



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

12 September 2021, 11h00

Welcome to this service of worship

We are happy you are here! Please observe COVID protocols throughout worship; wear your mask, observe social distancing, and greet your neighbor without touch. Please follow the guidance of ushers, and take or recycle your bulletin.

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

Suite Gothique
Choral - Allegro - Toccata
Fred Gramann, *organ*

Léon Boëllmann

Welcome, Greeting, and Announcements

Paul Rock

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

And also with you.

† Call to Worship (from John 12)

Kate Snipes

I tell you for certain that a grain of wheat that falls on the ground will never be more than one grain...

unless it dies. But if it dies, it will produce bushels of wheat.

So, therefore my friends, if you love your life, you must lose it.

But if we give it up and follow you, and love one another, we will know life eternal.

Ringling of Bells

† Prayer of Common Confession (*adapted from Joseph Campbell*)

God who never leaves us, we confess that as we walk through seasons of disorder, we forget that they are simply part of the journey. And, worse, we mistakenly believe that we walk them alone. We confess before you and all here, that we also feel a deep need to blame others; scapegoat them for the discomfort we feel. Forgive us dear Lord, and use this time of corporate worship to remind us that we are not alone on the journey, and that curiosity and love will help us emerge more like you.

(time of silent confession and reflection)

† Words of Assurance

Dearest friends, know this: as you trek through disorder and discomfort you do not risk the adventure alone, we are with you. And where we may seek to slay the other, we are the ones who must die and be reborn. In Christ we are forgiven, we are never alone, and we are being made new! **Alleluia, Amen.**

Children's Blessing

Allison Wheeler

Children may come forward for a pastoral blessing and then go to their worship space.

† Passing of the Peace

Music

Prelude on "Werde munter, mein Gemüte"

J.G. Walther

Be alert, my soul, and direct your thoughts to praise the good things that God has done for me.

Moment for Ministry: The Lay Care Team

Marie Grout

This fall, in lieu of the prayer for God's global mission, we will take a moment to reintroduce this mission and ministries of ACP.

Meet the Lay Care Team: Nathaniel Akujobi, Teteh Atikpo, Christina Digma, Genet Diop, Daphne Elfferich, Elizabeth Eposi, Delia Esteban, Thelma Fuchs, Daniel Grout, Marie Grout, Mary Hovind-Gay, MaryClaire King, Kerry Lieury, Lela Losq, Gigi Oyog, François Pierre, Kym Stewart, Teri Lee Valluy

We Hear the Word

Scripture Lesson – Proverbs 1:20-23

Rose Marie Burke

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

My Lord, What a Mornin'

arr. Mark Hayes

Nicole Primmer, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

Sermon Series:

Renovating and Rebuilding the Post-Pandemic Church

Sermon

Order, Disorder, Re-order

Paul Rock

Chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Verse 2

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,

Sun, moon and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

(Chorus)

Verse 3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth

Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Chorus)

† Benediction

Paul Rock

† Congregational Amen



Postlude

Psalm XX

Benedetto Marcello

May the LORD answer you when you are in distress;

may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.

May he send you help from the sanctuary

and grant you support from Zion.

The American Church in Paris Online Community

Welcome to worship! We are so glad that you are here! 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. In addition to in-person worship in our sanctuary, ACP posts **livestreamed worship and much more** at acparis.org. Please continue to check our website for the latest news and to participate in new opportunities every week. Our mission is “**to bear witness in word and deed to the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.**”

Announcements

The altar flowers today are given to the glory to God and in honor of Pastor Jodi and Pastor Doug for their dedicated service to the many ministries of our church, by Lela Losq.

In need of prayer? If you are in need of prayer today, a lay care giver 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.

Suicide prevention helpline and counseling in Paris:

- **SOS Helpline** – English Speaking Helpline in France. Free telephone line open daily from 15h-23h at 01 46 21 46 46. Visit soshelpline.org for more information.
- **International Counseling Service.** Speak to someone about your needs – for individuals of all ages, couples, and groups. Free initial consultation. Contact 01 45 50 26 49 or icsparis@gmail.com. Visit icsparis.com for more information.

Atelier Concerts: Sundays at 17h30 in the sanctuary. **Today:** Nicolas Chevereau, *piano* with Magali Léger, *soprano*. 19 Sept: Adam Heron, *piano*. 26 Sept: Our ACP Musicians (Jonathan Bloom, *cello*; Philip Glenister, *tenor*; Frédéric Goncalves, *baritone*; Laurana Mitchelmore, *piano*; Carol Munding, *clarinet*; Lisa Prevett, *flute*; Nicole Primmer, *soprano*; Debra Takakjian, *piano*; Nicole Taylor, *soprano*; Jennifer Young, *soprano*.) Admission is free. Passe sanitaire required.

Atelier Concert Volunteers Needed: Sundays 17h-19h. Please speak with Fred Gramann if you can assist on occasion.

What does it mean to be the church? Small group conversations with Paul Rock and your fellow ACP members and friends. Two 1-hour Zoom sessions are scheduled for today at 16h30 and 14 September at 17h30; additional sessions are planned. Please sign up for one session only at acparis.org/signups.

Afghan support project: Today and 19 September. The present influx of refugees, particularly Afghans, brings an immediate need for men's apparel – shoes sizes 39-43 and jeans/pants (all clean and in good condition), and socks and underwear (new and in packaging only). Please bring donations in a clean plastic bag to the collection box in Reception. Thank you! For more info contact Peter DeWit at missionoutreach@acparis.org.

