



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

18 July 2021, 11h00

Welcome to this service of worship

Please observe COVID protocols throughout worship; wear your mask, observe social distancing, refrain from singing, and greet your neighbor without touch. Offerings may be made at acparis.org/donate or here today at the welcome table. Please follow the guidance of ushers, and take or recycle your bulletin. We are happy you are here!

We Gather

Prelude Overture from the Suite in D Major *G.F. Handel*
Eternal Source of Light Divine *G.F. Handel*
(arranged for trumpet and organ by Fred Gramann in gratitude for
the ministry of Odette Lockwood-Stewart)
Simon Fournier, trumpet Fred Gramann, organ

Welcome and Greeting Odette Lockwood-Stewart

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

† Call to Worship Kate Snipes

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Today we rejoice, we worship the Living God,

Seek the peace of God that your hearts and minds abide in Christ Jesus.

Today we choose God's peace;

today we place our trust in God.

Turn your hearts away from distractions
that flow in and out like the tide.

**Today and every day we return to God, we center our lives
in God's amazing grace.**

† Bells and Call to Confession

† Prayer of Common Confession

**God of mercy, in our impatience for answers, we sometimes
turn to idols of our own making and forget our covenant with
you. Passionate for what is right, we wrong those with whom
we differ. At times, we are anxious and filled with worry. We
list criticism rather than gratitude. Forgive us dear Lord,
when our faith is too weak to entrust our doubts to you.**

‡ Silent Prayers of Confession

‡ Words of Assurance

Hear and believe the Good News:

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous. Alleluia. Amen.

‡ Passing of the Peace

Allison Wheeler

Music Fantasia for trumpet: Andante *Johann Ludwig Krebs*
Simon Fournier, *trumpet* Fred Gramann, *organ*

Candle for God's Global Vision of Compassion, Justice and Peace

Jodi Fondell

We Hear the Word

The First Lesson – Judges 21:25 Chinwe Akujuobi, Mary Hovind-Gay

In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music How Beautiful are the Feet *G.F. Handel*
Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

‡ The Second Lesson – Ruth 1:1-18 Chinwe Akujuobi, Mary Hovind-Gay

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi

said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.”

But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die – there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music Aria from Cantata 147: Ich will von Jesu *J.S. Bach*
I will sing of Jesus’ wonders and my lips will bring glad offerings.
Frédéric Goncalves, *soloist* Simon Fournier, *trumpet*
Fred Gramann, *organ*

Sermon There Was No King Odette Lockwood-Stewart

A Moment of Silent Meditation

Ringling of the Bells

We Respond and Are Sent into the World

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (in your mother tongue)

Invitation and Prayer for the Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Doug Fondell

Offertory Music How Great Thou Art arr. *S. K. Hine*
Nicole Taylor, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

ACP Candle Blessing
Invitation
Benediction

Odette Lockwood-Stewart
Marleigh White

Postlude

Simon Fournier, *trumpet* Fred Gramann, *organ*

Farewell Blessings of Love and Gratitude for Odette and Jim
from ACP Congregation Members

1st Congregational Gift

Daniel & Marie Grout

AFCU Gift

Pam Bohl

African Fellowship

Henry Fortu, Elizabeth Eposi, Tawa Mosaku, Zainabu Taylor

Filipino Fellowship

Virginia Jacinto

2nd Congregational Gift

Mark Primmer and Marleigh White

ACP Council Gifts

Kerry Lieury

Community Sending Prayer

Kym Stewart

The American Church in Paris Online Community

Welcome to worship! We are so glad that you are here! During the Covid-19 pandemic, the **American Church in Paris** remains a vibrant community with online resources for worship, learning, spiritual formation, and Christian discipleship. In addition to in-person worship in our sanctuary, ACP posts **livestreamed worship and much more** at acparis.org. Please continue to check our website for the latest news and to participate in new opportunities every week. Our mission is **“to bear witness in word and deed to the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.”**

Announcements

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Pastors Odette and Jim Lockwood-Stewart for their precious service to the ACP congregation in the interim period, offered by grateful ACP Members.

Sunday Worship: Traditional Worship is in the Sanctuary at 11h; Contemporary Worship is in the Sanctuary at 14h. Registration is required for both services; see acparis.org Mondays at 12h to reserve your seats. The livestream team will be on ACP Summer Sabbath from 25 July to 22 August, but Worship Online will be posted on acparis.org, Facebook and YouTube at 9h. We are building a volunteer tech team to run the livestream each week; contact secretary@acparis.org if you would like to join the team!

ACP Special Meeting of the Church Membership to vote to call the incoming Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Save the date! 25 July at 16h via Zoom.

The Council of the American Church in Paris requests the presence of all voting members of the ACP – and welcomes all congregants – to attend the Special Meeting of the Church Membership via Zoom video conference. The purpose of the meeting, and sole agenda item, is to vote to call the incoming Associate Pastor – Rev. Elizabeth Murray (see bio below) – recommended by the ACP Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministries Search Committee. This meeting will be held virtually online due to Covid-19 constraints, and in the afternoon so members who attend the Worship in the Sanctuary services can also attend. The meeting link, instructions, and documents will be sent via email.



Rev. Elizabeth Murray is an ordained pastor in The United Methodist Church. Originally from metro Atlanta, Georgia, she has spent the entirety of her ministry in Columbia, South Carolina. Previously, she served as the Coordinator for Hispanic/Latinx Ministries of the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. She has been the youth pastor at Lexington United Methodist Church in Lexington, South Carolina since July of 2016. Elizabeth is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and Duke University's Divinity School. Elizabeth's seminary internships took her to a non-profit in Kenya, faith-based advocacy work in Washington, DC, a local church in eastern North Carolina, and as a hospital chaplain. She is passionate about reading, travel, social justice, and is an avid fan of American football, especially her alma mater—the South Carolina Gamecocks.

