



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

3 January 2020

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP ONLINE

Announcements

We Three Kings

Prelude

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist

J.S. Bach

*The old year has passed; we thank you, Lord Jesus Christ,
that you have protected us so mercifully in such great danger this year.*

Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Greeting and Call to Worship

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Lift up your eyes and look around.

God is here among us.

Let us rejoice and be glad in God's presence.

Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old

tune: DIX

Call to Confession

Jodi Fondell

Trusting in God's unfailing grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves,
knowing that we are met with love and compassion.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you show mercy from one generation to the next; you seek justice in a world that is proud and arrogant; you look with favour upon the lowly. Your grace knows no bounds. But we have been slow to trust in your promises. Adversities, uncertainties, and injustices have made us place trust in ourselves rather than in you. We have forgotten to look to you, the one whose faith and love are steadfast, whose Spirit grounds and strengthens us. Forgive us, merciful God. Break the bonds that ensnare us so that we might find ourselves in your hope for each of us, that we might go home by another way.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the way, the truth, the life. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

God lifts up those who are downtrodden, offers a grace-filled presence to those who are broken, and continues to strengthen for great service those that the world deems unfit. Stand firm in God's promise because nothing is impossible for God. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous.

Nothing is impossible for God. 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

Music

As a New Day Dawns
Scott Herr, *guitar, vocals* Natalie Raynal, *vocals*
Alexia Rabé, *vocals* John Arndt, *production*

David Gungor

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

Victor Greene

The First Lesson – Isaiah 60:1-6

Chinwe Akujuobi

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

The Three Kings
Philip James Glenister, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

Peter Cornelius

The Second Lesson – Matthew 2:1-12

Jacob Yau

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ringling of the Bells

Sermon

Home By Another Way

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

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

Doug Fondell

Offertory Music

In dulci jubilo
Fred Gramann, *organ*

Dietrich Buxtehude

Prayer of Dedication

Allison Wheeler

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Jodi Fondell and Victor Greene

The Invitation – Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service. Help us, who shared Christ's body and received his cup, to be faithful disciples so that our living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

The Blessing

Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick

Alexia Rabé, piano, vocals Florence Hennequin, cello

Natalie Raynal, vocals John Arndt, production

Benediction

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Congregational Amen

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. 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 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 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 will continue with Worship Online with weekly postings starting from 9h at acparis.org, Worship in the Sanctuary at 11h, and prayer, music and meditation in the sanctuary at 14h will begin again on 10 January.

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.

Mondays from 6h at acparis.org – Monday Musings with the Maestro 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 – Sanctuary Sessions Join Natalie Raynal and ACP Contemporary Worship Musicians for acoustic sessions in the sanctuary.

Children's Ministries

Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020-21: 17 January 12h45 via Zoom. This virtual 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.

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 to participate in a family small group or contact 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 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 Today radio show: 4 January, 20h45-21h15. Tune in to 100.7 FM or listen in at <https://frequenceprotestante.com/>.

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.

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.

Women's Monthly Bible Study: 17 January 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.

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.

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

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.



American Church in Paris
65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris
www.acparis.org tel: 01 40 62 05 00