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The spire of the Notre Dame, as it was. Note the rescued rooster (the so-called “spiritual lightning rod”) and the bronze statues of the apostles, including that of Thomas the Apostle (his back to the viewer), with the features of restorer Eugène Viollet-le-Duc. Read more in our story on page 7.

Photo: ©CreativeMarket
Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Grace, mercy and peace to you in these first weeks of Eastertide. This Easter day what were supposed to be joyful celebrations of the resurrection turned into more like grieving lamentations for the death and destruction so prevalent in our world. The burning of Notre Dame was hard enough for those of us living in Paris as one of the world’s great pilgrim and tourist sites was damaged by fire on Monday of Holy Week. And then during our early morning Easter Sunday services, word began to come in of the multiple terrorist bombings in Sri Lanka with hundreds of people dead and injured, mainly Christians praying in three churches and tourists in three five-star hotels.

In Ephesians we read that we might know “what is the immeasurable greatness of God’s power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is the body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

I have always puzzled over what the writer means that God has put “all things under his [Christ’s] feet and has made him [Christ] the head over all things for the church,” but especially at such times when things in this world seem to be going so terribly wrong. What really is the Easter response of Christians to such violence and destruction?

It is good to remember that the Church is not a building, but rather those of us who are believers in and followers of Jesus Christ. We are an organic “Body,” and Christ is the “head,” when we are rightly connected. I was encouraged that our Council voted to give our Easter plate offering to ministries and missions of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Paris as a sign of our sympathy and solidarity in the aftermath of the fire. With hundreds of millions of euros donated to support the building campaign, the Council thought it important to encourage the church’s ministry and mission to local people. That seemed an appropriate response recognizing that although we are a different “part” of the holy catholic Church, nevertheless we are brothers and sisters in Christ and want to give a sign of our love and support.

The response to the terrorist bombings in Sri Lanka, and other kinds of senseless terror against innocents is more complicated. Of course we pray for further violence to be thwarted and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. But what does it mean to “love your enemy” in the face of such violence? Surely, the distinctive quality of Jesus is the way of the Cross, of suffering love. The unique Christian ethic is not revenge, retaliation, or “retributive justice,” but rather forgiveness, non-violence and “restorative justice.” This is a hard way, but the way of Jesus that I believe is at the heart of the good news of Easter. If Christ is in any way “Victorious” as we sing, it is not that he will dominate our enemies or vanquish those who hate us, but rather that he will give us the grace to prevail over the way of violence and give us the strength to show self-giving love always, and when necessary, compassionate non-violent protest.

This month we welcome our AFCU alumni and partners in ministry and mission. I hope that you will join me in welcoming them over the days they are with us, May 16-19. I also encourage you to come out to hear Eugene Cho’s Thurber Lecture on our theme, “No Longer Strangers,” May 16. Don’t miss the special concert “A Night at the Opera,” Saturday, May 18 with Laurana Mitchelmore and friends!

And in the meantime, I look forward to pursuing with you what it means to follow in the way of the crucified Jesus because of the hope we have in the resurrected Jesus. Surely, it is of “immeasurable greatness” not only for us, but for the larger church and world in which we bear witness. I’m sure that it will involve both words and deeds of love.

As the beautiful benediction of Ephesians 3:20-21 says, “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen!”

In Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

ACP Spire, May 2019
**What’s going on?**

**Tune in to ACP Today radio**

Have you ever listened to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 – this month on **6 and 20 May**. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

Tune into 100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante. We broadcast especially for friends who may be house-bound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Don’t like the radio? Listen online at http://frequenceprotestante.com or tune in at your leisure via the ACP website, at www.acparis.org/ACPtoday, or the ACP mobile app.

Friends and visitors, what better way to keep in touch with the ACP family and learn about the latest ACP news? If you want to catch up, all our shows are available on the ACP website. Faith Talk from Paris – it’s a kind of souvenir that never gets old.

*If you have any questions, comments, ideas or would like to contribute to the show, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.*

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**Bible readings for May**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 May</td>
<td>Third Sunday</td>
<td>Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)</td>
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<td>Psalm 30</td>
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<td>John 21:1-19</td>
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<td>12 May</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday</td>
<td>Acts 9:36-43</td>
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<td>Psalm 23</td>
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<td>Revelation 7:9-17</td>
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<td>John 10:22-30</td>
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<td>19 May</td>
<td>Fifth Sunday</td>
<td>Acts 11:1-18</td>
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<td>Revelation 21:1-6</td>
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<td>John 13:31-35</td>
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<td>26 May</td>
<td>Sixth Sunday</td>
<td>Acts 16:9-15</td>
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<td>Psalm 67</td>
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<td>Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5</td>
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**Every Sunday at the ACP**

**10h-11h** Beyond the ink: We discuss what the Bible means to each of us in our homes, church, neighborhoods, jobs. The Bible is not just ink on a page. [sundaybiblestudy@acparis.org](mailto:sundaybiblestudy@acparis.org)

**15h-17h** College and lycée groups meet to reflect and focus on God’s word, look back on how our faith was shaped, apply the Scriptures to everyday life. [sundayafternoon@acparis.org](mailto:sundayafternoon@acparis.org)
Spring retreat at Abbaye-Fleury
7-9 June
by Rev. Tim Vance
Associate Pastor

You are invited to a special time away for rest, relaxation, spiritual renewal, and community. From 7-9 June, ACP will return to the Abbaye-Fleury, a historic Benedictine monastery on the banks of the Loire, about two hours from Paris. The theme of the retreat will be *No Longer Strangers* and will be led by ACP’s Visiting Pastor Dan Michalek and his wife Fran.

“So he [Jesus] came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.” These words from Ephesians 2:17 are a welcome reminder of a peace that is already available to us and an invitation to experience God’s healing peace in the here and now.

Getting away from our regular routines can reveal areas of tension in our life as well as the deeper resources available within us, within community and within God’s presence. This retreat is then an opportunity for restoration in keeping with the Monastery’s stated purpose, “The monastery welcomes those in search of silence to recover in the presence of God, find themselves, listen to God’s words, living in the community and at their own pace, in a climate of recollection.”

Our ACP group will have its own time and space during the retreat for music, sharing, silence and free time for recreation. All will also be encouraged to take part in the daily prayers of the Brothers of the Abbaye.

