



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9 May 2021

Welcome to this service of Worship Online

Gathering Music

Amazing Grace
Jennifer Young, *soloist*

tune: Virginia Harmony, 1831
lyrics: John Newton, 1779

Greeting and Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

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

Introit

Sanctus
Philip James Glenister, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

Charles Gounod

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 98)

Doug Fondell

O sing to the LORD a new song,

for he has done marvelous things.

Our God, the LORD of all, comes in victory.

In right relationship and justice for all peoples.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

Break forth into joyous songs of praise.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

Let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD,

united by God's love for us,

Let us be united in worship and in our love for one another.

Hymn

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

tune: BEECHER

Prayer of Common Confession

God of great love and mercy, we come before you aware of our faults and failings.

Forgive us when our actions are not in harmony with your call to love and care for

others. Forgive us when our inactions do not reflect your acceptance and

compassion. Free us to love as Jesus loved. Help us to abide in your love and to love

others just as you have loved us. Your grace is steadfast. We seek your forgiveness

this day.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Help us O Lord, to continually seek to love as Christ loved. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Long ago Jesus declared, "You did not choose me, but I chose you!"

Jesus speaks these words to us today.

So, hear and believe the Good News: Jesus forgives us and chooses us to be his friends.

Jesus forgives us and chooses us to be his friends. Alleluia and Amen!

Gloria Patri

Children's Blessing

Allison Wheeler

Music

Thank You
George Makhshigian, *guitar, vocals* Alex Duignan, *vocals*

ANAE

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

Victor Greene

The First Lesson – I Peter 4:8-11

Mary Hovind-Gay

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

Recit: And God said, let the earth bring forth grass

Josef Haydn

Air: With verdure clad

Caroline Drury, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

The Second Lesson – John 15:9-17

Teri Lee Valluy

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Learning Discipleship from Jesus

Grace Imathiu

Music

Rescue *Lauren Daigle, Paul Mabury, Jason Ingram*

Alexia Rabé; *piano, vocals* Mimi Sunnerstam: *cello* Lara Caister, *violin*

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

Jodi Fondell

Invitation to offering

Offertory Music

Benedictus

Josef Haydn

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

Prayer of Dedication

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Hymn

God, With Joy We Look Around Us

tune: REGENT SQUARE ("Angels, from the Realms of Glory")

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Benediction

Grace Imathiu

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 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

ACP welcomes Guest preacher, the Reverend Grace Imathiu, to our Worship Online service today. Rev. Imathiu is Senior Pastor of First UMC Evanston (USA). For Rev. Imathiu, “the world is her parish.” As an African who is married to a European and is raising an American son, Grace is committed to advocating for the inclusion of all people. She has preached in Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Togo, Liberia, Denmark, Australia, Malaysia, Brazil, and all throughout the United States.

Gospel Welcome! Today from 12h-13h on Zoom. You are invited to participate in open conversations on Welcome and Inclusion at the American Church in Paris. This is an opportunity for small group conversations led by pastors on the ACP Council's *Affirmation of Welcome and Inclusion*. This is just the beginning of a journey of listening, learning, and growing our witness to the love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. If you would like the Zoom link, please register at: acparis.org/worship-fellowship.

Called! A Spring Devotion. A 5-week devotion from Eastertide into Pentecost led by the contemporary worship team. In scripture, music and prayer, listen for how Jesus is calling you to play the role only you can play. Jesus is alive and has called us to join him! In-sanctuary worship will return 23 May with the celebration of Pentecost with a 14h contemporary worship service. Register on-line from 16 May at www.acparis.org.

Pentecost. Your participation is requested for the Pentecost worship service on 23 May. Please record Acts 4:2 in any language and send it to connections@acparis.org. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Please find a quiet place to do this, leaving a little silent space before and after speaking. It can be a video if desired, but only the audio will be used. The deadline for receiving recordings is 18 May. Recordings received after that time will not be able to be included. Translations can easily be found on Google or other search engines by typing in: "Acts 2:4 in _____", filling in the desired language.

ACP Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on 30 May - Save the date! To be held after Sunday services at 16h00 via Zoom. The Council of the American Church in Paris requests the presence of all voting members of the ACP – and welcomes all congregants – to attend the semi-annual congregational meeting via Zoom video conference. Among other agenda items, we will vote to approve the 2021-2022 proposed Council slate, and vote to call the incoming Senior Pastor recommended by the ACP Senior Pastor Search Committee. The meeting link, instructions, and meeting documents will be sent via email in due course. Mark your calendars today!

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 Weekly

Sunday Worship: We worship online, with weekly postings starting from 9h at acparis.org.

Sundays 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.

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

Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020-21: 30 May at 12h45 via Zoom. This online 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.

ACP Children's Music Ministry program 2021: 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

Youth: People Power. Sundays (9 May – 27 June) 15h30 via Zoom.

Young Adults: Mary's Playlist: Listen. Chat. Pray. Repeat. Featuring selected songs from the *Rolling Stone's* top 500 songs of all time playlist, YAYA gatherings will use the art / artists as interlocutors to help exegete the ways Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55) is imprinted on the Resurrected body of Jesus and on the world that is, the world we hope to be, and the world we hope to come. Join us! May 2021, online – and maybe, in person should COVID protocols change. For more information contact Pastor Victor Greene at youthpastor@acparis.org.

Adult Ministries

Wednesday Evening Adult Learning at ACP: Through 23 June, 19h30-21h00 via Zoom. Join us as we embark on a new learning journey focused on John's Letter of Hope to the Seven Churches of Revelation. For more information and to register for the Zoom link, please visit acparis.org.

Women's Monthly Bible Study: 30 May at 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.

African Fellowship Online: Sundays 16h-17h via Zoom. The first Sunday of each month is the fellowship, and additional Sundays in the month will be Bible study. We are currently studying Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible*. 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. 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

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