



# THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

18 OCTOBER 2020

### WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP ONLINE

Announcements

Psalm 96  
Fred Gramann, *cymbells*

*Fred Gramann*

Prelude

Prelude on Psalm 96  
Fred Gramann, *organ*

*Harald Rohlig*

Greeting for Worship

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

Jodi Fondell

Call to Worship (*from Psalm 96*)

O Sing to the LORD a new song;  
**Sing to the LORD, all the earth;**  
Sing to the LORD, bless God's holy name;  
**Tell the story of his salvation from day to day;**  
Declare God's glory among the nations,  
**God's marvelous works among all the peoples;**  
**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised!**

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

tune: HYMN TO JOY

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.*

*Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, whose love surrounds us even when we are unaware, we confess that we are not always open to the power of your presence. We let fears control us and anxieties turn us away from abundant life in Christ. Forgive us. Fill us with the assurance that we are your beloved children. Open our hearts to our neighbors.**

*(Moments for silent confession)*

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness and Peace

If anyone is in Christ Jesus, that person is a new creation.

The old has passed away, the new has come. Thanks be to God!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous. Thanks be to God!**

Gloria Patri

Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Blessing of the Children

Allison Wheeler

Musical Offering

Great Are You Lord *Leslie Jordan, David Leonard*  
Kym Stewart, *vocals* Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals*  
Josiah Woodson, *production* Jeff Hohener, *videography*

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

Victor Greene

The First Lesson – 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

MaryClaire King

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Musical Offering

Aria from Cantata 29: "Gedenk an uns mit deiner Liebe" *J.S. Bach*  
*Consider us with your love; enclose us within your mercy!*  
*Bless those who rule us, who lead, protect and guide us.*  
Caroline Drury, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

The Second Lesson – Matthew 22:15-22

Chinwe Akujuobi

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax."

And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Things That Are God's

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Musical Offering

Pie Jesu *Gabriel Fauré*  
*Blessed Lord Jesus, grant continual rest.*  
Caroline Drury, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

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

Invitation to the Giving of Tithes and Gifts

Doug Fondell

Offertory Music

Sister Let Me Be Your Servant (The Servant Song)

Richard Gillard

Natalie Raynal, *vocals* David Wallace, *guitar* Marta Hobbs, *videography, production*

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Allison Wheeler

Hymn

Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes?

Tune: BEACH SPRING ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

Text: Copyright © 2014 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

***"Is it lawful to pay taxes when they prop up Caesar's rule?"  
So some people asked of Jesus, wanting him to seem a fool.  
Saying "no" would be sedition; saying "yes" would be a sin.  
Jesus changed the conversation, calling them to look within.***

***"Find a tax coin in your treasure; see the image that it bears.  
Give to Caesar what is Caesar's. (Give to rulers what is theirs.)"  
Yet he pressed on with his message; "Give to God what is God's own."  
We who bear our Maker's image worship God and God alone.***

***Lord of all, in every nation, may your word be understood —  
That we have an obligation to support the common good.  
May our taxes, all together, fund our working hand in hand  
So that life will be made better for all people in this land.***

***Still, we also hear your teaching: "Give to God what God is due."  
May no ruler — overreaching — try to take the place of you.  
May we listen to your message, may we honor what is yours;  
May we, living in your image, seek your kingdom that endures.***

Benediction

Congregational Amen

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## **The American Church in Paris re-gathered and also online**

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. We continue to follow government guidelines to most prudently 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 been 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 **Worship Online** at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org) for the foreseeable future.

Whether you are one of the thousands of viewers from many 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).

**Ushers Needed:** ACP is committed to moving forward with worship services in the sanctuary 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 worshipping in new and different ways. Interested? Please email [connections@acparis.org](mailto:connections@acparis.org).

**Two Worship in the Sanctuary services begin 1 November.**

Traditional Worship starts at 10h30; Contemporary Worship starts at 13h30. Worship Online will continue beginning 9h each Sunday.

**Volunteers with artistic talent are needed:** Looking ahead to the season of Advent which begins on 29 November, we would like to decorate the sanctuary Advent wreath differently for each of the four Sundays, possibly incorporating the same theme in the altar decorations. Please speak with Fred Gramann for more details if you might be interested in this special project. [music@acparis.org](mailto:music@acparis.org)

## Children's Ministries

**Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020-21:** 15 November, 12h45 via Zoom. This virtual 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 [childrensworsip@acparis.org](mailto:childrensworsip@acparis.org) for more information, and/or register at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).

**Threaded Together:** A Children's Ministry Initiative. When it feels like everything is unraveling, we trust in God to thread us together more tightly with Him and with one another. During these days when we cannot safely experience the joy of being all together in person, our Threaded Together initiative offers different ways for us to stay connected, and for parents and children to experience support from church staff, volunteers, and other families. Register at [acparis.org/threadedtogether](http://acparis.org/threadedtogether) to participate in a family small group. For more information, contact [childrensworship@acparis.org](mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org).

