



# THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

27 December 2020

### WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP ONLINE

Announcements

Prelude

What is This Lovely Fragrance? French carol, arr. *Fred Gramann*  
Greg Guinther, *handbells*

Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Greeting and Call to Worship

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

Unto us is born a savior, who is Christ the Lord!  
God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
**Christ be the love that dwells between us.**  
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
**Christ be the peace that dwells between us.**  
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
**Christ be the joy that dwells between us.**

Carols

The First Nowell

*The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging angels singing,  
Noëls ringing, tidings bringing;  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.*

What Child Is This

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

Tolling Bells Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (from Psalm 51)

Doug Fondell

**Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence. Deliver us from evil and from ourselves. We offer our lives, troubled, broken, or at ease, to you. Take away our selfishness and teach us to love as you love. Take away every barrier we build between our neighbors and ourselves. Show us the world through your eyes. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit.**

We pray in the name of Jesus, the hope of the world and our salvation. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hear the Good News: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous.

**Thanks be to God.**

Refrain from “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*tune: GLORIA*

***Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

***Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

Children’s Blessing

Allison Wheeler

Musical Offering

O Come All Ye Faithful

Devon Graves: keyboard, *vocals* Natalie Raynal: *vocals*

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

Jodi Fondell

The First Lesson – Daniel 3:8-13

Elizabeth Eposi

Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews.

They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Musical Offering

In dulci jubilo  
Fred Gramann, *organist*

*Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau*

The Second Lesson – Daniel 3:14-18

Carol Mundinger

Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

**This is the word of the Lord.**

Thanks be to God.

Sermon	The Hope in the Fire	Steed Davidson
Musical Offering	Welcome to Our World Devon Graves: <i>keyboard, vocals</i>	<i>Chris Rice</i>
Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (in your mother tongue) Invitation to Offering		Victor Greene
Offertory Music	Variations on a Noël Fred Gramann, <i>organist</i>	<i>Claude Balbastre</i>
Prayer of Dedication		Jodi Fondell
Hymn	Once in Royal David's City	<i>tune: IRBY</i>
Benediction		Steed Davidson

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## 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 re-open church buildings for schools, worship, and community groups in a way that is safe, sustainable, and fair for all. We continue to **Worship Online** at [acparis.org](http://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

**ACP is blessed to welcome the Reverend Dr. Steed Davidson** to the pulpit today. Dr. Davidson is the Dean of the Faculty and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Professor of Hebrew Bible at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Davidson is author of *Empire and Exile: Postcolonial Readings of the Book of Jeremiah*, co-editor of *Islands, Islanders and the Bible: RumiNations*, and is currently co-authoring *Postcolonial Biblical Criticism: A Guide for the Perplexed*.

He is a native of Trinidad and Tobago, and earned a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. He received an S.T.M. from Boston University, and an M.A. from the University of the West Indies. He is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church.

**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 [prayerrequests@acparis.org](mailto:prayerrequests@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 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](mailto:communications@acparis.org).

**ACP Office Closure:** The church offices will be closed from 28 December – 2 January.

## ACP Weekly

**Sunday Worship:** We will continue with Worship in the Sanctuary at 11h starting 3 January, along with prayer, music and meditation at 14h, and Worship Online with weekly postings starting from 9h on Sundays at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).

### **Sundays from 12h via Zoom – Coffee Fellowship Online**

Join fellow congregants for a time of fellowship on Zoom each week. If you would like the Zoom link, please register at: [acparis.org/worship-fellowship](http://acparis.org/worship-fellowship).

**Mondays from 6h at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org) – Monday Musings with the Maestro** (continued in January 2021) *ACP Music Director Fred Gramann* shares the behind-the-scenes stories about music and musicians associated with the American Church in Paris over its long history. Whether you're up for cogitating, ruminating, or just pondering with Fred, you're welcome to tune in and perhaps be, well, a-mused.

