



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS



PENTECOST SUNDAY

23 MAY 2021

11h00

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

For the health and safety of us all, we worship respecting Covid-19 pandemic protocols. We kindly invite you to keep your masks on throughout worship, and to refrain from greeting your neighbor using touch (hugs, handshakes, etc.). Please speak prayers aloud as led by our pastors.

The offering plates will not be passed, but will be located on the ACP Welcome Table at the portico as you enter and exit the Sanctuary. Please make your offering to God with a generous heart here today or electronically at acparis.org/donate.

When leaving the sanctuary, please follow the guidance of ushers, and maintain safe physical distancing. Remember to take your bulletin with you when you leave or recycle it in the designated bin on your way out. Thank you for joining us today!

The congregation's spoken words are in **red**.

☩ You are invited to rise in body or in spirit when you see this symbol

PENTECOST, from the ancient Greek for "the fiftieth day," commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus, as described in the Book of Acts, Chapter 2. Pentecost is sometimes described as the Church's birthday, and today we celebrate this. May our worship today help each of us sense the presence of the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

Prelude

Fantasia on “Come, Holy Spirit, Lord God”
Fred Gramann, *organ*

J.S. Bach

Sonata for Clarinet: II. Allegro animato
Carol Mundinger, *clarinet* Fred Gramann, *piano*

Camille Saint-Saëns

Greeting and Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

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

And also with you.



Call to Worship

Doug Fondell

God of Grace and God of Glory,

You call us through your Holy Spirit into new community.

Your breath sings in the colors of creation.

Open our hearts, minds, and souls to the power of your Spirit here and now.

God of Grace and God of Glory,

You set our hearts on fire for work and love and praise;

Grant us wisdom, courage, and humility

for the Living of these days.

We gather in the name of Jesus.

May we worship you in Spirit and in truth.

Call to Confession

(in Kabyle, from Algeria)

Sania Henda



Prayer of Confession

Spirit of God, you are the restless breath of love that sweeps through creation. You move where you will, breaking down barriers, stirring hearts to change, making all things possible. We confess that we sometimes close ourselves off from your mighty wind, from the fresh air of new ideas, from your Holy winds of change. Steadfast God of every place and time, forgive us our sin.

(Prayers of Silent Confession)

Breathe on us Breath of God. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen**



Words of Assurance

Jodi Fondell

Beloved in Christ, God’s Spirit is with us, empowering us to know and receive God’s mercy and grace. In this Spirit and through Christ, we proclaim the Good News:

In Christ we are forgiven and free!

In Christ we are forgiven and free! Alleluia! Amen.

New Member Reception

Pastor: Hear these words (John 15:16) of our Lord Jesus when he said, “You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil.” Obeying the words of our Lord Jesus, and certain of His presence with us, we welcome those who come now to join in the membership of this congregation.

Friends, Jesus Christ has chosen you, and in baptism and in the affirmation of your faith, joins you to himself. Now He has led you to this time and place so that you may confess your faith as we join together in the ministry and mission of the church. So I will ask you ...

Questions to those to be received as New Members:

Pastor: Who is your Lord and Savior?

New Members: JESUS CHRIST IS MY LORD AND SAVIOR.

Pastor: Do you trust in him?

New Members: I DO.

Pastor: Do you claim God's covenant promises, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ, putting your whole trust in His grace?

New Members: I DO.

Pastor: On this Pentecost Sunday, we are now blessed to receive the following persons into membership of this congregation:

Agnes Adex (France), Christian Farrokh Nazar Aghaei (France, Iran), Sengamalam Ajit (international), Chandra Laizeau (American), Raphaël Laizeau (France), Kate Eunyoung Lee (South Korea), Nirmala (*Mala*) Moktar (UK, Singapore), Cecile Rouzet (France), Claire Yau (France, Cambodia), Jacob Yau (France, China).

Pastor: Do you promise to seek the fellowship of the church, giving of yourself as God leads you with your prayers, your presence, gifts, service, and witness?

New Members: I DO.

