

***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!***

 Prayer of Common Confession

Elizabeth Murray

**Gracious God, we confess right here, together, that we live so much of our time in the darkness of our insecurities, fears, and anxieties. (moment of silent acknowledgement)
And it seems, we are perpetually waiting. Waiting for the advent of the ultimate light, which is redemptive and also terrifying, because it puts an end to the darkness. It reveals that, for so long, for all our lives, we've allowed the darkness to be our home. And to leave home is terrifying. Please help us to open up and be freed.
Amen.**

 Words of Assurance

Friends, let us profess together what we know to be true:
**The radical light of God's love both hurts and heals. As we open, admit, and confess, God forgives and transforms us.
Amen.**

 Refrain from "Angels We Have Heard on High"

tune: GLORIA

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

Musical Offering Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence arr. *Fred Gramann*
The Celebration Ringers

Children's Blessing

Allison Wheeler

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

 Passing of the Peace

Anthem Ave dulcissima Maria (Hail, sweetest Mary) *Fred Gramann*
ACP Adult Choir Jennifer Young, *soloist*

Advent Sermon Series:

Exile to Advent - Isaiah & Prophetic Imagination

Sermon What Gift Do I Give God This Year? Paul Rock
Isaiah 25:6-9 (*page 568 in the pew Bibles*)

We Respond and Are Sent into the World

The Sacrament of Holy Communion Jodi Fondell, Don Lee

The Invitation: *We bring our struggles, celebrations, and gifts to God.*

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The 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 Don Lee

Offertory Music Flammende Rose *G.F. Handel*

*Flaming rose, ornament of the earth, the gleaming garden's
enchancing splendour! All that see your excellence must admit
that a divine finger made you.*

Jennifer Yong, soloist Lisa Prevett, flute Jonathan Bloom, cello

 Doxology 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!

 Prayer of Dedication

 Hymn No. 5 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence *tune: PICARDY*

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!

Christmas Vespers Service featuring Ensemble Lumina: Today at 17h30 in the Sanctuary. Let the music of Ensemble Lumina, under the direction of Caroline Drury, brighten your Christmas spirit and quiet your holiday stress with a variety of seasonal music and texts from around the world. All are welcome.

Candlelight Christmas Concerts: 11 December 17h and 20h: Tickets may be purchased today at the reception desk. The numbered reserved seating for 17h is sold out, but a number of 15 and 10 euro tickets are still available. Tickets in all categories are available for 20h. Advance purchase is recommended as these concerts usually sell out.

Registration for Sunday Worship: 12 December and following weeks. We invite you to register for worship services at acparis.org so we may keep track of our Sunday guests for contact tracing purposes. See acparis.org beginning Mondays at 12h. We thank you for your help!

Longest Night Service: 21 December 19h30 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*

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.

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.

Generosity Campaign for 2022 Giving: Did you miss Commitment Sunday? No worries, you can still make your 2022 giving commitment online at acparis.org/estimatedgiving2022. Thanks for your support as we continue to rebuild and renovate the post-pandemic church!

Our Evolving Sanctuary Project: The scaffolding has moved!! This is a good sign, it means the sound and light project is moving along. Hundreds of meters of wires have been run and new lights have been installed on one side of the sanctuary.

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.

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.

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 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. If you are an adult and are interested in joining our Children's Worship leadership team, contact Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org.



Kids' Monthly Bible Study: Today 12h15-13h15 in room G7. All children ages 7 and older are welcome! This year, we will be learning more about Jesus through studying the "I am" statements found in the Gospel of John. Please register your child at acparis.org.

Children's Worship: 12 December: Children's Lessons and Carols Service at 11h; Intergenerational Advent Service at 14h.

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 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 for more information. Follow our YA group on Instagram here for the latest updates: https://www.instagram.com/acp_ya/.

Adult Ministries

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

Women's Fellowship Christmas Party: 12 December 12h30-13h30 in the Associate Pastor's residence. All women are welcome to join as we gather and share Christmas cheer. Register at acparis.org/signups.

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.

Men's Morning Bible Study at ACP: Thursdays 7h30-8h30. Information at 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.

African Fellowship: Today is the African Fellowship's 20th Anniversary celebration beginning at 13h, all are welcome to join! Other Sundays in the month will be Bible study from 16h-17h via Zoom. Please register for the Zoom details at 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!

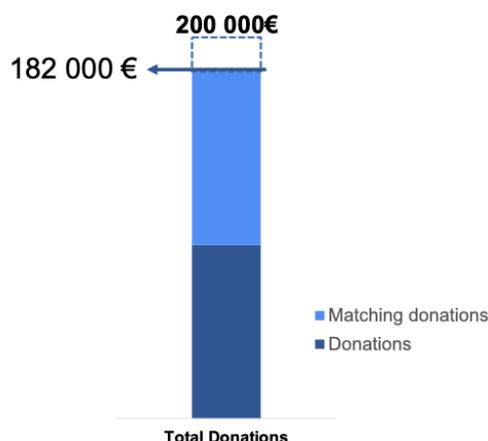
Read all about it – inspiration, information, news, and events from ACP in the most recent edition of the Spire. Available on the app, or at acparis.org.

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

Matching Campaign 2021



*Some generous supporters will match donations above regular giving up to 100,000 € between now and Christmas.



ACP is dependent on your continued giving – so if you stop giving we will be unable to continue operating at our current level.

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
Youth & Young Adult Pastor	The Rev. Elizabeth Murray	youthpastor@acparis.org
Children's Ministry Director	The Rev. Allison Wheeler	childrensworship@acparis.org
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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 below), email acctg@acparis.org, or visit 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



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