



# THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

13 SEPTEMBER 2020

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

### [Announcements](#)

### [Prelude](#)

Jubilation  
The ACP Bronze Ringers

Fred Gramann

### [Greeting for Worship](#)

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

Doug Fondell

### Call to Worship (*from Romans 14*)

Come and worship. We come before God just as we are, with all of who we are;  
**we open ourselves to the Light of God's Word.**

*(We pray as the bells call us to worship)*

“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.”

**We praise you, O God. We entrust our lives, our future to you.**

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

**If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.**

So then, whether we live or whether we die,

**we are the Lord's.**

Why pass judgment on your brother or sister?

**For we all stand before the judgment seat of God.**

As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow:

**“and every tongue shall give praise to God.”**

Alleluia!

**Amen.**

### [Hymn](#)

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

tune: STUTTGART

***O my soul, bless your Redeemer; all within me, bless God's Name;  
Bless the Savior, and forget not all God's mercies to proclaim;***

***God forgives all your transgressions, all diseases gently heals;  
God redeems you from destruction, and with you so kindly deals.***

***Far as east from west is distant, God has put away our sin;  
Life the pity of a father Has the Lord's compassion been.***

***As it was without beginning, so it lasts without an end;  
To their children's children ever shall God's righteousness extend.***

### [Prayer of Confession](#) (unison)

Loving God, we seek your mercy, yet we are eager to judge others.

**We pray, *forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us,***  
yet we withhold forgiveness.

**We count on your extravagant grace, yet we store up and count resentments.**

**We see clearly the sins of our brothers and sisters, our siblings in Christ,**  
yet we avoid honest repentance.

**Forgive us Lord for the sin we know in our hearts...**

*(Moments for silent confession)*

For we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness and Peace (*Ephesians 2: 4-5*)

Friends, hear and believe the good news:

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. God is slow to anger and has not dealt with us according to our sins. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous. Amen.**

## [Gloria Patri](#)

## [Welcome](#)

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

## [Blessing of the Children](#)

Allison Wheeler

## [Musical Offering](#)

Ich folge dir gleichfalls mit freudigen Schritten

*J.S. Bach*

*I follow you with joyful steps, never leaving you, my life, my light.*

*Accompany me on my way, continually inspiring me to move ever forward.*

Jennifer Young, *soprano* Lisa Prevet, *flute*

## [Lighting the Candle for God's Global Vision of Compassion, Justice and Peace](#)

## Prayer for Illumination

Jodi Fondell

## [The First Lesson – Romans 8:18-25](#)

David Van Cleve

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Leader: Listen for God's word to you, to us all, as I read again this memory verse, this question, from Paul's letter to the Romans.

"For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?"

*(moment of silent prayer)*

Leader: Hear God's word to us all:

**All : "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?"**

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## [Musical Offering](#)

In Christ Alone

*Keith Getty and Stuart Townend*

Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals*

Jeff Hohener, *videography* Josiah Woodson, *videography, production*

## [The Second Lesson – Matthew 18: 21-35](#)

Teri Lee Valluy

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand

talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."

And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

[Sermon](#)

The Edge of Forgiveness

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

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

Victor Greene

[The Offering of Tithes and Gifts](#)

[Offertory Music](#)

Build My Life

*Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kable, Matt Redman, and Pat Barrett*

*Alexia Rabé, piano, vocals Kym Stewart, vocals*

*Josiah Woodson, production*

[Dedication of Our Tithes and Offerings](#)

Jodi Fondell

[Hymn](#)

We Do Not Live Unto Ourselves

tune: ST. ANNE

Lyrics by Fred Gramann (based on Romans 14: 7-12)

***We do not live unto ourselves, nor to ourselves will die.  
In life or death our souls belong to God who reigns on high.***

***For this our Lord did surely die, then rose out of the grave,  
That he might be the Lord of all, our sinful souls to save.***

***Why do we judge those who are near; with hatred build a wall?  
For we ourselves will one day stand before the judge of all.***

***For every knee will one day bow; all tongues will shout forth praise;  
And we shall stand before our God, the keeper of our days.***

[Benediction](#)

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

[Congregational Amen](#)

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## The American Church in Paris re-gathered and also virtual

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the **American Church in Paris** has been dedicated to remaining a vibrant community and to providing online resources for worship, learning, spiritual formation, and holistic health. Now, in this “post-confinement” period, we are taking steps to re-open the church buildings for worship and for schools and other community groups in a way that is safe, sustainable, and fair for all.