Pastor: Will the congregation please stand? Do you, the members of this congregation, welcome these disciples who have witnessed to their faith in Jesus Christ, and do you promise to strengthen their ties with the household of God through your faithful fellowship and love?

Congregation: **WE DO.**

Pastor: With the whole church then, let us confess our faith using the historic words of affirmation of the Apostles Creed:

All:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for visible signs of your invisible grace, and for the fact that you call us all to respond to you in faith. We pray for these new members. By your grace and love, strengthen them to be true disciples of Jesus Christ. Remembering that we are part of your church, called to share your love with all people, hear us as we pray together saying ...

All: **Gracious God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. Together, may we remember our own baptism, live in your Spirit, and so love one another, that we may have the same mind of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Amid all the diversity of this congregation... of race, of language, and of culture... and with a rich history of faith traditions from which we have come, we celebrate our unity in Christ Jesus. We rejoice that we now join together on this journey of grace and faith.



Call to Prayer (in Bakweri, from Cameroon) Elizabeth Eposi
English Translation
*I am with my Lord so I am not afraid.
I put my hope in Him in all tribulations.
We are with our Lord; we are not afraid.
We have our hope in Him in all tribulations.
Peace and goodwill to you; peace be with you;
Blessings to you; blessings of our Lord be with you.*

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

Prayer for Illumination Doug Fondell

Musical Offering Multitudo linguarum ex Spiritus Sancti Fred Gramann
And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered,
because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.
The ACP Bronze Ringers

Scripture Lesson – Acts 2:1-21 Lectors: Anna Dai, Peter DeWit, Walter Dickerson

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response The Call *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Philip James Glenister, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

Sermon Title of sermon? Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Bells Call Us to Prayer

Prayers of the People
Invitation and Prayer for the Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Victor Greene

Offertory Music *Mein gläubiges herze* (from the Pentecost Cantata) *J.S. Bach*
My faithful heart, delight, sing and play, for your Jesus is here!
Away with sorrow and lamenting. I will only say to you that my Jesus is near.
Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

The Lord's Prayer in your mother tongue (led in Tagalog)
(*You are invited to pray as Jesus taught us in your first language.*)

Delia Esteban

Sharing the Light of the Gospel by the Power of the Holy Spirit

Sung Response Spirit of the Living God
Jennifer Young, *soloist*

Daniel Iverson

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us
Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us



Benediction

Odette-Lockwood-Stewart

Postlude

CONGREGATIONAL CANDLE LIGHTING

- Persons at the end of each row of seats will light their candles from the pastors' and ushers' candles. To light, please extend your arm and tilt your unlit candle to your neighbor's lighted one. Be sure to hold your lit candle upright to avoid dripping wax.
- Once all candles are lit, you may hum along to "Spirit of the Living God."
- As you leave, please take care to extinguish your candle in the tins of water provided, and please take your candle home with you.
- Thank you for joining us and Happy Pentecost Sunday!

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, Children's Worship and weekly Devotions** from our Contemporary Worship Team 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

Sunday Worship starting today: Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 11h, livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube (see acparis.org for links). Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary at 14h. Registration is required for both Worship in the Sanctuary services; see acparis.org Mondays at 12h to reserve your seats.

Called! A Spring Devotion. A 5-week devotion from Eastertide into Pentecost led by the contemporary worship team. In scripture, music and prayer, listen for how Jesus is calling you to play the role only you can play. Jesus is alive and has called us to join him!

ACP Special Congregational Meeting on 30 May to vote to call the incoming Senior Pastor and to vote on other finance and governance matters. Save the date! To be held after Sunday services at 16h00 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 Congregational Meeting via Zoom video conference. Agenda items include:

- vote to call the incoming Senior Pastor recommended by the ACP Senior Pastor Search Committee;
- vote to approve the 2021-2022 proposed Council Slate;
- vote to approve the 2020 audited financial results, and vote to approve the reserve allocations.

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 meeting documents will be sent soon via email.

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 29 May, in order to save time at the Congregational 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.

