



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

14 March 2021



Lent 2021 at the American Church in Paris
“Bridging Worlds:
The Parables of Jesus and the Nearness of God”

Welcome to this service of Worship Online

ACP Lenten Theme

Down to the River to Pray
Fred Gramann, *piano*

arr. Fred Gramann

Gathering Music

Choral
Fred Gramann, *organ*

Joseph Jongen

Greeting and Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

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

And also with you.

In this season of Lent we are invited to consider how we live as followers of Jesus. In today's parable, the Parable of the House Divided, Jesus gives us hope that no matter how difficult things become on earth, his love conquers all.

Hymn

Christ, You Teach us of Your Kingdom

tune: W ZLOBIE LEZY

Text © 2014 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Prayer of Common Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive us and guide our steps anew, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Words of Assurance

Friends, the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Let us proclaim 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

Whole Heart *Aodhan King, Joel Houston*
Devon Graves, *guitar, vocals* Natalie Raynal, *vocals* Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals*
Josiah Woodson, *production*

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

ACP in Mission

Pascale Deforge

The First Lesson – Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

David Van Cleve

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

I Will Lift Mine Eyes
Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

Antonin Dvorak

The Second Lesson – Mark 3:22-27

MaryClaire King

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebub, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons."

And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

What Needs Binding?

Jodi Fondell

Music

Dust We Are And Shall Return *J. Arndt, D. Gungor, K. Gungor*
Devon Graves, *piano* David Wallace, *acoustic guitar* Mimi Sunnerstam, *cello*
Ella Mundinger, *violin* Lisa Prevett, *flute* George Makhshigian, *lead vocals*
Natalie Raynal, *vocals* Jeff Hohener and Josiah Woodson, *filming and production*

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

Doug Fondell

Offertory Music

Endlich wird mein Joch

J.S. Bach

One day my yoke will be lifted again from me and I will find strength in the Lord. Like an eagle, I will soar above my earthly confines without becoming tired. Oh, that this might happen even this day!

Frédéric Goncalves, *soloist* Carol Mundinger, *clarinet*
Fred Gramann, *piano*

Prayer of Dedication

Victor Greene

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 open church buildings for worship, schools, 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

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 acparis.org/prayers.

What Are You Giving Up For Lent? Have you thought about it? Need an idea? How about your eyeglasses? No, not the ones you currently wear. I'm talking about those old pairs gathering dust in a drawer. All kinds are welcome: prescription, non-prescription, sunglasses, and reading glasses. Bring them to church any time during Lent and put them in the special box in the narthex or leave them at the reception desk. Thanks to the *Fondation La Cause*, they will be given to those who cannot easily afford glasses. *La Cause* is a French Protestant organization that ACP has been supporting since 1997. So please, bring in those no longer used eyeglasses. Contact Fred Gramann for more information at music@acparis.org.

Easter Lilies: We would like to extend to you the opportunity to tangibly participate in our 2021 Easter Services worship services this year, wherever you may be, by providing an Easter Lily 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 lilies is 25€ per plant. However, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a special donation for your Easter Lily to help ACP continue to serve and bring hope to our community all over the world. Order today at acparis.org. Last day to order: **28 March**.

Easter Services: 4 April in the Sanctuary. We plan to hold the following services to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ: a traditional service at 8h30, a second traditional service at 11h00, and a contemporary service at 14h. Registration information coming soon at 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.

100 Nights of Welcome (100 NOW): 100 Now is a winter shelter for refugees in Paris and one of the missions of the ACP. For more information about the organization and how you can help, contact Tom Wilscom at missionoutreach@acparis.org.

ACP Weekly

Sunday Worship: We continue to Worship in the Sanctuary at 11h and 14h. Registration in advance each Sunday is obligatory; register at acparis.org. We also Worship Online with weekly postings starting from 9h at acparis.org.

Sundays from 12h via Zoom – Coffee Fellowship Online: Join this Sunday fellowship time on Zoom to visit with your fellow congregants, and don't forget your cup of coffee or tea! 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 online.

Lent

Morning Prayer at ACP via Zoom – A Lenten Journey: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, 8h-8h30 on Zoom. Start your day with prayer, meditative scripture readings, and silence in the tradition of the Anglican Morning Prayer. The prayer will be led by ACP staff member, Jörg Kaldewey. Register at acparis.org for Zoom link.

Wednesday Evening Adult Learning during Lent: Bridging Worlds/Bridging the Gaps: Wednesdays 19h30-20h30. Join us as we build on our Lenten theme of Bridging Worlds – discovering through the parables of Jesus the wonderful ways His Kingdom infuses our present day living. Register for Zoom link 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. This period is followed 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

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 online 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 Women's Fellowship: Today 14 March 16h via Zoom. Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart will speak on "Christ-Centered Listening: Abundant Life in Community." Please register for the Zoom details at acparis.org.

ACP Book Discussion: Mondays 15 & 29 March 19h30-21h via Zoom. We will have virtual book discussions on our collective reading of the widely heralded book on arbitrary social divisions, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson. Our next discussion will cover the introduction through Part Five (page 308), with Kate Snipes guiding the discussion with a guest professor. Register at acparis.org.

Virtual Thurber Conversation: 16 March 19h30-21h via Zoom. Dr. Rod Wilson will speak on "Christians and Anger: Friend or Foe?" Register at acparis.org.

Making Sense of the Bible: Launch meeting 25 March 19h via Zoom. This six week small group will study *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton, a leading Christian author and Pastor, in pursuit of greater Biblical understanding. For information and registration, visit acparis.org.

All-church Movie Nights: 27 March, 3 April, 10 April at 20h via Zoom. Join us in a twice-monthly fellowship as we meet to watch and discuss movies together. Always remember Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Feel free to join the fun and to forward this invitation to a friend! Join All Church Fellowship Group at acparis.org.

African Fellowship Online: Sundays 16h-17h via Zoom. Please register for the Zoom details at acparis.org.

Sunday Evening Adult Bible Study: Sundays 17h30-19h via Zoom. This Bible study on the Gospel of John is 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.

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 Morning 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.

Ministers of the American Church in Paris

Ministers	The Entire Congregation	
Interim Senior Pastor	The Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart	
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 Stewardship" 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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