



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

31 January 2021

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP ONLINE

Announcements Fugue *Johann Pachelbel*
Fred Gramann, *organ*

Gathering Music The Wisdom, Riches and Knowledge of God *Robert Powell*
Jennifer Young, soloist Fred Gramann, *piano*

Welcome Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Greeting and Call to Worship (Reflecting Psalm 111)

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart.
Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.
Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.
He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.
He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

Hymn O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing *tune: AZMON*

Prayer of Confession Doug Fondell

Lord God, we strain to hear your voice, and to hear the voices of your prophets. Yet even when we hear, we too often fail to listen; we do not heed your commands. Save us, Lord. With humility, let us be teachable to your prophets as they seek to guide us in your ways and wisdom. Raise us to our true purpose – your purpose for our lives. Hold us accountable to the deep needs of creation, of our neighbors, and to the just commandments of your Holy Self. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous! Amen.

Gloria Patri

Children's Blessing Allison Wheeler

Music The Lord is My Light *Frances Alittsen*
Philip James Glenister, *soloist* Laurana Mitchelmore, *piano*

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

The First Lesson – Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Max Valluy

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak – that prophet shall die."

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

Music

I Surrender All

Traditional

Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals* Josiah Woodson, *production*

The Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Kerry Lieury

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists”, and that “there is no God but one.: Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth – as in fact there are many gods and many lords – yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Take Care

Allison Wheeler

Music

Bridge Over Troubled Water

Simon and Garfunkel, arr. Alexia Rabé

Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals* Josiah Woodson, *production*

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

Jodi Fondell

Offertory Music

Litanies
Fred Gramann, *organ*

Jehan Alain

Prayer of Dedication

Victor Greene

Hymn

My Hope is Build on Nothing Less

tune: SOLID ROCK

Benediction

Allison Wheeler

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.

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 Today radio show – tomorrow, 1 February, 20h45-21h15. Tune in to 100.7 FM or listen in at <https://frequenceprotestante.com/>. Co-hosts Rose Burke and Natalie Raynal will discuss how to be an anti-racist, Christianity and weddings, lessons from the film Groundhog Day, and Chandeleur, France's national crepe day.

ACP Weekly

Sunday Worship: We will continue with Worship in the Sanctuary at 11h and 14h. Registration in advance each Sunday is obligatory; register at acparis.org. Worship Online with weekly postings starting from 9h at acparis.org.

Sundays from 10h55 via Zoom – Worship/Coffee Fellowship Online

At 11h00, we will worship online together via shared screen. Once the service has ended (about 12h), we will break into 30-minute coffee fellowship groups. 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.

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 virtual 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

Wednesday Evening Adult Learning at ACP: 19h30-21h via Zoom. The Sermon on the Mount: Living as Kingdom People (a 6-week study). Register at acparis.org.

A Thursday Evening Discipleship Encounter for new and seeking to be renewed Christians: 19h-20h via Zoom. Walking in His Steps: Living as a Disciple of Jesus (an 8-week encounter). Register at acparis.org.

Sunday Evening Adult Bible Study: Sundays 17h30-19h via Zoom. This Bible study on the Gospel of John will be 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.

African Fellowship Online: Sundays 16h-17h via Zoom. Please register for the Zoom details 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 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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acparis.org/welcome



American Church in Paris

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