The cost is €125 per person. The retreat is limited to a maximum of 36 people, with 12 single rooms and 12 rooms with two beds. This cost includes two nights’ simple lodging and six meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch).

The last day to register will be Sunday, 26 May. Please also note that transportation to the retreat is dependent on coordinated ridesharing which requires both willing drivers (with vehicles) and passengers who share the cost for tolls and gas.

For further information, including ridesharing, contact Sue at springretreat@acparis.org, visit the sign-up table in the theater during Sunday coffee hour, or consult the ACP website. If you would like more information about a partial scholarship, please contact Pastor Tim at associatepastor@acparis.org.

Prayer request, update from Jeff and Alba Powell

After numerous tests Alba has been diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF), a rare, degenerative lung disease that has no cure. There are two drug treatments that are used to slow the growth of the disease and reduce coughing or choking attacks. Alba will try these drugs and will be assisted with a portable oxygen tank for strenuous activities. Alba is trusting in the Lord and at peace in the midst of this challenging medical condition. She appreciates the support and prayers from her Christian brothers and sisters around the world.

Please continue to pray for her healing and that she will respond well to the prescribed medical treatments. I also ask for prayers for me as I care for and encourage her. Thank you for all your concern and prayers.
Prayer ministry

by TL Valluy

Prayer is powerful! But why? So many people ask. Why do we need to pray if God already knows what we need?

Out of His great love for us, the Lord gives us free will, meaning He won't force His help on us, but rather waits for us to ask. God is so pleased each and every time a prayer is sent up to Him!

ACP has a thriving prayer ministry. Many people are lifted up on Sundays from the pulpit in the prayers of the people; even more people are lifted up on the prayer chain. And that's because confidentiality is key to our prayer ministry. People are prayed for as they ask to be. We, those praying, don't really need to know the specifics, and God certainly already knows! Sometimes last names are given; sometimes details about a person's situation are described, but often, only first names are mentioned.

Admitting you need prayer can be hard; it's sometimes easier to pray for others than ask for it for yourself. Anyone asking for prayer can be assured that the request will not be made public, nor even discussed within the chain, unless it is that person's wish.

But wait, you might be thinking, what if someone really needs extra help? Rest assured, the pastors and lay-care leaders are members of the prayer chain and contact people when needed.

And what if that person lifted up turns out to be someone I know? Go check on that person! If you hear a common name lifted up, Elizabeth, Bill or whatever else, and you think that might be your friend, neighbor or acquaintance, give that person a call, send an email, stop by for a visit—contact that person in whatever way you feel comfortable. Even if the person you know isn't the one in prayer, he/she will likely be happy to hear from you.

Prayer is not only powerful; it also is mysterious. Having a company of believers lift you up seems to make a difference somehow. There are over 50 people on the ACP prayer chain! These prayer warriors pray faithfully over requests once a day for seven days; people are renewed on the chain as requested.

Anyone requesting prayer in Jesus' name is welcome to submit a request. This can be done by emailing prayerrequests@acparis.org, filling out a pew card or directly talking to me, the prayer-chain coordinator, Teri Lee Valluy.

If you would like to join the chain as a prayer warrior, you can also contact me at the above email. All that's needed are faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, email, and time.

Prayer partners

Another part of ACP's prayer ministry is in-person prayer partners. People are available to pray with and listen to others after the 11h and 13h30 services, and as with the chain, everything said is confidential. Prayer-partners can be found in the chapel area, often wearing a sign that says prayer team. We always need more prayer partners, people who know how to listen and compassionately understand what is being asked in prayer. If you'd like to be an after-service listener/prayer-partner, contact Kerry Lieury at kerry.lieury@gmail.com and/or Marie Grout at laycaregivers@acparis.org.

Prayer is a gift, one that we at ACP both value and use. You bless and honor us by letting us pray for you, and every time the Lord hears your name, He surely smiles!

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16
The nightmarish sight of Notre-Dame de Paris in flames didn’t seem real until a week to the day after the fire, when I was riding along the quai in a taxi shortly after nightfall. I had stood at the cathedral’s foot the day before with a mob of other rubberneckers. But the next night its ghostly silhouette, black as soot, loomed against the darkening sky as my cab passed. For the first time, in my 40 years of seeing Notre-Dame at night, it was unlighted. That’s when I truly realized a page had been turned in the cathedral’s long, eventful history.

In flames, in ruins, or whole and untouched except by time and pollution, it has stood as a symbol for people around the world. Its site, the Ile de la Cité, was for centuries thought to be the literal birthplace of Paris; only recently did archaeological digs suggest that in fact the Parisii, the city’s eponymous Celtic founders, made their first capital at what’s now Nanterre, west of Paris. Even so, from at least Roman times on, this was a center of city life—especially in the declining days of the empire, when increasing barbarian invasions of the Gallo-Roman city of Lutetia made the fortified Ile de la Cité a haven.

A temple to Jupiter probably occupied the site, judging by Paris’s oldest monument, the Boatmen’s Pillar, found in the 18th century when Notre-Dame’s crypt was being dug. Erected in Jupiter’s honor by the wealthy guild of river merchants, it dates from the 1st century. In early Christian Paris, a church commemorating Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was built on the site. This basilica, later cathedral of St Etienne, existed in various forms from the 4th century to the 12th, i.e. about as long as Notre-Dame itself—a history it may be comforting to recall as the powers that be decide what is to come next.

I last saw Notre-Dame on a cold morning this past February as I served as guide to a pair of visiting Americans. We walked first to the quai on the north bank of the Cité and found Rue de la Colombe, where the trace of the Roman wall is marked on the pavement. On the square in front of the cathedral we found similar markings indicating where houses, shops, inns, small churches, the old Hôtel Dieu hospital and even a wall of St Etienne had stood—a crowd of witnesses that Baron Haussmann ordered razed in the 1860s to create the Parvis Notre-Dame, which today also bears a second name, Place Jean-Paul-II.

Inside, we looked at a few of the “Mays,” a series of paintings donated to the archdiocese almost every May between 1630 and 1707 by the goldsmiths’ guild, whose memory is preserved by the nearby Quai des Orfèvres. Most were long ago dispersed to other churches and museums around France, but around a dozen were on display in the cathedral at the time of the fire on 15 April; those are now in the Louvre restoration workshops being examined for smoke and water damage.

