



# THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

12 December 2021, 11h00

## Welcome to this service of worship

We are happy you are here! We ask that you continue to wear your mask while indoors. Creation Care is important to us, so please take or recycle your bulletin at the end of the service.

The congregation's spoken words are in **bold** and the sung words are in ***bold italics***

 You are invited to rise in body or in spirit when you see this symbol

---

## We Gather

Prelude Pastorale *J.S. Bach*

Welcome, Greeting, and Announcements Paul Rock  
The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Introit The Candle of Joy  
*tune: LYONS ("O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!")*  
Text: Copyright © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

***The candle of joy we light in this hour  
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.  
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,  
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.***

Lighting the Candle of Joy The Mambula Family

 Hymn No. 11 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?  
*tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN*

Children's Blessing Allison Wheeler  
*Children may come forward for a pastoral blessing and then go to prepare for the Lessons and Carols portion of the service.*

 Passing of the Peace

 Prayer of Common Confession

Doug Fondell

**Gracious God, sometimes our eyes grow lazy. We see the things that confirm our thoughts on the world. We hear what our mind has already predicted. Forgive us. And please startle us today; as we see your fingerprint on another's face, or hear your simple joy in the song of a child. As we wait for you, may we be alive enough to recognize how you've already come to us** (*time of silent prayer*).

 Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers, this is the message of Advent, our God has become one of us:

**And through his love, we are forgiven and made righteous.  
Thanks be to God!**

 Refrain from "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*tune: GLORIA*

***Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**Advent Sermon Series:**

Exile to Advent - Isaiah & Prophetic Imagination

Homily

Exilic Reflection & Advent Pregnancy

Paul Rock

Matthew 11:3-7 (page 792 in the pew Bibles)

Prayers of the People

*We bring our struggles, celebrations, our gifts, and ourselves to God in prayer.*

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And  
lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For  
thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Call for Offering



Praise to God Who Reigns Above

tune: GLORIA

***Praise to God who reigns above,  
Christ who holds us all in love,  
Spirit breathes new life and peace,  
Grace sustains and sets us free.  
Gloria! In excelsis Deo! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!***



Doug Fondell

### **Lessons and Carols by ACP Children's Ministry**

Children's Processional Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" v. 1 and 2

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee; O Israel!  
O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee; O Israel!***

The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-33)

Jack Diard

Congregational Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" v. 3

***O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All people in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee; O Israel!***

The Birth Of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7)

Nnedimma Uzoukwu, Arthur Abate

Music

Silent Night

*Traditional*

Vivienne and Margaux Debré, *soloists*

The Angels (Luke 2:8-14)

Abigail Mambula, Josephine Wheeler

Music

African Alleluia

Son-Day and Spirit Choirs

The Shepherds (Luke 2:15-16)

Ejiro Usino

Music

The Friendly Beasts

Spirit Choir

The Magi (Matthew 2:1-11)

Tochi Uzoukwu, Sevin Baik, Jonathan Mambula

 Hymn

Joy to the World!

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.***

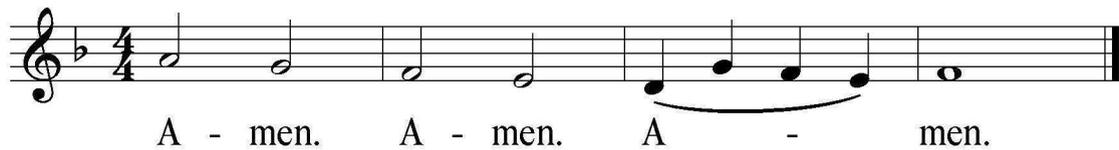
***Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let us our songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.***

 Benediction

Paul Rock

## Congregational Amen



Postlude

Aria Pastorella

*Valentin Rathberger*

---

### **Pandemic practices at ACP**

- A "Pass Sanitaire" is required for all events, meetings, and worship services at ACP.
- Good social distancing is requested and mask wearing (over both mouth and nose) is obligatory at all times while indoors at ACP—including at Coffee Fellowship.
- We invite you to register for all worship services at [acparis.org/signups](https://acparis.org/signups) (beginning Mondays at 12h) until further notice so we may keep track of our Sunday guests for contact tracing purposes, and when limited seating is required.

---

### **Submitting your Giving Commitment for 2022**

Did you miss Commitment Sunday? No worries, you can still make your 2022 giving commitment online at [acparis.org/estimatedgiving2022](https://acparis.org/estimatedgiving2022). We could really use your support as we continue to rebuild and renovate the post-pandemic church!

