



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

28 February 2021

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 *arr. Fred Gramann*
Fred Gramann, *piano*

Gathering Music To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul *Fred Gramann*
The ACP Bronze Ringers

Greeting and Welcome Odette Lockwood-Stewart
The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

In this season of Lent we are invited to consider how we live as followers of Jesus. In today's parable, the "Parable of the Sower," Jesus calls us to hear and do the good news.

Hymn Forty Days and Forty Nights, vs. 1 & 2 *tune: AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH*

Prayer of Common Confession Victor Greene
Merciful God, we confess that we have fallen short 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, that we may do your will and walk in your ways our Lord Jesus 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 Beautiful Things *Michael and Lisa Gungor*
George Makhshigian, *guitar, vocals*, Alexia Rabé, *piano* Kym Stewart, *vocals*
Natalie Raynal, *vocals* Josiah Woodson, *production*

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

ACP in Mission Tom Wilscam

The First Lesson – Psalm 22:23-31

Chinwe Akujuobi

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the LORD, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

Tritt auf die Glaubensbahn

J.S. Bach

*Walk upon the path of faith for which God has laid down the stones.
Step carefully so as not to stumble.*

Frédéric Goncalves, *soloist* Carol Mundinger, *clarinet*
Fred Gramann, *piano*

The Second Lesson – Mark 4:3-9

David Li

“Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”
And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Listen!

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Music

All Is Not Lost

D. Campbell, D. Gungor, J. Arndt

Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals* Kym Stewart, Natalie Raynal, George Mahkshigian, *vocals*
Josiah Woodson, *production*

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

Jim Lockwood-Stewart

Invitation to offering

Offertory Music

Vouchsafe O Lord

G.F. Handel

*Vouchsafe O Lord to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, let Thy mercy lighten upon us as our trust is in Thee.*

Frédéric Goncalves, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

Prayer of Dedication

Jim Lockwood-Stewart

Hymn

Forty Days and Forty Nights, vs. 3 & 4

tune: AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE ICH

Benediction

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Congregational Amen

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 re-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? Have you thought about it? Need an idea? 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. Thanks to the *Fondation La Cause*, they will be given to folks in Africa who cannot easily afford glasses. *La Cause* is a French Protestant organization that ACP has been supporting since 1997. So please, bring in those no longer used eyeglasses. Contact Fred Gramann for more information at music@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.

100 Nights of Welcome (100 NOW): 100 Now is a winter shelter for refugees in Paris and one of the missions of the ACP. For more information about the organization and how you can help, contact Tom Wilsam at missionoutreach@acparis.org.

ACP Weekly

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 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. acparis.org/childrensmusic.

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: 28 February 16h on Zoom. Anna Dai will speak about her personal and faith journey from China to Paris and the American Church in Paris. Please register for the Zoom details at acparis.org.

ACP Book Discussion: Mondays 1, 15 & 29 March 19h30-21h via Zoom. We will have three virtual book discussions on our collective reading of the widely heralded book on arbitrary social divisions, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, written by Isabel Wilkerson. Our first discussion will cover the introduction through page 35, and Kate Snipes will guide the group in discussion with two guest professors. Register at acparis.org.

Zoom Membership Orientation Meeting: 4 March 19h30-21h. All who are interested in becoming a member at ACP are invited to sign up for this casual and interactive Zoom meeting. You'll learn about the history, the vision, beliefs, values, and governance of ACP, and you'll get to know your pastors and some of the members of our lay care ministry team. Together we'll explore opportunities for involvement that will enable you to serve, connect, and grow at ACP. Register at acparis.org.

Virtual Thurber Conversation: 16 March 19h30-21h via Zoom. Dr. Rod Wilson will speak on "Christians and Anger: Friend or Foe?" Register 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.

Alpha Online: Mondays 20h30-22h via Zoom, in English and French. In this season, when many of us are struggling to understand what is going on in the world, feeling isolated and facing challenges, the Alpha Course provides a safe space to ask life's biggest questions and explore the Christian faith. If you've never tried Alpha or you know someone who has questions about life and faith, join us Monday nights as we explore together. Contact alpha@acparis.org to receive the connection link.

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 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

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 site to those who cannot afford glasses. They will thank you for it!



American Church in Paris

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