Of course we stood in the transept to admire many of the other treasures that, as the world would later rejoice to hear, escaped the fire relatively unscathed—the glorious rose windows, the organ, the altar with its Pieta by Nicolas Coustou and the golden cross surmounting it, whose glow once the fire was under control and the doors were opened seemed like a miraculous sign that all had not in fact been lost.

Then we visited my favorite spot, a chapel behind the altar. In it were two glass cases. One held a wooden model of the cathedral as it looked when Eugène Viollet-le-Duc finished.../... continued, next page
restoring it in the 1860s. If the decision is taken to recreate the edifice the world has known for the past 160 years, there is no shortage of guidelines, including the copious notes, blueprints and drawings Viollet-le-Duc left, as well as the more recent digital 3D mapping by Andrew Tallon.

The other case contained a diorama of the original cathedral under construction, showing the many trades deployed to bring to fruition the plans of its largely unknown first architects. Here were stonemasons, masons (a trade in which women often worked, as the diorama showed), teamsters, carpenters and others, some operating pulleys, cranes and treadwheels to erect walls and pillars. I loved that display because it showed the human side of the great monument. I don’t yet know its fate but, if we’re lucky, we’ll see it again.

Meanwhile I think of the boatmen of Lutetia, whose role in establishing Paris is recalled by the ship carved on two sides of the ACP baptismal font – and, most famously, by the city’s coat of arms and the motto Parisians proudly cling to in times of both sorrow and recovery: “She is wave-tossed but does not sink.” Fluctuat nec mergitur!
After 10 weeks, 400 meals and one away-weekend, the ACP Alpha team finished its seventh consecutive course just a few days before Easter! Each week, 40 guests making up four small groups (including one French-speaking small group) watched an episode from the Alpha Film Series, with themes ranging from Who is Jesus? and How can I have faith? to Does God heal today? and What about the Church? Yet again, the guests came from far and wide, having been invited by members of our congregation directly or at the marché de noël, from seeing the banner outside the church, or having found the course via ACP’s website and social media pages.

It never fails to impress the team how the guests start as strangers, meeting for the first time at the Launch Party, and by the end of the course, friendships have been made and everyone feels like they have known each other for years, having shared a lot of laughter as well as some deep questions and experiences about life and faith. Experience from past Alpha courses has taught the Alpha team to expect God to do amazing things through the course in the lives of the guests, and once again this proved to be the case.

The guests’ feedback is testimony to how they found answers to questions, with some guests experiencing a new or reawakened relationship with Christ, while others came to a deeper understanding of their faith. As one of the team put it, “being a leader on Alpha is like having a front-row seat to watch God change lives.”

A huge “thank you” as always to the faithful kitchen team – headed by Kay, Cécile, Kym and David – and their trusty volunteers who gave their time and talents and worked tirelessly week after week to provide delicious home-cooked meals throughout the course. Alpha would not be the same without them! And a special thank you to all those who supported us in prayer throughout the course and to those of you who took the plunge and invited people to come along to Alpha.

What next for Alpha at ACP?

It has been another busy eight months for Alpha at ACP, as we ran back-to-back courses for the second time and also hosted a national leaders’ training conference with Alpha France in February (for the second year running), welcoming 300 Alpha leaders from across France. The team is starting to plan for the Fall 2019 course and we will keep you updated with prayer requests and other ways that you can get involved in this important ministry. Please continue to pray for the preparations and the new guests who will join us in September. Who might God be prompting you to invite?

How can you get involved in Alpha?

There are many ways in which you can get involved in the next Alpha course. The first and most important way is to support the course in prayer. Prayer is the motor that drives any Alpha course and your prayers are essential to its success. Another way you can be part of Alpha is by joining the kitchen team. We are looking for people with a passion for cooking who would like to take charge of the kitchen for an evening as well as anyone who wants to come and serve on the team by helping chop vegetables, learning how to make delicious desserts, and serving the meal to the guests. Many willing hands make light work!
Orthodox Easter

Our Orthodox brethren celebrated Easter on 28 April, but you can share their tradition by visiting one of the Orthodox churches and participating in this concert on Sunday, 12 May, 16h. L’Oratoire du Louvre, 4 rue de l'Oratoire, 75001 Paris. Cost: 25€.

Also visit:
Cathédrale de la Sainte-Trinité, Église Orthodoxe Russe, 1 quai Branly, 75007 Paris. Visits on Sundays 14h-19h.
Greek Orthodox Church, 7 rue Georges Bizet, 75116 Paris. Open for visits Mon-Sun, 9h30-13h30.

Croyances / Beliefs

This conference brings together 10 French specialists in philosophy and religion to explore and confront issues and arguments between the proponents of analytic philosophy and those of continental philosophy. The discussions will reveal the internal diversity of these traditions, and highlight their unexpected connections and divergences.

Thursday-Friday, 16-17 May, 10h-17h, Institute Catholique de Paris, 21, rue d'Assas, 75006 Paris. Free. For security reasons, registration is required at the web site of the Institute: www.icp.fr under Agenda.

Are riches dangerous for salvation?

One in a series of discussions around Church Fathers, this focus on riches was a particular issue raised by the 4th century Saint Jean Chrysostome, doctor of the Catholic, Orthodox and Coptic churches.


Celebrate God with David and Jonathan

Founded in 1972, David & Jonathan is a movement for homosexual Christians. Eglise St. Merry hosts a monthly event on Friday nights. In May, on Friday, 10 May, 19h-21h. Eglise St. Merry, 76 rue de la Verrerie, 75004 Paris.

Would you like to propose articles, write, proofread, do layout or take photos? Contact Alison Benney at Spire@acparis.org.

Note: Deadline for the June edition of the Spire is Wednesday, 23 May.
What’s up in Paris

May event listings

by Karen Albrecht

Devices and desires

Hip cyberspace La Gaîté Lyrique puts the PC back into personal computing with “Computer Grrrls,” saluting women as unsung pioneers and visionaries in the massively male-dominated digital arena. Artists, hacktivists and cyberfeminists playfully expose bias and stereotypes, questioning whether we can really allow our lives to be taken over by artificial intelligence that thinks... like a man. On 18-19 May “Dea ex-machina” looks at digital representations of women, while the 14-15 June “technofeminist” weekend explores alternative approaches to ecology and the economy.