Please plan to attend this virtual meeting, but if you cannot be present, make sure your vote counts by completing the electronic proxy at acparis.org/proxy. We kindly request that you submit your electronic proxy by Saturday 24 July, in order to save time at the Special Meeting. We will be voting on important church business during the video conference. The Zoom virtual meeting system allows only one vote per connected device. If your household includes more than one ACP member, please have each member log-on with separate devices or fill out an electronic proxy (acparis.org/proxy) for each additional ACP member on the same device. If you have any questions, please contact connections@acparis.org.

In need of prayer? 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, you may contact us at acparis.org/prayers.

Volunteer Editor for *The Spire*: ACP's thriving monthly magazine *The Spire* is looking for a volunteer editor-in-chief. Interested? For further information please contact us at communications@acparis.org.

ACP Weekly

African Fellowship Online: Sundays 16h-17h via Zoom. The first Sunday of each month is the Fellowship and additional Sundays in the month will be Bible study. Please register for the Zoom details at acparis.org.

Thursdays with Paul: Thursdays on our weekly E-blast and posted at acparis.org. We invite you get to know our called Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Paul Rock, via a series of short video conversations where he thoughtfully answers questions that were asked by ACP members during our Congregational Meeting of 30 May 2021.

Silent Prayer Thursdays at ACP: Thursdays at 19h-20h via Zoom. Join us for prayer in silence. We will practice 25 minutes of praying together in stillness according to the method of Centering Prayer. This period is followed by the reading of a short sacred text according to the method of Lectio Divina. Afterwards, there will be an opportunity for sharing. Register at acparis.org for the Zoom link.

Children's Ministries

Children's Worship: On break for summer, stay tuned to acparis.org for updates.

Vacation Bible School 2021: Monday-Thursday, 23-26 August, 9h-12h each day. Our theme is "Knights of the North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor," which "invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God." All children from ages 3-10 are welcome, and you can register here acparis.org/VBS2021.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Youth/Young Adults: On break for summer, stay tuned to acparis.org for updates.

Adult Ministries

Sunday Evening Adult Bible Study: Sundays 17h30-19h via Zoom. This Bible study on the Book of Acts is hosted by Patti Lafage and Nathaniel Akujuobi, via Zoom. All are welcome. To register and receive the Zoom link: acparis.org.

Men's Morning Bible Study at ACP: Thursdays 7h30-8h30 via Zoom.
acparis.org/men-thursday.

Read all about it – inspiration, information, news, and events from ACP in the most recent edition of the Spire. Available on the app, or at acparis.org.

OPERATION GREEN THUMB



Help adorn the senior pastor apartment with lovely plants for the arrival of Paul and Stacey Rock. Here is Stacey's reaction to the idea:

“I absolutely love the idea of Operation Green Thumb! My daughter turned me into a plant person during the pandemic and of all our things, I am truly saddest to leave the house plants I have cultivated. I just said to Paul yesterday - really! - that it will be fun to add plants to the apartment. How wonderful if some could be starters from church members - there's something very beautiful about that.”

You may bring a plant or a cash donation towards a plant to the reception desk in care of Fred Gramann anytime before August 10. Each plant will have a note identifying the donor(s). For more information, please contact Fred at music@acparis.org.

The Ministry of the American Church depends on you!

The American Church in Paris depends on the generosity of members and alumni in Paris and worldwide who continue to be touched by its ministries.

Please visit acparis.org/support-us for more on being part of ACP's ministry through regular stewardship or planned giving. You can also speak with a pastor after today's service.

Gifts by those subject to French income tax receive a 66% reduction in their tax due (up to 20% of taxable income). The after-tax cost of your support is therefore only €34 for a €100 gift. This applies to gifts made by check or bank transfer in EUR to The American Church in Paris.

For those who may prefer the smaller charitable deduction from taxable income in the US, checks in US dollars should be made out to The American and Foreign Christian Union (AFCU) and marked "ACP Stewardship".



ACP Vacation Bible School 2021

Knights of the North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor

Place: American Church in Paris

Dates: Monday to Thursday, 23-26 August

Times: 9h-12h

Please mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School at ACP. Our theme is "**Knights of the North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor**," which "invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God." All children from ages 3-10 are welcome. Although the program will be conducted primarily in English, VBS is for open to all children regardless of spoken language or level of ability, ages 3-10 years old. As long as it remains safe and prudent to do so, we will be hosting VBS in person! Adult volunteers please contact Allison Wheeler, Children's Ministry Director at childrensworship@acparis.org

Register your child at acparis.org.

Ministers of the American Church in Paris

Ministers	The Entire Congregation	
Interim Senior Pastor	The Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart	seniorpastor@acparis.org
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Jodi Fondell	associatepastor@acparis.org
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Doug Fondell	ap2@acparis.org
Children's Ministry Director	The Rev. Allison Wheeler	childrensworship@acparis.org
Visiting Pastor	The Rev. Don Lee	visitingpastor@acparis.org
Director of Music	Fred Gramann	music@acparis.org
Contemporary Music Director	Natalie Raynal	cmusic@acparis.org
Youth/Children Music Director	Sara Barton	yusic@acparis.org
Executive Secretary	Heather Walter	secretary@acparis.org
Wedding Coordinator	Jörg Kaldewey	weddings@acparis.org

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



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