### **Wednesdays from 6h at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org) – Sanctuary Sessions** (continued in January 2021)

Join *Natalie Raynal and ACP Contemporary Worship Musicians* for acoustic sessions in the sanctuary.

## Children's Ministries

**Threaded Together:** A Children's Ministry Initiative. During these days when we cannot safely experience the joy of being all together in person, our Threaded Together initiative offers different ways for us to stay connected, and for parents and children to experience support from church staff, volunteers, and other families. Register at [acparis.org/threadedtogether](http://acparis.org/threadedtogether) to participate in a family small group or contact [childrensworship@acparis.org](mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org) for information.

**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 virtual choir rehearsals sent as private YouTube video links to watch, alternating with Zoom rehearsals. Children of all ages are welcome. See [acparis.org/childrensmusic](http://acparis.org/childrensmusic) for registration.

## Youth and Young Adult Ministries

**2021 program** *Out There: Together in One Place*. For more information contact Pastor Victor Greene at [youthpastor@acparis.org](mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org).

## Adult Ministries

**Sunday Afternoon Adult Bible Study:** Sundays 16h-17h30 via Zoom. All adults are welcome to join this study as hosts Nathaniel Akujuobi and Patti Lafage lead us through an in-depth study of the book of Philippians. To register and receive the Zoom link please sign up at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).

**African Fellowship Online:** Sundays 16h-17h via Zoom. Please register for the Zoom details at [acparis.org](http://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](mailto:womensbiblestudy@acparis.org).

**Men's Ministry Bible Study at ACP:** Thursdays 7h30-8h30 via Zoom. Register at [acparis.org/men-thursday](http://acparis.org/men-thursday).

**Wednesday Evening Adult Learning at ACP:** beginning 6 January 19h30-21h via Zoom. The Sermon on the Mount: Living as Kingdom People (a six-week study). Register at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).

**A Thursday Evening Discipleship Encounter for New Christians:** beginning 7 January 19h-20h via Zoom. Walking in His Steps: Living as a Disciple of Jesus (an 8-week encounter). Register at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).

**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](http://acparis.org).

# Ministers of the American Church in Paris

Ministers	<b>The Entire Congregation</b>	
Interim Senior Pastor	<b>The Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart</b>	<a href="mailto:seniorpastor@acparis.org">seniorpastor@acparis.org</a>
Interim Associate Pastor	<b>The Rev. Jodi Fondell</b>	<a href="mailto:associatepastor@acparis.org">associatepastor@acparis.org</a>
Interim Associate Pastor	<b>The Rev. Doug Fondell</b>	<a href="mailto:ap2@acparis.org">ap2@acparis.org</a>
Youth / Young Adult Pastor	<b>Victor Greene (M.Div.)</b>	<a href="mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org">youthpastor@acparis.org</a>
Children's Ministry Director	<b>The Rev. Allison Wheeler</b>	<a href="mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org">childrensworship@acparis.org</a>
Director of Music	<b>Fred Gramann</b>	<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a>
Contemporary Music Director	<b>Natalie Raynal</b>	<a href="mailto:cmusic@acparis.org">cmusic@acparis.org</a>
Youth/Children Music Director	<b>Sara Barton</b>	<a href="mailto:ymusic@acparis.org">ymusic@acparis.org</a>
Executive Secretary	<b>Heather Walter</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary@acparis.org">secretary@acparis.org</a>
Wedding Coordinator	<b>Jörg Kaldewey</b>	<a href="mailto:weddings@acparis.org">weddings@acparis.org</a>

[www.acparis.org](http://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" 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](http://acparis.org) to find out how.

**Generosity Campaign goals:** 1) to double the number of 2021 pledges – no amount is too small or too large, and 2) increase 2020 seasonal financial giving to the ACP. Your generosity is critical to help ACP's ministries that change the lives of congregants in Paris and afar as well as life-changing outreach missions in Paris and across the globe. For more information and how to pledge, please visit [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).



**American Church in Paris**  
65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris  
[www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org) tel: 01 40 62 05 00