



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

25 OCTOBER 2020

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP ONLINE

Announcements

Meditation for Bells

Fred Gramann

Prelude

Alleluia Fanfare
The ACP Bronze Ringers

Fred Gramann

Greeting for Worship

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

And also with you.

Jim Lockwood-Stewart

Call to Worship

Come, let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

**Let us worship the Lord with songs of praise, with the stillness of prayer,
and with a commitment to love and to serve.**

Let us open our hearts to the power and love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for the gift of life.

For this is the day that the Lord has made.

Hymn

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

tune: LYONS

*Oh worship the King, all glorious above;
Oh gratefully sing God's power and God's love,
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.*

*Oh tell of God's might, oh sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
Whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is God's path on the wings of the storm.*

*The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.*

Prayer of Confession

With the confidence of faith, and the assurance of God's unfailing grace,

let us confess our sins to God. Let us pray:

Gracious and loving God, we confess how often we have missed the mark. We have failed to be the people we want to be, let alone the people we know you call us to be. Deliver us from the illusion of self-sufficiency. Free us from the burden of self-importance. Illumine us with the light of your sufficient grace and abiding love.

(Moments for silent confession)

We pray this in the name and spirit of Jesus the Christ. **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. My friends, hear and believe the Good News: 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

Before The Throne Of God

Charitie Lees Bancroft

Devon Graves, *guitar, vocals* Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals* Josiah Woodson, *production*

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

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Lockwood-Stewart

The First Lesson – Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

Natalie Raynal

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy."

"You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD."

"You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering

Laudate Dominum

W.A. Mozart

Praise the Lord, all nations; Praise God, all people. For God has bestowed mercy upon us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

The Second Lesson – Matthew 22:34-46

Teri Lee Valluy

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'?"

"If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

More than Suggestions

Jim Lockwood-Stewart

Musical Offering

Whole Heart (Hold Me Now)

Aodhan King, Joel Houston

Devon Graves, *guitar, vocals* Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals* Josiah Woodson, *production*

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

Invitation to the Giving of Tithes and Gifts

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Offertory Music

I Know that My Redeemer Liveth
Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

G.F. Handel

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Allison Wheeler

Hymn

God, In Christ You Give Salvation
tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7 ("God of Grace and God of Glory")
text: Copyright © 2008 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

***God, in Christ you give salvation,
And in him, the old has gone.
We are made a new creation;
Now we sing: the new has come!
Side by side, we serve together,
Telling news of what you've done,
Telling news of what you've done!***

***Called by Christ, we live as brothers,
Strong and faithful, bound to you.
May we reach to lift up others
So that they will know Christ, too.
Side by side, we serve together,
Salt and light in all we do,
Salt and light in all we do!***

***Sent by Christ, we go with courage,
Feed the hungry, help the poor,
Strengthen families, live your message,
Work for justice, heal, restore.
Side by side, we serve together:
May we daily serve you more,
May we daily serve you more!***

Benediction

Jim Lockwood-Stewart

Congregational Amen

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 follow government guidelines to 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. 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 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.

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. 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.

A second Worship in the Sanctuary service begins 1 November: Traditional Worship starts at 10h30; Contemporary Worship starts at 13h30. Worship Online will continue beginning 9h each Sunday.

Photos Requested: The All Saints Online Worship Service on 1 November will include photos of ACP-related friends and family members who have joined our Lord in heaven during the past year. You are invited to send a photo of a departed loved one, along with their complete name, to Fred Gramann at music@acparis.org by Wednesday evening, 28 October. They will also be included in a Musical Meditation Video for the Feast of All Saints which will be available at acparis.org.

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. Contact Fred Gramann for more details if you are interested in this special project. 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 childrensworship@acparis.org for more information, and/or register at 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 to participate in a family small group or contact childrensworship@acparis.org for information.

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 for registration.

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.

Adult Ministries

Monthly Women's Fellowship: 8 November 16h via Zoom. Tendayi O. Chirawu, leader of ACP's Writers Group, will discuss the impact Luke 22:32 had on her life when in Namibia, and reflect on her life and faith considering Simon. Tendayi will also speak about the resilience of the ACP Writers' Group and their new anthology. Visit acparis.org for details on how to join.

Virtual Thurber Conversation: 10 November 19h30 via Zoom. Dr. Greg Garrett will speak on “Race, Film, and Hope: Living into Reconciliation.” Visit acparis.org for details on how to join 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. 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.

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, 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.

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 Ministry Bible Study at ACP: Thursdays 7h30-8h30, in the ACP Theater. In-house and Zoom option available. Register at acparis.org/men-thursday.

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

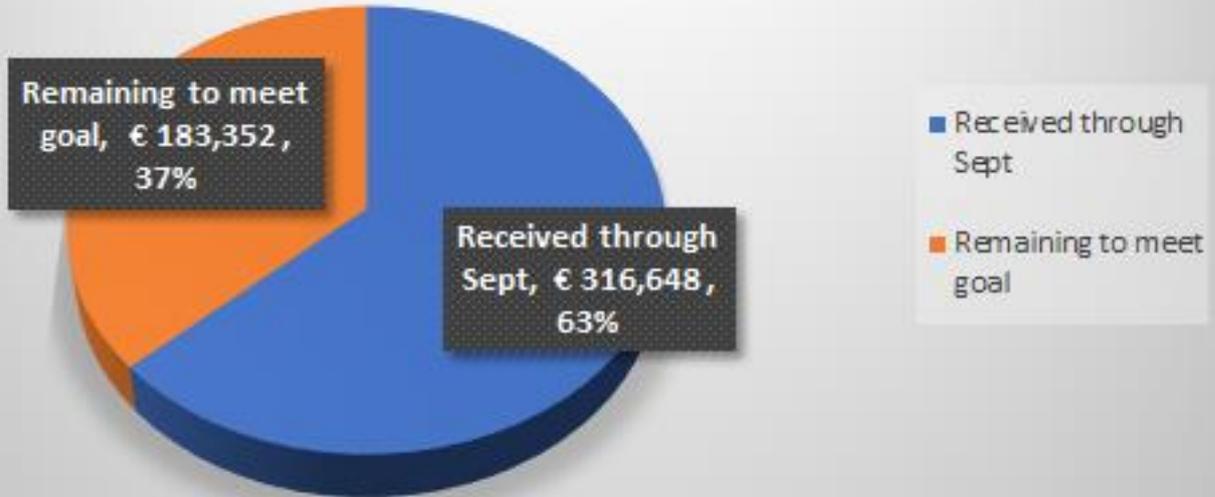
For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, and adults mentioned above, see acparis.org.

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 Dir.	Natalie Raynal	cmusic@acparis.org
Youth / Children Music Dir.	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

Congregational Giving Through Sept. Goal is €500,000



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 give electronically, please visit acparis.org.



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