Please continue to check our website for the latest news. We have been re-gathering for **Worship in the Sanctuary** on Sundays at 11h. Capacity is limited and seating is reserved because of Covid-19 protocols. To register, please visit [acparis.org/register](https://acparis.org/register). These services are different from those before the pandemic, but we hope are still honoring to God and inspiring to our congregation and our extended community. We will continue the **Virtual Worship** services on [acparis.org](https://acparis.org) for the foreseeable future.

Whether you are one of the thousands of viewers from many different countries who join us for online worship, or new to Paris and seeking a church family, we hope you will be patient until we can meet without restrictions again!

In the meantime, we continue to pursue our mission "**to bear witness in word and deed to the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.**" God's grace and peace be with you!

### Announcements

**In need of prayer?** During this difficult season of social distancing, our attempts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus bring stressors, worries, and fears that we may be struggling to manage. 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 during your time of struggle please contact us at [prayerrequests@acparis.org](mailto:prayerrequests@acparis.org)

**Ushers Needed:** ACP is committed to moving forward with **Worship in the Sanctuary** services as Covid-19 protocols allow, and also providing a quality online experience for those not able to return to church for live worship. Volunteers are needed for each service to welcome and seat worshippers in a safe and efficient manner. Training is available and the commitment is for about 2.5 hours on a Sunday. Please do prayerfully consider how you could help out as we continue to adjust to worshiping in new and different ways. Interested? Please email [connections@acparis.org](mailto:connections@acparis.org).

**Ministry Fair: 20 September**, in-person and virtual. The in-person ministry fair will be in the ACP Courtyard after the 20 September 11h worship service, and the virtual ministry fair will be online at 14h via Zoom. ACP's groups, Bible studies, fellowships, and activities will be represented, and you will be able to get your questions answered about the ministries in which we serve, and are also served. Join the virtual ministry fair by going to [acparis.org/ministryfair](https://acparis.org/ministryfair) for the zoom link.

**New Member Orientation: 24 September**, 19h30-21h via Zoom. All who are interested in becoming a member at ACP are invited to sign up for the Zoom membership orientation meeting. Please see [acparis.org](https://acparis.org) for registration and more details.

### Children's Ministries

**Threaded Together:** A Children's Ministry Initiative. When it feels like everything is unraveling, we trust in God to thread us together more tightly with Him and with one another. During these days when we cannot safely experience the joy of being all together in person, our Threaded Together initiative offers different ways for us to stay connected, and for parents and children to experience support from church staff, volunteers, and other families. Register at [acparis.org/threadedtogether](https://acparis.org/threadedtogether) to participate in a family small group. For more information, contact [childrensworship@acparis.org](mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org).

**ACP Children's Music Ministry Fall program 2020:** Join us in lifting a joyful noise unto the Lord through voice and instrument, in praise, prayer, and thanksgiving. Though we are not able to rehearse in person (yet!), the ACP children's choirs will continue in the fall via virtual choir rehearsals sent as private YouTube video links to watch, and alternating with Zoom rehearsals. Children of all ages are welcome. Whether you have participated in ACP choirs for years, or are new to singing, you have a home here – come and join us! See [acparis.org/childrensmusic](https://acparis.org/childrensmusic) for registration and more details.

**Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020:** A virtual monthly bible study for all children ages seven and older, meeting concurrently with our monthly women's bible study on. This year we will spend the year studying the Lord's Prayer. Our first meeting will be on 27 September at 12h15. Please contact Rev. Allison Wheeler at [childrensworship@acparis.org](mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org) for more information, and/or register your at [acparis.org](https://acparis.org).

## **Youth and Young Adult Ministries**

**Fall 2020-2021 program** *Out There: Together in One Place* For more information contact Pastor Victor Greene at [youthpastor@acparis.org](mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org).