A voice lost, and found

The original play “Maya, une voix,” premiering at the Théâtre de l’Essaion, blends music and literature to tell the unforgettable story of African American writer, poet and singer Maya Angelou (1928-2014). Brutally abused as an 8-year-old, Angelou did not speak for several years but, thanks to an inspiring encounter and her deep love of books, emerged from silence to become one of the most powerful voices of her generation. Ursuline Kairson’s portrayal, like her richly gospel-tinged singing, is pitch-perfect.


Feeding frenzy

Under the glorious glass dome of the Grand Palais, the Taste of Paris festival celebrates food, glorious food. With 43 top French chefs and pâtissiers giving demos and master classes, visitors can sample their creations for just 6-12 euros, a fraction of the cost of a meal in their restaurants. The Refugee Food Festival will be showcasing talented Syrian chef Mohammad Elkhaldy, while over 100 stands offer up gourmet products, from purple potatoes to organic pomegranate juice.

27 May, www.tasteofparis.com

Le modèle noir

Don’t miss the Musée d’Orsay’s hit show “Black Models: From Géricault to Matisse,” a partnership with US scholars and museums focusing on shifts in the representations of people of color and the growth of black identity, from 19th-century abolitionism, through the Harlem Renaissance and into the present day. Thirty live events feature 100 artists, including French rapper-poet Abd al Malik and his “Jeune homme à l’épée,” inspired by a Puvis de Chavannes painting.


Orient Express

If the long lines at Orsay get you down, head to the more intimate Musée Marmottan, for another show that looks at French painting looking at subjects beyond its own Eurocentric roots. “Oriental visions, from dreams into light” features 60 real or imagined scenes, some kitsch, some compelling. After opulent odalisques and parched desert landscapes, later canvases evoke the Orient’s unsung role in the birth of abstraction.


The word is mightier than the sword

Up for something completely different? Head to hip Belleville for a dip into the surprisingly addictive art of slam poetry. The Coupe du Monde du Slam pits youthful bards from 22 countries, on stage spouting their poems — some angry, some wistful, many political, and some downright hilarious — in a good-natured fight to the finish: slides in English and French make the action (a bit) easier to follow. The French final is grittier but every bit as gripping.

27 May-2 June, grandpoetryslam.com
Originating in Left Bank studios in 1895, the Atelier Concert Series became part of the cultural activities at the American Church in Paris during the early 1930s. These concerts provide a performance opportunity in Paris for talented musicians of all nationalities.

A different program is offered each Sunday evening at 17h00, September through November and January through June. There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering is taken at the door to support the series. For the schedule of concerts, see http://acparis.org

**Sunday 5 May 17h**

**THE ATLANTIC ENSEMBLE**

Wei Tsun Chang viola
Seana Dunigan Chang violin
Sari Reist violin
Jennifer Q. McGuire piano

William Bolcom

Graceful Ghost Rag Concert Variation for Violin and Piano

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Quartet in G, Major K.433

Camille Saint-Saëns

Quartet in Si, Major Op. 41

**Sunday 12 May 17h**

**L’ENSEMBLE INCANTÉVOLE**

Reiko Kitahama
Michal Zielinski
Monica Molinaro

Haydn, Trio in C, Op. 33, No. 1

Brahms, Trio No. 2, Op. 100

Rachmaninoff, Trio elégiaque, Op. 11

Shostakovich, Trio No. 7, Op. 67

**Sunday 19 May 17h**

Jeffrey Peterson piano
Rebecca Hays soprano

Joseph Li piano
Jamie Van Syck mezzo-soprano

Oeuvres de
Puccini, Rachmaninov, Gershvin, Beach, Barber et Negro Spirituals

**Saturday 18 May 20h**

Nicole Primmer, Nicole Taylor, Aviva Timonier,
Maija Vance et Jennifer Young

Asa Junesjo

Anne-Sophie Mutter

John Bernard et Philip James Glenister

Frédéric Gasca

Barryton

Lisa Prevett

Jeannine

Carol Mundinger
clarinet

Laurana Mitchelmore

piano

Oeuvres de
Handel, Mozart, Rossini, Verdi, Wagner, Bizet, Dvořák

**Sunday 26 May 17h**

Michael Ryan

John Franeck

Organ et piano

Oeuvres de
J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Franek et Ryan
It's hard today to imagine that Japan was once on the path to becoming a Christian nation, but there was a time almost 500 years ago when it seemed possible. Last summer, inspired by the recent Martin Scorsese film “Silence,” I took my sons Luke and Benjamin to Nagasaki to learn more about that astonishing era.

For students of history, the dawn of Christianity in Japan is a momentous time. In the mid-1500s, with trade and the race for empire propelling Portugal and Spain deep into the Far East, European missionaries led by St. Francis Xavier began arriving on the southern island of Kyushu to preach the Gospel. What kind of people were these pioneers, and what would they find in the mysterious land?

A few centuries later, the three of us followed their path to find out, arriving in Nagasaki to brutal August heat and humidity. After a sobering day in the Atomic Bomb Museum, we made our next few days a Christian history adventure, visiting sites around the city—a few churches, museums. Even though UNESCO recently added a number of the early Kakure Kirishitan, or “Hidden Christian,” sites to its World Heritage List, there is less than you might expect, a few out-of-the-way villages, some ruins, secluded islands. Taken together, though, there is enough to get the story. And what a story!

Overcoming language and cultural barriers almost beyond imagination, the early missionaries succeed in translating Judeo-Christian concepts, theology and the Bible into Japanese. The words of Jesus Christ—or イエス・キリスト, Iesu Kirisuto, as he is known—reach Japan for the first time. Meanwhile, the commercial relationship booms, with the Portuguese bringing guns, and luxuries like Chinese silk and porcelain (Japanese traders are banned in China). In return, they receive silver, fine steel swords, ceramics—even Japanese slaves.

The Japanese take to the new religion enthusiastically. Franciscans, Dominicans, and others follow the Jesuits, and have in a few short decades helped to convert perhaps 300,000 Buddhist and Shinto Japanese, including some powerful regional leaders. A significant part of southern Japan’s population is now Christian. In Rome, leaders of the Catholic Church pray that the entire nation might soon join the faith. One of history’s great what-might-have-beens.