---

### **Announcements**

**Affirmation of Welcome:** At ACP, we believe that we are called to love and welcome people of all socio-economic backgrounds, ethnicities, races, nationalities, gender identities, and sexual orientations, and that those who place their faith in Christ and seek to be his disciple are invited to become full members. Welcome!

**In need of prayer?** If you are in need of prayer today, a lay caregiver is available in the chapel (to the right of the sanctuary) to pray with you. If you would like members of the lay care ministry team, members of the prayer chain, and the pastoral team to uphold you in prayer, you may contact us at [acparis.org/prayers](https://acparis.org/prayers).

**The altar flowers today** are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Judith Huart, by her husband Jacques Huart in honor of the 5th anniversary of her death on 4 December.

**Coffee Fellowship:** Please join us in the theater after the service for a warm drink and warm fellowship while remembering good social distancing practices and mask wearing while talking and not sipping. If you are new, also stop by our newcomer table so we can welcome you to ACP!

**Longest Night Service:** 21 December 19h30 (prelude at 19h) in the Sanctuary. Join us to reflect on losses and fears, and hope in prayer. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” *John 1:5*. Registration required at [acparis.org/signups](http://acparis.org/signups).

**Christmas Eve Services:** 24 December, in the Sanctuary. 16h Family Service; 19h30 Candlelight Service (prelude at 19h); 22h Candlelight Service (prelude at 21h30). Join us for a Christmas cookie reception in the Thurber Room following the 22h service. Registration required, limited seating available. See [acparis.org/signups](http://acparis.org/signups) beginning Monday 13 December. Note: the 19h30 service will also be live-streamed.

**Christmas Poinsettias:** We would like to extend to you the opportunity to tangibly participate in our Christmas Eve worship services this year, wherever you may be, by providing a Christmas Poinsettia for the ACP sanctuary and making a special dedication in honor or memory of a loved one in our worship bulletins. The suggested donation for the poinsettia is 25€ per plant. However, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a special donation for your poinsettia to help ACP thrive into the next year. Last day to order: 19 December. Order today at [acparis.org/poinsettias](http://acparis.org/poinsettias).

**ACP Office Holiday Closing:** 24 December - 1 January with the exception of Sunday 26 December 11h Traditional Worship.

**The scaffolding has come down, Hallelujah!** In the next few weeks we'll be working to put our new technology to work. If you are interested in serving on our worship tech and A/V team, please contact us at [communications@acparis.org](mailto:communications@acparis.org).

**Sunday Newcomer Table:** We are looking for volunteers to help staff our welcome table after worship. If you'd like to join this team, please let Pastor Jodi know at [associatepastor@acparis.org](mailto:associatepastor@acparis.org).

**Volunteer Editor for *The Spire*:** ACP's thriving monthly magazine *The Spire* is looking for a volunteer editor-in-chief. Interested? For further information please contact us at [communications@acparis.org](mailto:communications@acparis.org).

## Children's Ministries

**Children's Worship:** Children's Worship is held during the 11h and 14h services! For safety reasons, all children must be registered for the program to attend. You can register your child for Children's Worship at [acparis.org/cw-registration](http://acparis.org/cw-registration) or by using the QR code here. We also ask that you register your child's attendance in advance of each Sunday at [acparis.org/signups](http://acparis.org/signups). If you are an adult and are interested in joining our Children's Worship leadership team, contact Allison Wheeler at [childrensworship@acparis.org](mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org).



## Youth and Young Adult Ministries

**Youth Ministry (collège, lycée):** Youth meet weekly on Sundays 12h30-13h45 in the Catacombs on the basement level of ACP. Contact [youthpastor@acparis.org](mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org) for more information. Please note that the youth ministry will break for Christmas for 19 Dec., 26 Dec., and 2 Jan. We will resume on 9 January, 12h30. Follow our youth group on Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/acpyouthsquad/>.

**Young Adult Ministry (ages 18-30):** Young adults meet weekly on Tuesday nights 19h30-21h30 in the Library. Please note that the young adult ministry will break for Christmas on 21 and 28 Dec. We will resume on 4 January. Contact [youthpastor@acparis.org](mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org) for more information. Follow our YA group on Instagram here for the latest updates: [https://www.instagram.com/acp\\_ya/](https://www.instagram.com/acp_ya/).

## Adult Ministries

**Women's Fellowship Christmas Party:** Today 12h30-13h30 in the Thurber Room. All women are welcome to join as we gather and share Christmas cheer.

