



# THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT

7 March 2021



Lent 2021 at the American Church in Paris  
“Bridging Worlds:  
The Parables of Jesus and the Nearness of God”

### Welcome to this service of Worship Online

ACP Lenten Theme

Down to the River to Pray  
Fred Gramann, *piano*

*arr. Fred Gramann*

Gathering Music

Psalm 19  
Fred Gramann, *organist*

*Benedetto Marcello*

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, the “Parable of the Mustard Seed,” Jesus opens our eyes to see and celebrate the seeds of His all-inclusive love growing in us and among us.

Hymn

The Power of God in Creation is Shown

*tune: ST. DENIO*

*lyrics: Fred Gramann, based on Psalm 19*

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

Öffne dich, mein ganzes Herze

*J.S. Bach*

*Open yourself, all my heart. Jesus is coming to dwell within me. Although I am only dust and earth, he will not reject me, but will gladly make me his abode. How happy I will be!*

Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

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

ACP in Mission

Carolyn Bouazouni

The First Lesson – Psalm 19

Natalie Raynal

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Music

His Eye is on the Sparrow

*Charles H. Gabriel, Civilla D. Martin*

Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals* Josiah Woodson, *flute, production*

The Second Lesson – Mark 4:30-32

Carol Mundinger

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Mustard Seed Moments

Doug Fondell

Music

Im Abendrot

*Franz Schubert*

*How lovely is your world, Father, in its golden radiance when your glory descends and paints the dust with glitter; when the red light that shines from the clouds falls silently upon my window. Could I complain? Could I be apprehensive? Could I lose faith in you and in myself? No, I already bear your heaven here within my heart.*

Frédéric Goncalves, *soloist* Laurana Mitchelmore, *piano*

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

Victor Greene

Offertory Music

Bridge Over Troubled Water

*Simon and Garfunkel, arr. Alexia Rabé*

Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals* Josiah Woodson, *production*

Prayer of Dedication

Jodi Fondell

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Odette Lockwood-Stewart, Jodi Fondell

The Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God of all creation, as tiny seeds grow by your power into huge trees, they provide food for the hungry and homes for the birds. From the darkness of the earth springs forth your life, your harvest. Give us eyes of faith and willing hands to see your Kingdom grow in us. As we have received the Bread of Life, may we feed the hungry. As we drink the Cup of Salvation, may we gather the harvest your love has provided. In Christ's name and the power of the Spirit we pray with thanksgiving and we commit our lives to you again. Amen.**

Hymn

You Bid Us, Christ, to Cross Our Bridge

*tune: TALLIS' CANON*

*lyrics: Fred Gramann and Odette Lockwood-Stewart*

Benediction

Doug Fondell

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 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](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

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

**What Are You Giving Up For Lent?** Have you thought about it? 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 those 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Wilscam at [missionoutreach@acparis.org](mailto: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](http://acparis.org). We also Worship Online with weekly postings starting from 9h at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).

**Sundays from 12h via Zoom – Coffee Fellowship Online:** Join this Sunday fellowship time on Zoom to visit with your fellow congregants, and don't forget your cup of coffee or tea! If you would like the Zoom link, please register at: [acparis.org/worship-fellowship](http://acparis.org/worship-fellowship).

**Wednesdays from 6h at [acparis.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org).

## Adult Ministries

**ACP Book Discussion:** Mondays 15 & 29 March 19h30-21h via Zoom. We will have virtual book discussions on our collective reading of the widely heralded book on arbitrary social divisions, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson. Our next discussion will cover the introduction through Part Five (page 308), with Kate Snipes guiding the discussion with a guest professor. Register at [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).

**Virtual Thurber Conversation:** 16 March 19h30-21h via Zoom. Dr. Rod Wilson will speak on "Christians and Anger: Friend or Foe?" Register 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).

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

**Alpha Online:** Mondays 20h30-22h via Zoom, in English and French. 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](mailto:alpha@acparis.org) to receive the connection link.

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

**For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, adults, and mission and service opportunities, see [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>	
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 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](http://acparis.org) to find out how.



Would you consider giving up your old glasses for Lent?

Give the gift of better sight to those who cannot afford glasses. They will thank you for it!



**American Church in Paris**

65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris

[www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org) tel: 01 40 62 05 00