Japanese leaders see things differently. They are alarmed about the spread of the foreign religion and seek to check its spread, but—to keep trade flowing—they look the other way for a time. By the late 16th century, they fear that the country will—like the Philippines—be colonized unless it acts to stop the spread of Christianity and Western influence. In 1587, the military ruler Hideyoshi orders the missionaries to leave and begins to suppress the faith.

In 1597, he orders the execution of 26 Christians, mostly Japanese converts. They are taken to a hill in Nagasaki and crucified. (In 1862, Pope Pius IX will canonize—that is, make saints of—all 26. Today there is a museum on the site. It is long on relics and artifacts, short on context and explanation, but still not to be missed.)

A few years later, Ieyasu, the new shogun, goes further. He clamps down on trade, makes formal the expulsion of the missionaries, and bans Christianity outright, ordering a ruthless persecution to stamp out the dangerous movement once and for all. Many thousands of Christians—the exact numbers forever unknowable—will be killed in the decades to come. But some resist, taking the faith underground. For these Hidden Christians, it must have seemed as though the world was ending.

They worship in secret, relentlessly hunted. When the inquisitors come calling, they are given a choice and a test. The choice: Apostasy or death by torture. The test: Step on an image of Jesus, a “fumie,” to demonstrate their indifference to the faith. Those who step on the fumie repudiate their church family, holy community, Christ himself, but they are spared. Those who refuse will be killed.

I first encountered this history years ago as a student in Tokyo, in Shusaku Endo’s 1966 “Silence,” regarded as one of the finest Christian novels of
all times. Loosely based on real characters, the story follows a Portuguese Jesuit who goes to Japan in 1639 to learn what has happened to his predecessor, who is reported to have apostasied. It turns out that Scorsese ("Taxi Driver," "Last Temptation of Christ," "Raging Bull") is also a fan of the novel. In 2016, he fulfilled a long dream by bringing it to the screen in a $46 million production starring Andrew Garfield, Liam Neeson, Adam Driver, and Issei Ogata. The movie flopped at the box office, as good as it is, but it is hard to imagine a film on such a theme succeeding in the current era.

I saw the film at its Paris debut with my son Luke, then 12; there were some difficult torture scenes, not over-the-top Hollywood, but maybe all too realistic for a kid. Beyond the “what would I do if I were in that situation” question that “Silence” raises, it beautifully renders the historical moment and treats the theological puzzle at the heart of the book with the respect it deserves.

In a way, because there is so little in Japan to see, the film and the book, and history books, might be the best way to learn this history. Still, as Christian pilgrims seek out the trail suggested by the UNESCO designation, the tourist infrastructure will improve, and already new websites are springing up to cater to foreign explorers. For now, though, it’s pretty much a do-it-yourself experience, and many people may be uncomfortable renting a car in Japan, because of its left-side-of-the-road driving and other challenges.

There’s a sad irony in the story that is not to be missed. After the Emperor Meiji ascended to the throne in the mid-19th century, the Hidden Christians finally came out of hiding to reveal themselves (to a French priest!). Many began to openly practice Catholicism once more, others continued to follow the old ways passed on by their clandestine forebears, ways that are unique in the Christian world. Today, though, Japan’s religious freedom and the lack of persecution have combined to wear away their hard-won secret solidarity. A religious tradition that has existed in secret for centuries is dying out. It’s worth going to find it before it’s vanished.

Recipe for a successful ACP Easter Breakfast

- 400 eggs
- 36 loaves of bread
- 480 sausages
- 10 liters of maple syrup
- 10 kilos of yogurt
- 36 liters of juice
- 200 cups of coffee

Add MANY volunteers and prep for two days. Don’t forget to decorate the room and set the tables beautifully with hand-folded butterfly napkins. Making chocolate truffles is optional, but always appreciated.

Once the griddles are hot and the sausages come out of the oven, you will know it is time to serve because you’ll see the guests arriving from the Sunrise Service just before 8h. Fold in lots of laughter and an occasional “He is Risen” and your recipe is complete.

Hallelujah! He is Risen, indeed!
We get a rare opportunity to showcase the ministries of the American Church in Paris and meet its main patron, when ACP hosts the American and Foreign Christian Union’s annual board meeting 16-19 May.

More than 40 people associated with the board – all volunteers – are expected for the meeting, and many AFCU alumni and boosters who won’t sit in business sessions have also been invited for a kind of reunion in Paris. It’s an unusual gathering for ACP because the AFCU board assembles here only once every six years in its meeting rotation.

The US-based nonprofit AFCU is the parent organization of the American Church in Paris, the American Church in Berlin, and the Vienna Community Church. It oversees the selection of ACP’s senior pastor, and finances that position, and owns and oversees ACP’s buildings. It also develops financial support for all three of its affiliated European churches, manages endowment funds for the churches and approves grants from them.

Board members will arrive by Thursday, 16 May, and that night will enjoy a small reception hosted by Senior Pastor Scott Herr and his wife Kim, where ACP’s own fourth-generation champagne producer Charles Genet will explain the creation of the bubbly they’re drinking. In addition, on Saturday evening 18 May, ACP members from several countries will treat board members to an international dinner.

The board will be hard at work in business meetings all day Friday and Saturday, but ACP members will have the opportunity to meet and chat with them. On Saturday night, 18 May at 20h, board members will be attending “A Night at the Opera,” a free concert in the ACP sanctuary and open to the public, with a champagne reception afterward.

Then on Sunday, AFCU President Ted Ziemann will present a message at all three services, so during the fellowship hour following the 11h service - with cake, coffee, and juice - ACP members can also meet the board and thank them for the organization’s support.

The board tours the church facilities on Saturday to examine the latest improvements, and to understand the needs for upgrades. An important board topic is the diverse development needs of the three churches: Vienna doesn’t own its building, Berlin’s is old with maintenance issues, and the AFCU owns the ACP building and pays the insurance and taxes on it.

Attending board members who used to worship at ACP will include former ACP pastor Dr. Tina Blair, Jerry Burns, Lynda and Bob DeLuryea, Bob Dunlop, Don and Kathie Eppert, Gregg and Megan Foster, Carol and Russ McNaughton, David Moore, Gary Scheineman, Kris Richardson Smith, Jon and Julie Voskuil, Betty and Ted Ziemann, and Jane Kendall. Associate board members John Smith and Andrew Teng and consultant Dick Bright will also sit in on the annual meeting. Larry Kalajainen, Carol Simpson, and Lewis Poag, who all had pastoral roles at ACP, will attend as guests, not board members.