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee: The ACP Council is pleased to announce that the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee was approved during the Council meeting on 10 May 2021. The following ACP members were appointed: Elizabeth Eposi, Delia Esteban, Devon Graves, Mary Hovind-Gay, Tinu Kaldewey, Geepee Usino, and Lisa Prevett. Our prayers are with this wonderful team of people as they prepare to serve, beginning this fall!

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. The ideal candidate or team is skilled at content planning, text layout, photo-editing, graphics design, copy-editing, and proofreading. The position requires a native English speaker with a good grasp of French, excellent writing skills, good interpersonal skills, and sharp attention to detail. Interested? Please contact communications@acparis.org.

ACP Weekly

Coffee Fellowship Online: Sundays at 12h15 via Zoom. We invite you to worship online through the livestream at 11h on acparis.org, YouTube or Facebook and then join us for online fellowship. Coffee Fellowship Online will begin at 12h15. If you would like the Zoom link, please register at: acparis.org/worship-fellowship.

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

Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020-21: 30 May at 12h45 via Zoom. This online monthly Bible study is for all children seven and older. We will spend the year studying the Lord's Prayer. Please contact Rev. Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org for more information, and/or register at acparis.org.

ACP Children's Music Ministry program 2021: The ACP children's choirs will continue via online choir rehearsals sent as private YouTube video links to watch, alternating with Zoom rehearsals. Children of all ages are welcome. See acparis.org/childrensmusic for registration.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Youth: People Power. Sundays through 27 June at 15h30 via Zoom.

Young Adults: Mary's Playlist: Listen. Chat. Pray. Repeat. Featuring selected songs from the *Rolling Stone's* top 500 songs of all time playlist, YAYA gatherings will use the art / artists as interlocutors to help exegete the ways Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55) is imprinted on the Resurrected body of Jesus and on the world that is, the world we hope to be, and the world we hope to come. Join us! May 2021, online – and maybe, in person should COVID protocols change. For more information contact Pastor Victor Greene at youthpastor@acparis.org.

Adult Ministries

Wednesday Evening Adult Learning at ACP: Through 23 June, 19h30-21h00 via Zoom. Join us as we embark on a new learning journey focused on John's Letter of Hope to the Seven Churches of Revelation. For more information and to register for the Zoom link, please visit acparis.org.

Women's Monthly Bible Study: 30 May at 13h30-14h30 via Zoom. All women are welcome to join this study on Women of the Old Testament, led by Teri Lee Valluy. Register at acparis.org/women-sunday.

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. We are currently studying Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible*. Please register for the Zoom details at acparis.org.

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

Women's Weekly Bible Study: Tuesdays 10h-12h via Zoom. Join us for our virtual study of "Job, an Unlikely Story of Joy." Contact Katherine for more information at womensbiblestudy@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.

For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, adults, and mission and service opportunities, see 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 Director
Youth/Children Music Director
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

seniorpastor@acparis.org
associatepastor@acparis.org
ap2@acparis.org
youthpastor@acparis.org
childrensworship@acparis.org
music@acparis.org
cmusic@acparis.org
ymusic@acparis.org
secretary@acparis.org
weddings@acparis.org

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The Ministry of the American Church depends on you

The American Church's operating costs depend primarily on the generosity of its members and alumni around the world who have been touched by its ministry. If you wish your gift to be tax-deductible in the United States, you must make your check payable to our parent organization "The American and Foreign Christian Union" (AFCU) and put the words "for ACP Stewardship" on the memo line of your check. In France, your gift in Euros is deductible under the category "*réduction pour dons à des organismes d'intérêt général*." The church issues year-end receipts of giving acceptable for French tax authorities. Contributions in either euros or US dollars are accepted by both the ACP and the AFCU. To find out more about how you can help secure the future of the ACP through bequests, charitable trusts, and other forms of planned giving, please speak to one of the pastors. If you would like to set up recurring electronic fund transfers to facilitate giving, please visit acparis.org to find out how.



The American Church in Paris
www.acparis.org



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The American Church in Paris

65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris

www.acparis.org - tel: 01 40 62 05 00