



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

21 March 2021



Lent 2021 at the American Church in Paris
“Bridging Worlds:
The Parables of Jesus and the Nearness of God”

Welcome to this service of Worship Online

ACP Lenten Theme

Down to the River to Pray
Fred Gramann, *piano*

arr. Fred Gramann

Gathering Music

A Bridge Called Faith
The ACP Bronze Ringers

Fred Gramann

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

We come to worship the Living God,
Just as we are.

Opening to God's Holy Spirit

We praise and pray in the name of Jesus.

We come to hear God's Word in ancient stories

That are also about us today.

Let us worship the Lord, who has done great things.

We rejoice in the nearness of our God!

In this season of Lent we are invited to new life in Christ.

In today's parable, Jesus asks us to invest in God's future in which everyone can flourish.

Hymn

Take My Life

tune: HENDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive us and guide our steps anew, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Words of Assurance

Friends, the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Let us proclaim the Good News:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Gloria Patri

Children's Blessing

Allison Wheeler

Music

Dust We Are And Shall Return

*David Gungor, John Arndt, Kate Gungor*George Makhshigian, *lead vocals* Natalie Raynal, *backing vocals* Devon Graves, *piano*David Wallace, *acoustic guitar* Mimi Sunnerstam, *cello* Ella Mundiger, *violin*Lisa Prevett, *flute* Jeff Hohener and Josiah Woodson, *videography and production*

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

ACP in Mission

The First Lesson – Psalm 51:1-12

Mary Hovind-Gay

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement.
Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

He's Got the Whole World in His Hand

arr. *Margaret Bonds*John Bernard, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

The Second Lesson – Luke 16:1-13

William Cuozzi

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him,

‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.”

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon	The Shrewd Manager	Odette Lockwood-Stewart
Music	Now And At the Hour	<i>The Brilliance</i>
	George Makhshigian, <i>lead vocals</i> Natalie Raynal, <i>backing vocals</i> Devon Graves, <i>piano</i> David Wallace, <i>acoustic guitar</i> Mimi Sunnerstam, <i>cello</i> Ella Mundiger, <i>violin</i> Lisa Prevett, <i>flute</i> Jeff Hohener and Josiah Woodson, <i>videography and production</i>	
Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (in your mother tongue)		Jodi Fondell
Invitation to offering		
Offertory Music	Hear Ye, Israel	<i>Felix Mendlessohn</i>
	Jennifer Young, <i>soloist</i> Fred Gramann, <i>piano</i>	
Prayer of Dedication		Doug Fondell
Hymn	Called as Partners in Christ's Service	<i>tune: BEECHER</i>
Benediction		Odette Lockwood-Stewart
Musical Response	Goin' Home	Antonin Dvorak
	John Bernard, <i>soloist</i> Fred Gramann, <i>piano</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 follow government guidelines to carefully open church buildings for worship, schools, and community groups in a way that is safe, sustainable, and fair for all. 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

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.

What Are You Giving Up For Lent? How about your eyeglasses? No, not the ones you currently wear. I'm talking about those old pairs gathering dust in a drawer. All kinds are welcome: prescription, non-prescription, sunglasses, and reading glasses. Bring them to church

any time during Lent and put them in the special box in the narthex or leave them at the reception desk. Contact Fred Gramann for more information at music@acparis.org.

Easter Lilies: We would like to extend to you the opportunity to tangibly participate in our 2021 Easter Services worship services this year, wherever you may be, by providing an Easter Lily for the ACP sanctuary, and making a special dedication in honor or memory of a loved one in our worship bulletins. The suggested donation for the lilies is 25€ per plant. However, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a special donation for your Easter Lily to help ACP continue to serve and bring hope to our community all over the world. Order today at acparis.org. Last day to order: **28 March**.

Holy Week Services: Worship Online. Don't miss our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services that will be aired online at 12h on 1 and 2 April respectively. The Easter service will be aired online beginning at 9h. All services will be available at acparis.org.

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: During confinement, we Worship Online with weekly postings starting from 9h at acparis.org.

Sundays 11h or 12h 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.

Lent

Morning Prayer at ACP via Zoom – A Lenten Journey: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, 8h-8h30 on Zoom. Start your day with prayer, meditative scripture readings and silence in the tradition of the Anglican Morning Prayer. The prayer will be led by ACP staff member, Jörg Kaldewey. Register at acparis.org for Zoom link.

Wednesday Evening Adult Learning during Lent: Bridging Worlds/Bridging the Gaps: Wednesdays 19h30-20h30. Join us as we build on our Lenten theme of Bridging Worlds – discovering through the parables of Jesus the wonderful ways His Kingdom infuses our present day living. Register for Zoom link at acparis.org.

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: Join us in lifting a joyful noise unto the Lord through voice and instrument, in praise, prayer, and thanksgiving. 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 Book Discussion: 29 March 19h30-21h via Zoom. Kate Snipes leads our virtual discussion of the widely heralded book on arbitrary social divisions, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson. Register at acparis.org.

Making Sense of the Bible: Launch meeting 25 March 19h via Zoom. This six-week small group will study *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton, a leading Christian author and Pastor, in pursuit of greater Biblical understanding. For information and registration, visit acparis.org.

All-church Movie Nights: 27 March, 3 April, 10 April at 20h via Zoom. Join us in a twice-monthly fellowship as we meet to watch and discuss movies together. Always remember Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Feel free to join the fun and to forward this invitation to a friend! Join All-Church Fellowship Group at acparis.org.

African Fellowship Online: Sundays 16h-17h via Zoom. 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

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

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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.



Give the gift of better sight to those who cannot afford glasses. They will thank you for it!

The American Church in Paris
www.acparis.org



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acparis.org/welcome



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