ACP traces its roots to 1814, when Americans began worshipping together here in Paris. In 1849 three complementary missionary societies – the American Protestant Society, the Foreign Evangelical Society and the Christian Alliance – merged to form the AFCU. Eight years later, under a charter from the government of Napoleon III, the AFCU formally organized ACP’s forerunner, the American Chapel, and built a sanctuary on Rue de Berri in the 8th arrondissement. By the 1920s, the congregation had outgrown the building and began construction of today’s ACP in 1926, completing it in 1931. The AFCU began supporting the American Church in Berlin in 1914 and the Vienna Community Church in 2003.

Please accord a warm welcome to the AFCU board and guests, with appreciation for their voluntary time, hard work, and support.

ACP Congregational Meeting

ACP’s Semi-annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday 2 June, at 12h15. Stay informed, and assist in the growth and wellbeing of your church.
**Monthly Sunday Women’s Fellowship**

**Sunday 19 May, 12h15-13h30**

ACP Thurber Room

 Please join us and bring a friend, as we welcome Zainabu Taylor, speaking on "Walking in Faith." What does faith really mean to you when you are walking with the Lord day by day?

Zainabu is from Sierra Leone and came to France in 1996, running away from the war in her country. She has been attending worship at ACP since 2001 and is a founding member of the African Fellowship. She has also served as a Sunday School teacher, an usher and a bible study leader within the African Fellowship.

If you are able, please bring a sweet or savory treat to share during our fellowship time. Childcare is provided in G1.

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**The Movie Discussion Group**

**19h30, Thursday, 23 May**

Salle G2

This month’s movies to see beforehand:

- Missing Link/Monsieur Link
- Gloria Bell
- Becoming Astrid/Astrid
- Dolor y gloria/Douleur et gloire

Contact: movies@acparis.org

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**Refugee Ministry**

The Refugee Ministry makes recommendations to the Mission Outreach Committee on ways to motivate members of our congregation to help alleviate the refugee crisis in Paris. The team is looking for new members. If you would like to join or see what we do, please contact Ursula Perrier at ursulaperrier@gmail.com.

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**Time to Bloom!**

As seeds are planted for spring flowers, we have begun planting the seeds for ACP’s annual "Bloom Where You’re Planted" orientation event being held on Saturday, 5 October. It's not too early to let your friends who are new to Paris know about this year’s Bloom event.

Find all the information you’ll need on the ACP website. If you’re interested in volunteering this year at Bloom (lots of different roles available), or would like to hire a table at the exhibition hall, email David and Sherry at bloom@acparis.org.
I first discovered Taizé music and style of worship during my time at Princeton Theological Seminary. The Director of Music at PTSem, Dr. Martin Tel, is very adept at incorporating many different styles of music and worship into our daily chapel services. As a choir member, we often led the chapel attendees in Taizé songs within services.

When I arrived here at The American Church, it was our visiting pastor at the time, Odette Lockwood-Stuart, who started to talk about Taizé with me and the pastoral team. In these conversations I learned more about the Taizé monastic community here in France, and a desire to visit welled up within me!

One weekend in February, I hopped on a train and arrived at a peaceful community atop a hill where the sun was shining, and the bell was ringing, signaling everyone to lunchtime prayer. This weekend made me fall in love with the Taizé style of worship. I found myself adapting very quickly and encountering God in a new way. This new way occurred because of the opportunity to slow down, find contemplation, and sit at the foot of God. By doing this I opened my heart and mind to hear God’s voice. I stopped to listen rather than talk and God was present. God’s presence was loving, healing, and spoke to me.

After this experience, I was more than thrilled to contribute to the creation of a space and time that gave others within the city a chance to experience Taizé worship, even if for just an hour. It was beautiful to see different faces enter into the chapel each week. Some faces I knew and some I had never seen before, but the beautiful music, created by the many musicians under the direction of Nicole Taylor, helped us all enter into a time of meditative singing, silence, prayer, and rest in the presence of God.

I hope ACP finds a time to continue Taizé worship again because life is rushed, and we get caught up in our to-do lists, forgetting to stop and sit and breathe, and open ourselves up to God. We forget that we were created to love and worship God. An intentional time such as this reminded me of who I am and who I am loved by. Encouraged by Taizé, I now, every day, sing the short but beautiful “Veni sanctus Spiritus,” which means “Holy Spirit Come.”

Serve the City

Are you feeling the urge to help those less fortunate around you, but not sure how? Serve the City Paris meets 5 days a week at Café Caféothèque (75004) at 8h30 to deliver food to the refugees and homeless throughout Paris.

For more information, visit the site www.servethecityparis.com or write to info@servethecity.paris. You will find great opportunities to a part of the Serve the City movement of volunteers, seeking to show compassion and kindness to the most vulnerable in our city.
Rainbow Connection Grief Support
A new support group for those mourning the loss of a loved one. All meetings are free and facilitated by a therapist who specializes in grief therapy. Dates/times in April:

Friday 10 May from 19h-21h
Wednesday 15 May from 12h-14h
Friday 24 May from 19h-21h
Wednesday 29 May from 12h-14h

All meetings will take place in the Catacombs. Contact: RainbowConnectionGS@gmail.com

Monthly Sunday Women’s Bible Study
Sunday 5 May
12h15-13h15, F2 (1st floor)
This study of The Lord’s Prayer is led by Teri Lee Valluy and meets one Sunday each month. The focus for this month’s study is "Amen." All women are invited to attend and childcare is provided.

Prayer Chain Team
Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team?
If so, please forward your prayer by email to prayerrequests@acparis.org.
Your prayer request will remain strictly private and confidential.
Prayer is powerful. We are here for you.

If you would like someone to pray with you after services, a Prayer Team member is available. Meet in the chapel next to the theater after each service.
The ACP Youth Music Program, a vibrant group of roughly 50 children ages 3-14, has had a terrific year - and we are not done yet!

We have had an awesome experience preparing music and participating regularly in worship. Sometimes our monthly anthem has been sung by all of our groups together: Angel Choir (ages 3-5), Spirit Choir (ages 6 and up), Son-Day Choir (ages 3-15) and Ethereal (ages 10 and up); sometimes there has just been one of our choirs, or even our Choirchimes ensemble (ages 6-10), but every time has been special and uplifting.

