



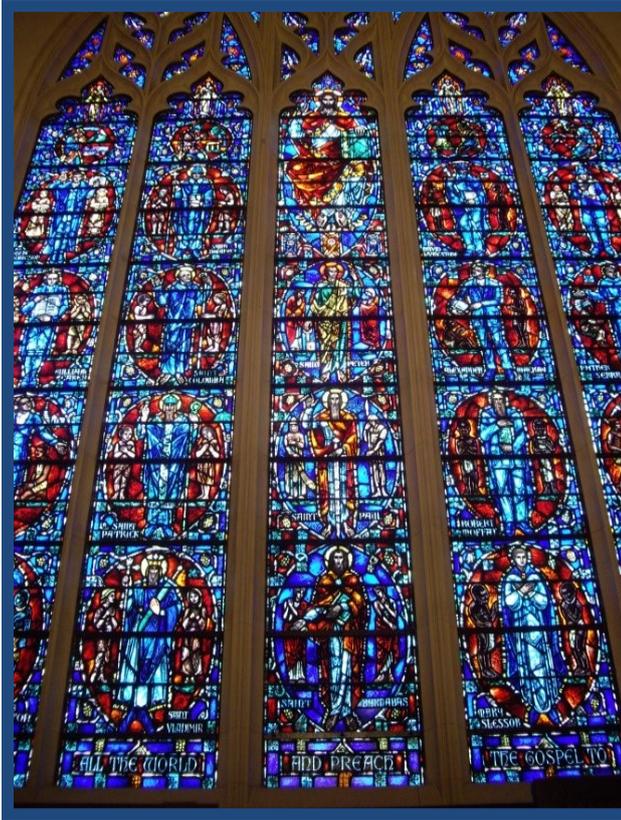
The American Church in Paris

EASTER SUNDAY
Worship Service
4 April 2021

CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Welcome to this service of worship.

The congregation's spoken words are in **bold**,
and sung words are in ***bold italics***.



RINGING OF THE BELLS

The Celebration Ringers

GATHERING MUSIC

Praise Now the Risen Christ!

Fred Gramann

*Praise now the Risen Christ! Alleluia! For the tomb could not hold him! See, Christ is alive.
I know that my Redeemer lives. All glorious, Risen Christ.*

GREETING

Children of the American Church in Paris

CALL TO WORSHIP AND WELCOME

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This is the day our God has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We do rejoice. We are glad. Christ is alive!

Jesus meets us and calls us by name.

Love is alive!

Death cannot hold us.

Our Redeemer lives!

We worship the Living God who gives new life in Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Lord we serve.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

tune: EASTER HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

***Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!***

***But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!***

***Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Amen!***

PRAYER OF COMMON CONFESSION

Doug Fondell

O God, we long to believe, but we are uncertain about so many things. We cry for the new life of resurrection, but we hide in fear. Break open our tombs this Easter day, O Lord. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, we pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace. In this time of pandemic, we lose patience, we lose hope, we lose our way. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to turn to you, to trust your power to change lives and mend creation, that we may know the joy of life abundant in Jesus Christ our Lord. (*prayers of silent confession...*)
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved community in Christ, hear and believe the Good News:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous.
For Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CHILDREN'S BLESSING AND CHILDREN BLESS US IN SONG

Allison Wheeler
Sara Barton

MUSIC

Easter Jubilation
The ACP Bronze Ringers

Fred Gramann

FIRST READING – I Corinthians 15:1-11

MaryClaire King

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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

MUSIC

Behold, I tell you a mystery
The trumpet shall sound

G.F. Handel

Frédéric Goncalves, *soloist* Simon Fournier, *trumpeter* Fred Gramann, *organist*

SECOND READING – John 20:1-18

Marta Hobbs

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord;” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

SERMON

Easter In Us

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

SOLO

I know that my Redeemer liveth
Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organist*

G.F. Handel

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOLLOWED BY THE LORD’S PRAYER

Jodi Fondell

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

EASTER OFFERING

Our Easter altar flowers are given to the glory of God and...

In loving memory of all whom we have lost to COVID-19, by an ACP Member

In loving memory of James and Phyllis Albrecht, by Karen Albrecht

In honor of her mother, Pearl Benney, by Alison Benney

In honor of Arlene Marden and Domenica Baldanza, by Caroline Cuozzi

In loving memory of Mary Louise Doucette, by Marie and Daniel Grout

In loving memory of Josephine Asuncion, by Marie and Daniel Grout

In thanksgiving for God's blessings and his Spirit with us, by Arinola Ifekoya

In loving memory of their parents, Mary and Walter Lockwood and Mildred and Don Stewart, by
Jim and Odette Lockwood-Stewart

In gratitude for the congregation and ministries of the American Church in Paris,
by Jim and Odette Lockwood-Stewart

In loving memory of our beloved Manning and Pryor families, by Tara Manning

In loving memory of her father Johnnie, brothers Val and Joseph, and sister Juelly, by Gigi Oyog

In loving memory of David Dietz, by Eunice Raar

Announcements

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, 11 April 13h: 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 semi-annual congregational meeting via Zoom video conference. We will receive the 2020 Ministry Reports from the Council and pastoral leadership of the ACP, present the 2020 preliminary financial results, and vote to approve the 2021 budget. This meeting will be held virtually online due to COVID-19 constraints. 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 10 April, 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.

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.

Easter Worship Online Services: Today at acparis.org. The Traditional Easter Celebration will be aired starting at 9h, and the Bridges of Paris Easter Sunrise Service will be aired starting at 7h.

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: 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

ACP Women's Fellowship: 11 April 16h via Zoom. We will hear the journey of Yvonne Hazelton as she speaks on the themes "Don't Throw Baby Jesus out with the Bathwater" and "Why is Yvonne Still a Christian?" Please register for the Zoom details at acparis.org.

Adam Hamilton Virtual Thurber Conversation: 15 April 19h30 via Zoom. Adam Hamilton will speak on his book that we have been studying as a congregation: *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*. More information and registration at acparis.org.

African Fellowship Online: Sundays 16h-17h via Zoom. The first Sunday of the month is the monthly fellowship, and additional Sundays in the month will be a study. On 11 April we will begin the study on 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	
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.



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The American Church in Paris
www.acparis.org



The American Church in Paris

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