



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

25 April 2021

Welcome to this service of Worship Online

Gathering Music

The Lord Is My Shepherd
John Bernard, *soloist* Laurana Mitchelmore, *piano*

R. Vaughan Williams

Greeting and Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

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

And also with you.

We gather together in the presence of our Shepherd God, who calls us each by name, who restores our souls, who leads us in the way of righteousness, and whose goodness and love never stops pursuing us. This is the God we have come to worship!

Introit

Praise the Lord, All Ye Nations (Psalm 117)
Caroline Drury, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

Robert Powell

Call to Worship

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Jesus the Good Shepherd calls our names, to come and follow him.

His voice, speaking our names, draws us to him.

We follow without fear, for the shepherd cares for us.

Our hearts rejoice and we can place our trust in the Good Shepherd.

Come, let us enter the gate with thanksgiving!

Let us go forth confidently with songs of praise! Amen.

Hymn

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

tune: BRADBURY

Prayer of Common Confession

Patient and loving God, we stand at the gate and peer through. We keep creating our own ways, believing that we know what is in our own best interest, and we ignore the voice of the one Shepherd who will guide us to peace and hope. We wander aimlessly and then wonder why we get so lost. We confess that we yield to our arrogance, our ignorance, and our pettiness far too often. Forgive us for following our own paths instead of following you. Help us to stop and listen to the Good Shepherd's voice. Help us to follow the Good Shepherd's leading. Help us to place our trust in the Good Shepherd who has never failed us, who loves and guides our lives. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

Silent Prayers of Confession

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

Words of Assurance

Friends, in the midst of all that you fear, God is with you. God will not abandon you. Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, laid down his life for you and offers you hope and peace. And so now hear and believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Children's Blessing

Allison Wheeler

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

Doug Fondell

Music

Psalm 42

Kirk Franklin and Tori Kelly

Kym Stewart, *soloist* Alexia Rabé, *piano* Mimi Sunnerstam, *cello*

The First Lesson – 1 John 3:16-24

Sharon Martin

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

arr. *Virgil Thompson*

Philip James Glenister, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

The Second Lesson – John 10:11-18

William Cuozzi

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Lost and the Found

Jodi Fondell

Music

Beloved

Devon Graves

Devon Graves, *lead vocal* Natalie Raynal, *backing vocals* John Arndt, *piano*

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

Doug Fondell

Offertory Music

Zion's Walls

Adapted by *Aaron Copland*

Caroline Drury, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

Prayer of Dedication

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Hymn

Good Shepherd, We Are Not Alone

tune: TALLIS' CANON

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Benediction

Jodi Fondell

Closing Response

Lord, Now Let Thy Servant Depart in Peace
Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

Fred Gramann

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

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.

Zoom Membership Orientation Meeting: 6 May 19h30-21h on Zoom. 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.

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

Sunday Worship: We worship online, with weekly postings starting from 9h at acparis.org.

Sundays via Zoom – Worship/Coffee Fellowship Online: Join this Sunday for worship and fellowship time on Zoom. *Note, we have resumed watching Worship Online together at 11h during the confinement period.* 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.

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: 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: 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: 5 May to 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.

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 a 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. 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.



The American Church in Paris

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