Please mark your calendars for two upcoming concerts. On **Wednesday, 14 May at 18h** we have the honor of performing a concert at the Mairie du 7ème as part of its annual English Forum. All are welcome!

Coming up on **Saturday, 8 June at 19h** is a very special event: it’s the **Youth Spring Musical “Blast Off!”** directed by our very own Allison Wheeler. This wonderful musical is a fun-filled journey through the extra-terrestrial reaches of God’s good creation.

Please join us! For any questions about the ACP Youth Music program, please contact Sara Barton at ymusic@acparis.org.

### e-Stewardship

In response to your feedback, we are trying to make it easier to give, and provide options for those who do not carry cash or checks. You can now use your bank card to donate to ACP.

We pass around “electronic baskets” along with the regular offering plates during the offertory at worship services. They are easy to use, requiring only two steps (see the instruction cards in the pews). Your donation will show up in your bank statement as “Quete demat CB.”
**Please help keep our children healthy**

Because we want to keep the ACP nursery and toddler rooms safe and hygienic places to play and rest, children who are sick will not be admitted to the nursery and toddler rooms. This is to protect all of our children from communicable illnesses. We also assume that a child who is unwell will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) or caregiver(s) rather than at Sunday nursery. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation. If you have any questions, please email Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org.

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**Weekly Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study**

10h30 – 12h30, Catacombs

Using Navigators Life Change series on the book of Galatians, we study God’s word, pray for one another and have a time of fellowship with coffee and treats.

All women are welcome to attend. If you need childcare, please email at least a week in advance: women@acparis.org.

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NO LONGER STRANGERS

**Galatians 3:28**

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.

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**Spring Retreat 2019**

7-9 June at Abbaye-Fleury

The American Church in Paris | acparis.org

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What we are looking for is what is looking. ~*St. Francis of Assisi*

But when you are looking for information about activities at the American Church in Paris, head to our website: acparis.org
The Nabis and decoration
by Karen Marin

Realism, Impressionism, Pre-Raphaelite, Symbolism: the late 19th century generated a plethora of artistic movements. Inspired by the pure color and the flat, semi-primitive *tableaux* of Paul Gaugin, a close-knit group of artists banded together to bring yet another approach to art. Calling themselves the “Nabis,” a word meaning prophet in Hebrew and Arabic, these self-proclaimed seers wanted to break down the traditional boundaries between fine art and decorative arts, while bringing art into everyday life. “The Nabis and Decoration” at the Musée du Luxembourg sheds light on the artists, their inspiration, and their influence on interior design.

To make their art accessible and approachable for all, they found ways to bring it into the home through decorative wall panels, screens, tapestries, wallpaper, stained glass, and even lampshades. Their works reflect contemporary life as shown by the numerous representations of women in gardens, women at work, and families in their daily life. The Nabis also dabbled in esoteric themes pulled from religions, philosophies, rituals, and the literary arts and music.

They were greatly influenced by Japanese art, following an exhibition of prints organized by the Ecole des Beaux Arts de Paris in 1890. For instance, a series of panels produced by Pierre Bonnard mimic the flat lack of perspective characteristic of Japanese prints. In the *Painting Arcadia* series, a woman’s elongated silhouette paired with motifs taken from nature are also reminiscent of the Art Nouveau artist, Alphonse Mucha.

Paul Serrusier’s *The Danaides or Women at the Source* recalls Japanese prints as well as the work of Gaugin, with his flat images and intense colors. Serrusier portrayed a symbolic theme, interpreting the Greek myth of the Danaides: the 50 daughters of King Danaus who were condemned to repeatedly fill hole-ridden vessels of water as punishment for having murdered their husbands. Inspired by the idea that secret rituals were said to take place in forest settings, Serrusier depicts the solemn procession of women descends a winding path to a source of water, heads bowed, resigned to their duty.

The Nabis also depicted family life in the home. Edouard Vuillard produced a series of tapestry-like panels in which the home is a sanctuary away from the outside world, a place of peace and calm where one can read, play music, dine with the family. Each panel portrays a different activity, set against a millefleur background, creating a link to tapestries from the Middle Ages.

The exhibit closes with several monumental, multi-panel works by the artists Paul Ranson and Maurice Denis. Here again, Ranson sought to show the relationship between women and nature, depicting female figures at work and rest during the harvest. With muted colors and simple silhouettes, his panels allude to the fundamentals of life: food, water, work, and leisure. Denis takes on a more ambitious project with the legend of St Hubert. The seven-panel project recounts a story of redemption in which the artist placed his patron and family as key personages. The series begins in warm, luminous tones, then morphs into dark and somber shades as the subject matter becomes more serious.

Bravo to the Musée du Luxembourg for pulling together this first-in-France exhibit, showcasing a movement that forever changed the approach to interior design. Spend a few moments to appreciate the whimsical wallpaper motifs featuring ducks and boats, and even trains masquerading as caterpillars.

*Through 30 June, at the Museé du Luxembourg, 19 rue de Vaugirard 75006.*

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**Volunteer for the Breakfast and Sandwich Ministry**

The **Breakfast Ministry** takes place on the first two Fridays/Saturdays of each month, with preparation on Friday at 19h, and distribution on Saturday at 8h.

The **Sandwich Ministry** takes place on the last two Fridays/Saturdays of each month, with preparation on Friday at 19h, and distribution on Saturday at 13h.