**St. Paul: The Bridge Builder, Wednesday Evening Adult Learning at ACP:** Weekly through 15 December 19h30-21h via Zoom. Join us each Wednesday evening as we explore the mission and vision of the Apostle Paul as revealed in his letters to the churches in Asia Minor. Register at [acparis.org/signups](http://acparis.org/signups).

**Men's Morning Bible Study at ACP:** Thursdays 7h30-8h30. Information at [acparis.org/men-thursday](http://acparis.org/men-thursday). Live and zoom options.

**Silent Prayer Thursdays at ACP:** Thursdays 18h-19h via Zoom. Join us for prayer in silence. We will practice 25 minutes of praying together in stillness according to the method of Centering Prayer, followed by the reading of a short sacred text according to the method of Lectio Divina. Register at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).

**African Fellowship:** Fellowship in the Thurber Room at 13h the first Sunday of the month. Other Sundays in the month will be Bible study from 16h-17h via Zoom. Please register for the Zoom details at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).

**Filipino Fellowship** meets the third and fourth Sundays of the month at 12h30 in the Thurber Room.

**Sunday Evening Adult Bible Study:** A new study will resume in January. Information on that study will be forthcoming.

**Recycling reminder:** The garbage bins with yellow lids are for recycling paper, cans, and plastics. Please think about recycling your bulletin on the way out today!

**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](http://acparis.org).

**For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, adults, and mission and service opportunities, see [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).**

# Ministers of the American Church in Paris

Ministers	<b>The Entire Congregation</b>	
Senior Pastor	<b>The Rev. Dr. Paul Rock</b>	<a href="mailto:paulrock@acparis.org">paulrock@acparis.org</a>
Interim Associate Pastor	<b>The Rev. Jodi Fondell</b>	<a href="mailto:associatepastor@acparis.org">associatepastor@acparis.org</a>
Interim Associate Pastor	<b>The Rev. Doug Fondell</b>	<a href="mailto:ap2@acparis.org">ap2@acparis.org</a>
Youth & Young Adult Pastor	<b>The Rev. Elizabeth Murray</b>	<a href="mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org">youthpastor@acparis.org</a>
Children's Ministry Director	<b>The Rev. Allison Wheeler</b>	<a href="mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org">childrensworship@acparis.org</a>
Visiting Pastor	<b>The Rev. Don Lee</b>	<a href="mailto:visitingpastor@acparis.org">visitingpastor@acparis.org</a>
Director of Music	<b>Fred Gramann</b>	<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a>
Contemporary Music Dir.	<b>Natalie Raynal</b>	<a href="mailto:cmusic@acparis.org">cmusic@acparis.org</a>
Youth/Children Music Dir.	<b>Sara Barton</b>	<a href="mailto:ymusic@acparis.org">ymusic@acparis.org</a>
Pastoral Intern	<b>Kate Snipes</b>	<a href="mailto:pastorintern@acparis.org">pastorintern@acparis.org</a>
Executive Secretary	<b>Heather Walter</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary@acparis.org">secretary@acparis.org</a>
Wedding Coordinator	<b>Jörg Kaldewey</b>	<a href="mailto:weddings@acparis.org">weddings@acparis.org</a>

[www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org) [Facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis)

## The Ministry of the American Church depends on you

The American Church in Paris depends on the generosity of members and alumni in Paris and worldwide who continue to be touched by its ministries. Please give at [acparis.org/donate](http://acparis.org/donate) (QR code below), email [acctg@acparis.org](mailto:acctg@acparis.org), or visit [acparis.org/support-us](http://acparis.org/support-us) for more information on being a part of ACP's ministry through regular stewardship or planned giving. You can also speak with a pastor after today's service. Gifts by those subject to French income tax receive a 66% reduction in their tax due (up to 20% of taxable income). The after-tax cost of your support is therefore only €34 for a €100 gift. This applies to gifts made online, by check or by bank transfer in EUR to The American Church in Paris. For those who may prefer the charitable deduction from taxable income in the US, checks in US dollars should be made out to The American and Foreign Christian Union (AFCU) and marked "ACP Stewardship".



The American Church in Paris  
[www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org)



**WELCOME to ACP**

Learn about us  
Get involved  
Become a member  
Request a prayer or other help  
Support us



[acparis.org/welcome](http://acparis.org/welcome)



**American Church in Paris**

[www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org) tel: 01 40 62 05 00