**ACP Children's Music Ministry Fall program 2020:** Join us in 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 via virtual choir rehearsals sent as private YouTube video links to watch, 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/childrensmusic](http://acparis.org/childrensmusic) for registration and more details.

## Youth and Young Adult Ministries

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

## Adult Ministries

**ACP Today: Faith Talk from Paris** – 19 October, 20h45-21h30. Monica Montoliu-Bassett will co-host with Pastor Odette Lockwood-Stewart and talk about the financial impact of the pandemic, the results of the ACP survey, and a new refugee scholarship. Listen to it live by tuning in to Frequence Protestante at 100.7 FM, clicking into <https://frequenceprotestante.com/>, or listen to the recording later at [acparis.org/ACPToday](http://acparis.org/ACPToday).

**Virtual Thurber Conversation:** 10 November 19h30 via Zoom. Dr. Greg Garrett will speak on "Race, Film, and Hope: Living into Reconciliation." Contact Pastor Jodi at [associatepastor@acparis.org](mailto:associatepastor@acparis.org) to register or for more information.

**Bloom Where You're Planted:** 14 November, 15h (Paris time). ACP's popular expat orientation seminar will feature top speakers and informative workshops — and this year it will be virtual. Participants will be able to watch from anywhere, live on Zoom, or later via a recording. For more information, see [BloomParis.org](http://BloomParis.org). Share the link with friends or colleagues who dream of moving to France one day.

**Women's Monthly Bible Study:** 15 November, 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](http://acparis.org/women-sunday).

**Making Sense of the Bible:** This six-week, small group pursuit of greater Biblical understanding will begin early in November. If you would like to participate in a "Making Sense of the Bible" small group encounter with others via Zoom or in-person, please register your interest at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org), or speak directly to Pastor Doug following our worship service today at ACP.

**Sunday Afternoon Adult Bible Study:** Sundays 16h-17h30 via Zoom. All adults are welcome to join this study as hosts Nathaniel Akujobi and Patti Lafage lead us through an in-depth study of the book of Philippians. To register and receive the Zoom link please sign up at [acparis.org](http://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](mailto:womensbiblestudy@acparis.org).

**Men's Ministry Bible Study at ACP:** Thursdays 7h30-8h30, in the ACP Theater. In-house and Zoom option available. Register at [acparis.org/men-thursday](http://acparis.org/men-thursday).

**For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, and adults mentioned above, see [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).**

## Ministers of the American Church in Paris

Ministers	The Entire Congregation	
Interim Senior Pastor	<b>The Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart</b>	<a href="mailto:seniorpastor@acparis.org">seniorpastor@acparis.org</a>
Interim Associate Pastor	<b>The Rev. Jodi Fondell</b>	<a href="mailto:associatepastor@acparis.org">associatepastor@acparis.org</a>
Interim Associate Pastor	<b>The Rev. Doug Fondell</b>	<a href="mailto:ap2@acparis.org">ap2@acparis.org</a>
Youth / Young Adult Pastor	<b>Victor Greene (M.Div.)</b>	<a href="mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org">youthpastor@acparis.org</a>
Children's Ministry Director	<b>The Rev. Allison Wheeler</b>	<a href="mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org">childrensworship@acparis.org</a>
Director of Music	<b>Fred Gramann</b>	<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a>
Contemporary Music Dir.	<b>Natalie Raynal</b>	<a href="mailto:cmusic@acparis.org">cmusic@acparis.org</a>
Youth / Children Music Dir.	<b>Sara Barton</b>	<a href="mailto:ymusic@acparis.org">ymusic@acparis.org</a>
Executive Secretary	<b>Heather Walter</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary@acparis.org">secretary@acparis.org</a>
Wedding Coordinator	<b>Jörg Kaldewey</b>	<a href="mailto:weddings@acparis.org">weddings@acparis.org</a>

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

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THE 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# Bloom where you're planted



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Real Estate Professional  
*Finding Your  
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**CRAIG CARLSON**  
Restaurateur & Author  
*Building a Successful  
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**LISA ANSELMO**  
Author & Coach  
*Creating Your Best Life  
in Paris and Beyond*

### VIRTUAL EVENT

ATTEND FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE!

**SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER**

LIVESTREAM STARTS: 3PM (9AM ET)  
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**SAVE 27%**  
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OCTOBER 31

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[BLOOMPARIIS.ORG](https://bloomparis.org)

## 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" 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 the Reception desk to find out how.



**American Church in Paris**  
65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris  
[www.acparis.org](https://www.acparis.org) tel: 01 40 62 05 00