Contact sandwichministryacp@gmail.com. Get more information at www.acparis.org/homeless-ministry.
## Special events, monthly meetings, and concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adoptive</strong> Fellowship</td>
<td>Friday 3 May</td>
<td>From 20h</td>
<td>From 20h email contact</td>
<td>Daphne <a href="mailto:30plusfellowship@acparis.org">30plusfellowship@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>of the month in a lounge café setting, sharing testimonies,</td>
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<td>email contact</td>
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<td>talking about the highs and lows of your life with brothers</td>
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<td>and sisters in Christ.</td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 5 May</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
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<td>The Atlantic Ensemble</td>
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<td>Wei Tsun CHANG - violin; Seanad Dunigan CHANG - viola; Sari REIST</td>
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<td>- cello; Jennifer Q. McGUIRE - piano</td>
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<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 6 May</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence</td>
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<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<td>Protestante</td>
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<td><strong>WWII Victory in Europe (VE) Day / Fête de la Victoire</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 8</td>
<td>All day</td>
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<td>Church house and office closed for public holiday.</td>
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<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 10 May</td>
<td>10h-14h</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact:</td>
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<td>Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the</td>
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<td>Kristie Worrel <a href="mailto:fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com">fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second</td>
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<td>Friday of each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking,</td>
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<td>serving, and cleaning up every Friday.</td>
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<td><strong>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-18)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 10 May</td>
<td>10h-12h</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mops@acparis.org">mops@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Free childcare available.</td>
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<td><strong>Writers’ Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 11</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Hymn Festival</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 11</td>
<td>13h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td>The Royal School of Church Music France joins forces with the</td>
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<td>Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland to present a Hymn</td>
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<td>Festival. A suggested participation of €10 may be given at the</td>
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<td><strong>Mother’s Day (United States)</strong></td>
<td>Sun, 12 May</td>
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<td><strong>New Member Orientation</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 12 May</td>
<td>12h15</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laycaregivers@acparis.org">laycaregivers@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:laycaregivers@acparis.org">laycaregivers@acparis.org</a> to join the class. All</td>
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<td>are welcome!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
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<td>L’Ensemble Incantévoile</td>
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<td>Reiko KITAHAMA - violin; Michal ZIELINSKI - cello; Monica MOLINARO</td>
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<td>- piano</td>
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<td>**Thurber Lecture - Pastor Eugene Cho will speak on “No Longer</td>
<td>Thursday 16</td>
<td>19h30 refresh-</td>
<td>Tim Vance associatepastor</td>
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<td>Strangers”**</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>ments &amp; wine/</td>
<td>@acparis.org</td>
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<td>Eugene Cho is the founder and former Senior Pastor of Quest</td>
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<td>cheese</td>
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<td>Church – an urban, multi-cultural and multi-generational church in</td>
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<td>20h program</td>
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<td>Seattle, Washington. After 18 years, Eugene stepped aside at Quest</td>
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<td>Thurber Room</td>
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<td>in 2018.</td>
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<td><strong>A Night at the Opera</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 18</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>An evening of spectacular music featuring works of Handel, Mozart,</td>
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<td>Bizet, Wagner, and others, presented by a host of ACP musicians.</td>
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</table>
ACP volunteer opportunities

One of the core values of ACP is to be a beacon of light and life on the Seine, calling out to our community to come in and be a part of the mission of Christ. There are multiple points of entry for members of ACP and our Parisian neighbors to serve those in need and our community through volunteer opportunities. Here are a few opportunities.

**Sunday School teachers / helpers**
11h and 13h30 services; Contact Elizabeth Esposi esposi@hotmail.fr

**Docent tours**
Share the history and architecture of the sanctuary with visitors on one Sunday a month, and be part of Journées du Patrimoine. Contact Alison at Spire@acparis.org

**Thurber Lecture dinners**
Help with food preparation (washing, peeling, cutting, chopping), plus making desserts, and clean-up. Contact Daphne and Kay communitylife@acparis.org

**Friday Mission Lunch**
Cook, clean, and serve hot meals to the hungry and homeless in Paris every Friday from 9h30-14h as part of the Friday Mission lunch, at The American Cathedral, 23 Avenue George V, 75008 Paris. Contact Kristie Worrell: fridaysmissionlunch@gmail.com

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**ACP Spire Diary – May 2019**

**Events, meetings, and concerts (cont.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special events, monthly meetings, and concerts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women's Fellowship – Zainabu Taylor will speak on “Walking in Faith”</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 19 May</td>
<td>12h15-13h30 Thurber Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>See details, page 18.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kim Herr <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey PETERSON - piano; Rebecca HAYS -soprano; Joseph LI - piano; Jamie VAN EYCK - mezzo soprano</td>
<td>Sunday 19 May</td>
<td>17h Sanctuary</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<td>Monday 20 May</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
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<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Movie selection: Missing Link/Monsieur Link; Gloria Bell; Becoming Astrid/Astrid; Dolor y gloria/Douleur et gloir</td>
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<td>See any or all at your leisure; join the group for discussion.</td>
<td>Thursday 23 May</td>
<td>19h30 Room G2</td>
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<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mother's Day (France) / Fête des mères</strong></td>
<td>Sun, 26 May</td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael RYAN - organ and piano; John FRANEK - piano</td>
<td>Sunday 26 May</td>
<td>17h Sanctuary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ascension Day / Ascension</strong></td>
<td>Church house and office closed for public holiday.</td>
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<td>Thursday 30 May</td>
<td>All day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Semi-annual Congregational Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Sun, 2 June</td>
<td>12h15 meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Retreat for Adults</strong></td>
<td>Weekend 7-9 June</td>
<td>Abbaye-Fleury</td>
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<td><strong>No Longer Strangers led by Dan and Fran Michalek.</strong></td>
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<td>Information <a href="http://www.acparis.org">www.acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>A contemplative weekend at the historic Benedictine Monastery Abbaye-Fleury on the Loire River.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Youth Musical - Blast Off!</strong></td>
<td>Free admission with a free-will offering.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A fun-filled journey through the extraterrestrial reaches of God's good creation! Featuring the Angel, Spirit and Son-Day Choirs, and Ethereal Ensemble</td>
<td>Saturday 8 June</td>
<td>19h Theater</td>
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<td>Sara Barton <a href="mailto:ymusic@acparis.org">ymusic@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Allison Wheeler childrensworship @acparis.org</td>
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For the first time, the Royal School of Church Music France joins forces with the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland to present a Hymn Festival.

The presenter, Rev. James Dickinson from Chesterfield in the UK, is an authority on various aspects of English-language hymnody. He will provide background information on how the hymns and tunes came to be written, and participants will be welcome to join in singing, led by a section of the RSCM France Singers.

Each participant will receive a booklet of the hymns and tunes to be used, complete with all relevant information.

Hymn Festival

13h, Saturday 11 May

A chance to sing and learn about hymns old and new

Directed by Rev. James Dickinson

At the

American Church in Paris

65 Quai d’Orsay, 75007

10€ (suggested contribution) on entry.

Event followed by refreshments

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