



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

BRIDGING WORLDS:

THE PARABLES OF JESUS AND THE NEARNESS OF GOD

21 February 2021

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP ONLINE

ACP Lenten Theme

Gathering Music

Adagio

W.A. Mozart

Carol Mundinger, *clarinet* Fred Gramann, piano

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, Jesus invites us all into the tension between the old and the new.

Hymn

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days, vs. 1 & 2

tune: ST. FLAVIAN

Prayer of Common Confession

Jodi Fondell

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

Trinity Song

Sandra McCracken

Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals* George Makhshigian, *vocals* Kym Stewart, *vocals*

Natalie Raynal, *vocals* Josiah Woodson, *production*

ACP in Mission

Daniel Tostado

The First Lesson – Psalm 25:1-10

Teri Lee Valluy

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
 O my God, in you I trust;
 Do not let me be put to shame;
 Do not let my enemies exult over me.
 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
 Let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
 Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.
 Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
 for you I wait all day long.
 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
 for they have been from of old.
 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
 according to your steadfast love remember me,
 for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
 Good and upright is the LORD;
 therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
 He leads the humble in what is right,
 and teaches the humble his way.
 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
 for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Music The Call *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
 Philip James Glenister, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

The Second Lesson – Mark 2:21-22 William Cuozzi
 “No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it,
 the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins;
 otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts
 new wine into fresh wineskins.”

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon New Wine *Odette Lockwood-Stewart*

Music New Wine *Brooke Ligertwood*
 Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals* Mimi Sunnerstam, *cello* Josiah Woodson, *production*

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

Offertory Music Gedenk an uns mit deiner Liebe *J.S. Bach*
Consider us with your love; enclose us within your mercy.
Bless those who rule us; who lead, protect and guide us.
 Caroline Drury, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

Prayer of Dedication Victor Greene

Hymn Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days, vs. 3 & 4 *tune: ST. FLAVIAN*

Benediction Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Congregational Amen

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 re-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? Lent began this Wednesday! 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 folks in Africa 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.

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 Wilsam 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 10h55 via Zoom – Worship/Coffee Fellowship Online

At 11h00, we Worship Online together via shared screen. Once the service has ended (about 12h), we break into 30-minute coffee fellowship groups. Join anytime, but please be muted if you join mid-service. 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 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

Alpha Online: Starting Monday 22 February 20h30-22h via Zoom, in English and French. In this season, when many of us are struggling to understand what is going on in the world, feeling isolated and facing challenges, the Alpha Course provides a safe space to ask life's biggest questions and explore the Christian faith. If you've never tried Alpha or you know someone who has questions about life and faith, join us Monday nights as we explore together. Contact alpha@acparis.org to receive the connection link.

A Tuesday in February:

- 23 February 19h30 via Zoom. Lola Akinmade Åkerström, author and photographer, will speak on "The Power of Asking Why Not: Unlocking Unconscious Bias in the Church." Register at acparis.org.

ACP Women's Fellowship: 28 February 16h on Zoom. Anna Dai will speak about her personal and faith journey from China to Paris and the American Church in Paris. Please register for the Zoom details at acparis.org.

ACP Book Discussion: Mondays 1, 15 & 29 March 19h30-21h via Zoom. We will have three virtual book discussions on our collective reading of the widely heralded book on arbitrary social divisions, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, written by Isabel Wilkerson. Our first discussion will cover the introduction through page 35, and Kate Snipes will guide the group in discussion with two guest professors. Register at acparis.org.

Zoom Membership Orientation Meeting: 4 March 19h30-21h. All who are interested in becoming a member at ACP are invited to sign up for this casual and interactive Zoom meeting. You'll learn about the history, the vision, beliefs, values, and governance of ACP, and you'll get to know your pastors and some of the members of our lay care ministry team. Together we'll explore opportunities for involvement that will enable you to serve, connect, and grow at ACP. Register 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 Ministry 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	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.



American Church in Paris

65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris

www.acparis.org tel: 01 40 62 05 00