Call for volunteers Saturday 18 September: If you love history and sharing the beauty of the American Church in Paris with visitors, join our ACP team for Journées Européennes du Patrimoine, Saturday 18 September. Welcomers are needed - please contact Alison at Spire@acparis.org.

Membership Orientation Meeting: 28 September 19h30-21h on Zoom. All who are interested in becoming a member of ACP are invited to sign up for this casual and interactive Zoom meeting. You will learn about the history, the vision, beliefs, values, and governance of ACP, and also get to know your pastors and our lay care ministry team. Together we will explore opportunities for you to serve, connect, and grow at ACP. Register at acparis.org.

The Accidental Docent: Season 2, Episode 2 (“A piano named Josephine”) is now showing on acparis.org.

The Adult Choir and Handbell Choirs are resuming regular rehearsals. Please contact Fred at music@acparis.org for information on participating.

Sunday Welcome 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.

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.

ACP Weekly

African Fellowship Online: Sundays 16h-17h via Zoom. The first Sunday of each month is the Fellowship; other Sundays in the month will be Bible study. Please register for the Zoom details at acparis.org.

Silent Prayer Thursdays at ACP: Thursdays 19h-20h via Zoom. Join us for prayer in silence. We will practice 25 minutes of praying together in stillness according to the method of Centering Prayer, and follow by the reading of a short sacred text according to the method of Lectio Divina. Afterwards, there will be an opportunity for sharing. Register at acparis.org for the Zoom link.

Children's Ministries

Children's Worship: Children's Worship is back in the ACP building at 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 or by using the QR code here. We also ask that, just as you have been signing up to attend worship in the sanctuary, that you sign up your child's attendance in advance of each coming Sunday at acparis.org/signups.



If you an adult and are interested in joining our Children's Worship leadership team, or if you have any other questions, please write to Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Youth Ministry (collège, lycée): Youth meet weekly on Sundays at 12h30-13h45 in the Catacombs on the basement level of ACP. Contact youthpastor@acparis.org for more information.

Young Adult Ministry (ages 18-30): Young Adults meet weekly on Tuesday nights from 19h30-21h30 in the Courtyard (weather permitting) or in the Catacombs on the basement level of ACP. Contact associatepastor@acparis.org for more information. Follow our YA group on Instagram here: https://www.instagram.com/acp_ya/.

Adult Ministries

Sunday Evening Adult Bible Study: Sundays 17h30-19h via Zoom. This Bible study on the Book of Acts is hosted by Patti Lafage and Nathaniel Akujuobi, via Zoom. All are welcome. To register and receive the Zoom link: acparis.org.

Women's Fellowship: Today from 12h15-13h30 in the Thurber Room. All women are welcome to join as we hear from our sister Chinwe Akujuobi, who will share her journey with us and speak on "The Goodness and Mercy of the Lord." Visit acparis.org/groups/womensfellowship to receive regular Women's Fellowship communications.

Wednesday Evening Adult Learning at ACP – Everybody Always! Wednesdays, beginning 15 September, 19h30-21h via Zoom: "Becoming love in a world full of setbacks and difficult people." Please register online at acparis.org.

Movie discussion group: 16 September 19h30 on Zoom. Movies to see on Netflix: *Vivo*, *Beckett*, *Fantastic Fungi*. Movies to see in cinemas: *Free Guy*, *Reminiscence*, *Un Triomphe*. For info or Zoom invitation: movies@acparis.org

A Pathway Forward: Constructive Conversation on Homosexuality and the Bible – welcome and inclusion at ACP. Every second Thursday, beginning 23 September, 19h30-21h via Zoom. Please register online at acparis.org.

Women's Monthly Bible Study: 26 September, 12h30-13h30 in room F2 (1st floor). All women welcome to join us in a once-monthly study on women in parables! Register at acparis.org.

Alpha Online Course: Mondays, beginning 27 September, 20h30-22h. Got questions about life? Alpha Online offers you the chance to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, fun and friendly environment! See acparis.org/alpha.

Men's Morning Bible Study at ACP: Thursdays, 7h30-8h30. acparis.org/men-thursday.

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.

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

A "Passe Sanitaire" is required to attend ACP services.

All congregants of more than 17 years of age will be required to present at least one of the following documents upon arrival:

1. Proof of completion of a full vaccination schedule at least 7 days old (or 4 weeks in the case of a single shot Johnson & Johnson vaccination).
2. A negative RT-PCR or antigenic test less than 72 hours old.
3. The result of a positive RT-PCR or antigenic test demonstrating recovery of Covid-19, at least 11 days old and less than 6 months old.

Proof will be accepted in the form of a paper certificate or digitally via the "TousAntiCovid" mobile phone application. The current social distancing and mask mandate protocols will also remain in place.

Ministers of the American Church in Paris

Ministers	The Entire Congregation	
Senior Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Paul Rock	paulrock@acparis.org
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Jodi Fondell	associatepastor@acparis.org
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Doug Fondell	ap2@acparis.org
Children's Ministry Director	The Rev. Allison Wheeler	childrensworship@acparis.org
Visiting Pastor	The Rev. Don Lee	visitingpastor@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 [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 (QR code here) or visit acparis.org/support-us for more 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 smaller 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



WELCOME to ACP

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American Church in Paris

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