving: though we are not able to rehearse in person (yet!), the ACP children's choirs will continue in the fall via virtual choir rehearsals sent as private YouTube video links to watch, and alternating with Zoom rehearsals. Children of all ages are welcome. Whether you have participated in ACP choirs for years, or are new to singing, you have a home here – come and join us! See [acparis.org](http://acparis.org) for registration and more details.

**Women's Monthly Bible Study: Women of the Old Testament** – Our goal is to prayerfully discuss what God has for us to learn from their stories and how to apply those lessons to our lives. We will meet one Sunday a month, 12h15-13h15, room F2 (first floor). The 2020 dates are as follows: 4 October, 15 November, and 6 December. *Note:* we are hoping to meet in person; however, if necessary due to the coronavirus, these meetings will be held on Zoom. All women welcome! Free childcare provided. More information at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).

## Ministers of the American Church in Paris

### Ministers

Interim Senior Pastor  
Interim Associate Pastor  
Interim Associate Pastor  
Youth / Young Adult Pastor  
Children's Ministry Director  
Director of Music  
Contemporary Music Dir.  
Youth / Children Music Dir.  
Executive Secretary  
Wedding Coordinator

### The Entire Congregation

**The Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart**  
**The Rev. Jodi Fondell**  
**The Rev. Doug Fondell**  
**Victor Greene (M.Div.)**  
**The Rev. Allison Wheeler**  
**Fred Gramann**  
**Natalie Raynal**  
**Sara Barton**  
**Heather Walter**  
**Jörg Kaldewey**

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[www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org) [Twitter.com/AmChurchParis](https://twitter.com/AmChurchParis) [Facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis](https://Facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis)

A blue rectangular graphic with a central circular logo made of colorful geometric shapes. On the left, it says 'The American Church in Paris' and 'www.acparis.org'. On the right, it says 'WELCOME to ACP' and lists ways to get involved: 'Learn about us', 'Get involved', 'Become a member', 'Request a prayer or other help', and 'Support us'. Below this is a QR code and the URL 'acparis.org/welcome'.

The American Church in Paris  
[www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org)

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