



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

11 April 2021

Welcome to this service of Worship Online

Gathering Music

Prelude in D minor
Fred Gramann, *organ*

J.S. Bach

Greeting and Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

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

And also with you.

Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We have not seen the risen Christ,

but we see him in the lives

of those transformed by grace.

We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

but we have seen him in the faces

of everyone whose love encourages us.

We have not touched the wounds

from the cross,

but we have been called to bring healing

to the scarred of the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn

Christ Is Alive!

tune: TRURO

Prayer of Common Confession

Jodi Fondell

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the tomb you have given us the sure sign of your power to deliver us from sin and death and to renew our whole creation.

We confess that we still fall into doubt and fear. We continue to cling to selfish ways and doubt your power to make all things new. Forgive our lack of faith. Have mercy on our weakness. Raise us from the death of sin that we may live with Christ in the joy of his resurrection, now and forever. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Words of Assurance

Friends, the risen Christ declares to us we are forgiven and set free!

If we confess our sins, God can be trusted to forgive our sins

and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

Children's Blessing

Allison Wheeler

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

Music

Be Thou My Vision

Traditional Irish melody, arr. Brenda Portman

Jennifer Young, *solo* Fred Gramann, *piano*

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

King of My Heart *John Mark McMillan, Sarah McMillan*

Devon Graves, *guitar, vocals* Natalie Raynal, *backing vocals* Marta Hobbs, *production*

The Second Lesson – A Reading based on John 20:19-29

David Van Cleve

It was late that Sunday evening
when I returned to my brothers,
thinking to find them still grieving as I was.

They greeted me
in excitement
and great joy.

“We have seen the Lord!”
they said.

Had grief brought them to this—
that they would not accept
that he was gone from us forever?

Again and again they insisted:

“We have seen the Lord!

He was here among us!”

“I don't believe it,”

I said.

“Unless I see the scars
of the nails in his hands
and put my finger on those scars
and my hand in his side,

I will not believe.”

The days passed.

We were together
behind locked doors
when he came again.

There could be no doubt -
Jesus stood among us, saying,

“Peace be with you!”

Then he looked at me
a little sadly.

“Put your finger here,”
he said,

“and look at my hands;
then stretch out your hand
and put it in my side.

Stop your doubting,
and believe!”

I stared, transfixed,
unable to move or to speak.

At last I found my voice
and whispered,

“My Lord and my God!”

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon	A Skeptical Believer	Doug Fondell
Anthem	Blessed are the Eyes	Fred Gramann
Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (in your mother tongue) Invitation to offering		Odette Lockwood-Stewart
Offertory Music	Easter Anthem	David Farley
	David Wallace, <i>guitar</i> Kym Stewart, <i>solo</i> Devon Graves and Natalie Raynal, <i>vocals</i>	
Prayer of Dedication		
Hymn	When Thomas Heard from Jesus	<i>tune:</i> AURELIA
	Text: Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette	
	<i>When Thomas heard from Jesus, "Now come and follow me," He surely went with gladness, for there was much to see. He witnessed Jesus' teaching and saw his healing touch; He found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much. When Jesus spoke of heaven, bold Thomas dared to say, "We don't know where you're going! How can we know the way?" He wanted understanding of what he could not see. Then Jesus reassured him, "The way is here — through me." When crowds began to murmur and leaders raised their cry, Brave Thomas spoke out firmly, "Let's go with him and die." He ate at Jesus' table, partaking wine and bread; Yet later with the others, he saw the cross and fled. What joy on Easter evening when many saw the Lord! Yet Thomas was not with them and would not trust their word. When Christ appeared before him, his doubts were quickly gone; He gladly knew that evening the joy of Easter dawn. That man of faith saw Jesus at breakfast by the sea; At Pentecost he witnessed so others would believe. O Lord, may we — like Thomas — keep growing day by day; Increase our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the Way.</i>	
Benediction		Doug Fondell
Closing Response	May the Mind of Christ	Paul Liljestrang
	Jennifer Young, <i>soloist</i> Fred Gramann, <i>piano</i>	
Postlude	Fugue in D minor	J.S. Bach
	Fred Gramann, <i>organ</i>	

The American Church in Paris Online Community

Welcome to worship! 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. We continue to **Worship Online** at acparis.org. Please continue to check our website for the latest news and to participate in new opportunities every week. 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

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, Today at 13h: 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 semi-annual congregational meeting via Zoom video conference. We will receive the 2020 Ministry Reports from the Council and pastoral leadership of the ACP, present the 2020 preliminary financial results, and vote to approve the 2021 budget. This meeting will be held virtually online due to COVID-19 constraints. The meeting link, instructions, and meeting documents have been sent 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 10 April, 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.

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

Sunday Worship: We worship online, with weekly postings starting from 9h at acparis.org.

Sundays via Zoom – Worship/Coffee Fellowship Online: Join this Sunday for worship and fellowship time on zoom. *Note, we have resumed watching Worship Online together at 11h during the confinement period.* Join anytime, but please be muted if you join mid-service. If you would like the Zoom link, please register at: acparis.org/worship-fellowship.

Wednesdays from 6h at acparis.org – Sanctuary Sessions Join *Natalie Raynal and ACP Contemporary Worship Musicians* for acoustic sessions online.

Silent Prayer Thursdays at ACP: Thursdays 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

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

2021 program *Theology on the Ground*. For more information contact Pastor Victor Greene at youthpastor@acparis.org.

Adult Ministries

ACP Women's Fellowship: Today 16h via Zoom. We will hear the journey of Yvonne Hazelton as she speaks on the themes "Don't Throw Baby Jesus out with the Bathwater" and "Why is Yvonne Still a Christian?" Please register for the Zoom details at acparis.org.

Adam Hamilton Virtual Thurber Conversation: 15 April 19h30 via Zoom. Adam Hamilton will speak on his book that we have been studying as a congregation: *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*. More information and registration at acparis.org.

Adam is senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, one of the fastest growing, most highly visible churches in the country. *The Church Report* named Hamilton's congregation the most influential mainline church in America, and he preached at the National Prayer Service as part of the presidential inauguration festivities in 2013. Hamilton is the best-selling and award-winning author of *The Call, Making Sense of the Bible, Love to Stay, The Journey, The Way, 24 Hours That Changed the World, Revival, Not a Silent Night, Enough, When Christians Get It Wrong, and Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*, all published by Abingdon Press.



African Fellowship Online: Sundays 16h-17h via Zoom. The first Sunday of the month is the monthly fellowship, and additional Sundays in the month will be a study. Today we will begin the study on 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. Register at 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	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
Youth / Young Adult Pastor	Victor Greene (M.Div.)	youthpastor@acparis.org
Children's Ministry Director	The Rev. Allison Wheeler	childrensworship@acparis.org
Director of Music	Fred Gramann	music@acparis.org
Contemporary Music Director	Natalie Raynal	cmusic@acparis.org
Youth/Children Music Director	Sara Barton	ymusic@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)

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

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