



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

16 May 2021

Welcome to this service of Worship Online

Gathering Music

Prelude on LOBE DEN HERREN
Fred Gramann, *organ*

Larry Visser

Greeting and Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

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

And also with you.

Ringing of the Bells

Call to Worship

Victor Greene

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We come with thanks for the gifts of life, for the earth which is our home,
and for the human family to which we belong.

Let us claim this day with gratitude, and use its gifts to the glory of God.

This is the day that the Lord has made!

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

tune: LOBE DEN HERREN

Prayer of Common Confession

Let us come before the Lord our God just as we are.

Let us confess our sin and our need of God's Grace. Let us pray together:

O God, we have seen the world and have forgotten the truth. We, just as many in political power, have looked to make life easy for ourselves. We have glossed over our own mistakes, yet have harbored resentment when others' mistakes have hurt us. We have decried self-interest in power, yet have rejoiced when privilege has come our way. Forgive our laziness of not fully following your Word and way, and make us creatures of light, alive with a passion for truth, justice, freedom, and love.

Silent Prayers of Confession

In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

If anyone is in Christ Jesus, that person is a new creation. The old has passed away,
the new has come.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous. Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

Children's Blessing

Allison Wheeler

Music

I Will Not Give Up
Devon Graves and Natalie Raynal, *vocals*
Josiah Woodson, *piano*

Devon Graves

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

Jim Lockwood-Stewart

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music Thou art gone up on high *G.F. Handel*
Philip James Glenister, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

The Second Lesson – Acts 1:1-11

David Van Cleave

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Why Are You Looking Up? *Jim Lockwood-Stewart*

Music Oceans *J. Houston, M. Crocker, S. Lighthelm*
Alexia Rabé, *vocals and piano* Florence Hennequin, *cello*
Natalie Raynal, *backing vocals*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (in your mother tongue) *Odette Lockwood-Stewart*

Invitation to offering

Offertory Music How Beautiful Are the Feet *G.F. Handel*
Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

Prayer of Dedication Victor Greene

***O Christ, when you ascended, you took your rightful throne;
Your time on earth had ended – yet we weren't left alone.
You reign o'er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way.
Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each day.***

***We look at earthly rulers and see what they command:
We note their years of power, the borders of their land.
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space;
Your reign is never-ending, you rule in every place.***

***One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known;
One day this world of sinners will bow before your throne.
One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your name;
On earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign.***

Benediction

Jim Lockwood-Stewart

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 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

Sunday Worship starting 23 May: Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 11h livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube (see acparis.org for links). Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary at 14h. Registration required for both Worship in the Sanctuary services; see acparis.org Mondays at 12h to reserve your seats.

Called! A Spring Devotion. A 5-week devotion from Eastertide into Pentecost led by the contemporary worship team. In scripture, music and prayer, listen for how Jesus is calling you to play the role only you can play. Jesus is alive and has called us to join him! In-sanctuary Contemporary Worship will return 23 May with the celebration of Pentecost at 14h. Register on-line from 16 May at www.acparis.org.

Pentecost. Your participation is requested for the Pentecost worship service next Sunday, 23 May. Please record Acts 4:2 in any language and send it to connections@acparis.org. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Please find a quiet place to do this, leaving a little silent space before and after speaking. It can be a video if desired, but only the audio will be used. The deadline for receiving recordings is this Tuesday, 18 May. Recordings received after that time will not be able to be included. Translations can easily be found on Google or other search engines by typing in: "Acts 2:4 in _____", filling in the desired language.

ACP Special Congregational Meeting on 30 May to vote to call the incoming Senior Pastor and to vote on other finance and governance matters. Save the date! To be held after Sunday services at 16h00 via Zoom.

The Council of the American Church in Paris requests the presence of all voting members of the ACP – and welcomes all congregants – to attend the Special Congregational Meeting via Zoom video conference. Agenda items include:

- vote to call the incoming Senior Pastor recommended by the ACP Senior Pastor Search Committee;
- vote to approve the 2021-2022 proposed Council Slate;
- vote to approve the 2020 audited financial results, and vote to approve the reserve allocations.

This meeting will be held virtually online due to COVID-19 constraints, and in the afternoon so members who attend the Worship in the Sanctuary services can also attend. The meeting link, instructions, and meeting documents will be sent soon via email.

Please plan to attend this virtual meeting, but if you cannot be present, make sure your vote counts by completing the electronic proxy at acparis.org/proxy. We kindly request that you submit your electronic proxy by Saturday 29 May, in order to save time at the Congregational Meeting. We will be voting on important church business during the video conference. The Zoom virtual meeting system allows only one vote per connected device. If your household includes more than one ACP member, please have each member log-on with separate devices or fill out an electronic proxy (acparis.org/proxy) for each additional ACP member on the same device. If you have any questions, please contact connections@acparis.org.

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee: The ACP Council is pleased to announce that the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee was approved during the Council meeting on 10 May 2021. The following ACP members were appointed: Elizabeth Eposi, Delia Esteban, Devon Graves, Mary Hovind-Gay, Tinu Kaldewey, Geepee Usino, and Lisa Prevett. Our prayers are with this wonderful team of people as they prepare to serve beginning this fall!

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.

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.

ACP Weekly

Sundays via Zoom – Coffee Fellowship Online: Join this Sunday for worship and fellowship time on Zoom. *Note, beginning on 23 May, we will no longer "view" the service together on zoom but invite you to join the live stream at 11h00 via YouTube or Facebook.* If you would like the Zoom link for Coffee Fellowship, please register at: acparis.org/worship-fellowship.

Silent Prayer Thursdays at ACP: Thursdays at 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

Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020-21: 30 May at 12h45 via Zoom. This online monthly Bible study is for all children seven and older. We will spend the year studying the Lord's Prayer. Please contact Rev. Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org for more information, and/or register at acparis.org.

ACP Children's Music Ministry program 2021: 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

Youth: People Power. Sundays through 27 June at 15h30 via Zoom.

Young Adults: Mary's Playlist: Listen. Chat. Pray. Repeat. Featuring selected songs from the *Rolling Stone's* top 500 songs of all time playlist, YAYA gatherings will use the art / artists as interlocutors to help exegete the ways Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55) is imprinted on the Resurrected body of Jesus and on the world that is, the world we hope to be, and the world we hope to come. Join us! May 2021, online – and maybe, in person should COVID protocols change. For more information contact Pastor Victor Greene at youthpastor@acparis.org.

Adult Ministries

Wednesday Evening Adult Learning at ACP: Through 23 June, 19h30-21h00 via Zoom. Join us as we embark on a new learning journey focused on John's Letter of Hope to the Seven Churches of Revelation. For more information and to register for the Zoom link, please visit acparis.org.

Women's Monthly Bible Study: 30 May at 13h30-14h30 via Zoom. All women are welcome to join this study on Women of the Old Testament, led by Teri Lee Valluy. Register at acparis.org/women-sunday.

African Fellowship Online: Sundays 16h-17h via Zoom. The first Sunday of each month is the fellowship, and additional Sundays in the month will be Bible study. We are currently studying Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible*. 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. 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	seniorpastor@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	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.

The American Church in Paris
www.acparis.org



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The American Church in Paris

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