



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

17 January 2021

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP ONLINE

Announcements

Andante
Fred Gramann, *organ*

William Boyce

Prelude

Prelude on Psalm 139
Fred Gramann, *organ*

Harald Rohlig

Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Greeting and Call to Worship

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

Come and see!

The light of God has come into our world to proclaim God's justice and love;
it has overcome the darkness and brought new life.

Abide and follow!

Christ our companion has redeemed our world;
He draws us into a loving family from every tribe and family and culture.

Go and tell!

The Spirit has equipped us for service to love our neighbors as we do ourselves;
to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

Come and see, come and follow, go and tell!

In God's love the nations of the earth will put their hope.

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

tune: HYMN TO JOY

Prayer of Confession

Victor Greene

God, you know us better than we know ourselves.

You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations, our sins.

And you love us still.

Forgive us when we don't believe such love is true or possible;

when we wonder how You could love us just as we are,

when we forget our intricate construction, fearfully, wonderfully made, in Your image!

Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from you.

Break down the walls, push aside the pride, and help us to trust anew.

(a moment for silent confession)

You have heard our confessions and you know our hearts. And you love us still.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

The God whose love gave us the gift of Jesus Christ is the same God whose love forgives and sustains us. So hear and believe 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

Magnificent Reflections

Devon Graves

Devon Graves, *lead vocals* Josiah Woodson, *piano* Natalie Raynal, *vocals*, Konstantin, *vocals*
Alexia Rabé, Alex Duignan, George Makshigian, *backing vocals* John Arndt, *production*

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

The First Lesson – Psalm 139:1-6; 13-18

Alison Benney

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them – they are more than the sand; I come to the end – I am still with you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

I Will Not Give Up

Devon Graves

Devon Graves and Natalie Raynal, *vocals* Josiah Woodson, *piano*
Jeff Hohener, *videography* Josiah Woodson, *production*

The Second Lesson – John 1:43-51

Mary Hovind-Gay

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you come to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ringling of the Bells

Sermon

Can Anything Good Come Out of Nazareth?

Doug Fondell

Music

ACP Bronze Ringers

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

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Offertory Music

Deposuit potentes

J.S. Bach

He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.
Philip James Glenister, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

Prayer of Dedication

Jodi Fondell

Hymn

Search Me, O God, and Know My heart

tune: O WALY WALY

lyrics by Fred Gramann based on Psalm 139

Benediction

Doug Fondell

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 schools, worship, 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

The altar flowers for Worship in the Sanctuary today are given by Olabisi Pescheux to the glory of God, and in loving memory of her mother, Temilade Dairo, and her grandmother, Simbiai Dairo.

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 prayerrequests@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.

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 in the sanctuary.

Children's Ministries

Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020-21: Today at 12h45 via Zoom. This virtual monthly Bible study is for all children seven and older. We will spend the year studying the Lord's Prayer. Please contact Rev. Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org for more information, and/or register at acparis.org.

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

ACP Today radio show: 18 January, 20h45-21h15. Tune in to hear Amit Pieter and Pastor Odette and a couple of very interesting interviews, at 100.7 FM or listen in at <https://frequenceprotestante.com/>. They will be discussing the recent events in Washington DC, and in honor of Martin Luther King Day, will discuss the Black Lives Matter movement.

Women's Monthly Bible Study: Today 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.

Virtual Thurber Conversation: 19 January 19h30 via Zoom. Dr. Steed Davidson who recently served as our guest preacher will speak on "Letters of Hope and Contention: Reading the Letters of Jeremiah 29." Register at acparis.org.

ACP Monthly Women's Fellowship: 24 January 16h via Zoom. Pastor Jodi Fondell will speak about her book *I Was A Stranger: Encouraging the Church to Welcome and Embrace the Foreigner*, and her experience of pastoring internationally for many years. All women are welcome to sign up to join the Zoom at acparis.org.

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.

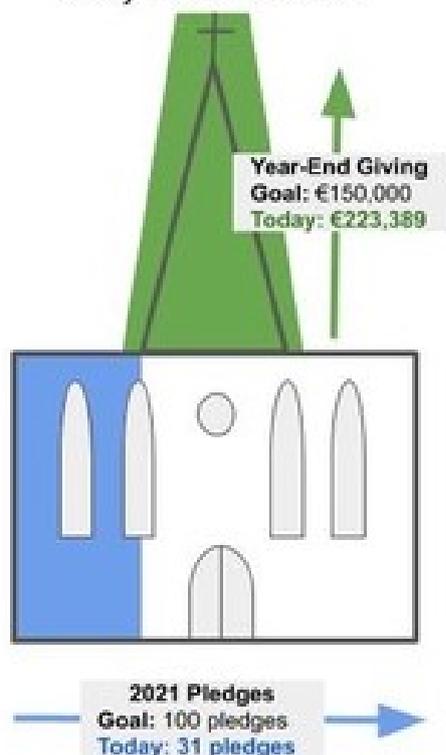
Read all about it – inspiration, information, news, and events from ACP in the most recent edition of the Spire. Available on the app, or at acparis.org.

For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, adults, and mission and service opportunities, see acparis.org.

A Future with Hope - Strengthened through Generosity

ACP 2020 Generosity Campaign Update

as of December 31st



Generosity Campaign Update

Recall that we had two goals for our 2020 Generosity Campaign:

- 100 pledges from individuals and families to ACP for 2021
- €150,000 in seasonal giving - an 11% increase over 2019

Thank you for the blessings of your generosity as a congregation during the holiday season. Whether through time, talent or sharing of treasure, you showed your gratitude to others!!

We are excited that we surpassed our seasonal giving goal, as you generously donated €223,389 in November and December, allowing the continued critical support of ACP. Recall that 58% of your donations support our worship services, missions and ministries, and 28% of your donations allow us to maintain our amazing sanctuary and related facilities. This level of giving enables us to partially offset the nearly €570,000 reduction in wedding and rental revenue in 2020, so THANK YOU! With the uncertainty of Covid-19's continued impact, we humbly ask that for those that are fortunate enough to continue to do so, to please continue supporting ACP.

We remain far from our second goal of 100 with just 31 pledges through December 31, 2020, but there is still time to make a pledge for 2021! Remember, this goal is not focused on the amount that each individual or family commits but about the very act of pledging to be purposeful about our role in carrying out the ACP's mission. Let's show our collective generosity and pledge now for 2021. If you choose to pledge electronically, go to acparis.org under "Welcome" and then "Generosity campaign" where there is a link.

Once again, thank you for all of your generous support of ACP!

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

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" 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.



American Church in Paris

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