## **Adult Ministries**

**The Enneagram Journey:** Wednesdays: 9 September to 25 November, 19h30-21h30 via Zoom. The Enneagram unleashes the potential to understand ourselves and others more fully – what inspires us, what challenges us, what can help us to build healthy relationship to others, what can nurture our personal and corporate walk with God. Register for this virtual study hosted by Pastors Doug and Jodi at [acparis.org/enneagram](https://acparis.org/enneagram).

**Virtual Thurber Conversation:** Plans to Give You Hope: Looking Back as We Look Forward: 15 September, 19h30 via Zoom. The pandemic has caused us to ask, What Does the Future Hold? Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that God knows the plan and it includes a future filled with hope. Register at [acparis.org/thurber](https://acparis.org/thurber). Thurber Conversations are an adult community gathering and growth time that is open to all.

**Men's Ministry Bible Study at ACP:** Thursdays 7h30-8h30, in the ACP Theater. In-house and Zoom option available. Register at [acparis.org/men-thursday](https://acparis.org/men-thursday).

**Women's Monthly Fellowship:** Sunday, 13 September, 17h via Zoom. Carolyn Bouazouni will be sharing about her journey from working in a corporate job to being deeply involved in prison ministry. More information at [acparis.org/womensfellowship](https://acparis.org/womensfellowship).

**Adult Vocal and Handbell Choirs:** The adult music ministry program will begin rehearsals this week: Celebration Ringers: Monday 14 September, Adult Choir: Wednesday 16 September, Bronze Ringers: Thursday 17 September. Rehearsals will be held in accordance with strict health protocols including masks and social distancing. If you are interested in more information, please contact Fred Gramann at [music@acparis.org](mailto:music@acparis.org).

**Women's Monthly Bible Study:** Women of the Old Testament led by Teri Lee Valluy – beginning 27 September 13h30-14h30 via Zoom. Register at [acparis.org/women-sunday](https://acparis.org/women-sunday).

**For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, and adults mentioned above, see [acparis.org](https://acparis.org).**

## Ministers of the American Church in Paris

### Ministers

Interim Senior Pastor

Interim Associate Pastor

Interim Associate Pastor

Youth / Young Adult Pastor

Children's Ministry Director

Director of Music

Contemporary Music Dir.

Youth / Children Music Dir.

Executive Secretary

Wedding Coordinator

### The Entire Congregation

**The Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart**

**The Rev. Jodi Fondell**

**The Rev. Doug Fondell**

**Victor Greene (M.Div.)**

**The Rev. Allison Wheeler**

**Fred Gramann**

**Natalie Raynal**

**Sara Barton**

**Heather Walter**

**Jörg Kaldewey**

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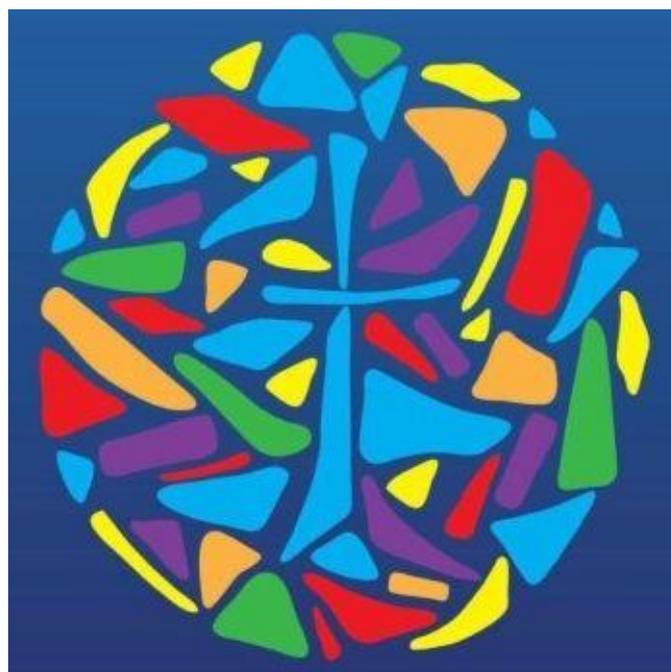
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### The Ministry of the American Church depends on you

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 the Reception desk to find out how.



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