



# The American Church in Paris

## CELEBRATING THE ASCENSION

24 May 2020

### WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

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

#### Prelude

Allegro in Bb Major

*J.S. Bach*

Simon Fournier, *trumpet* Fred Gramann, *organ*

#### Ringing of the bells

#### Greeting for Worship

Victor Greene

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

**And also with you.**

#### Call to Worship (Psalm 47:1-6)

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

**shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,

**a great king over all the earth.**

He subdued peoples under us,

**and nations under our feet.**

He chose our heritage for us,

**the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

God has gone up with a shout,

**the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

Sing praises to God, sing praises;

**sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

#### Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King *tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

Trumpet descants by Fred Gramann

*All creatures of our God and King,*

*Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thou burning sun with golden beam,*

*Thou silver moon with softer gleam, Alleluia! (5x)*

*Thou rushing wind that art so strong,*

*Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along, O sing ye! Alleluia!*

*Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,*

*Ye lights of evening, find a voice! Alleluia! (5x)*

***Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
That givest us both warmth and light, Alleluia! (5x)***

***All creatures, your Creator bless,  
And worship God in humbleness. O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One, Alleluia! (5x)***

### Confession of Sin

Lovers of God, saints and sinners alike, let us repent of those things that have drawn us away from God and our neighbors, that we may receive the joy of forgiveness.

**God, lover of humankind, you have asked us to proclaim your name to all people. We confess we have held back from loving others as you have loved us. Forgive us we pray, for our weak witness, and empower us in Jesus' name to be more bold witness to the goodness of your justice, the healing of your compassion, and the power of your humility. In the strength of your Holy Spirit, let us turn from our ways and embrace the way of the crucified-risen Lord, trusting his loving presence to lead and sustain us. *(silent prayers of confession)***  
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

### Declaration of Forgiveness and Righteousness:

The promise of our faith is that we are already forgiven and, in Christ's name, given the power to rise up and subdue all that separates us from God and each other. Like those first disciples, we are now told to stay and wait, so that we might receive the Holy Spirit and be empowered as witnesses of God's resurrection power in Jesus Christ. So, friends, hear and believe the good news!

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

Glory Be to the Father

*tune: GLORIA PATRI*

Welcome

Scott Herr

Children's Blessing

Allison Wheeler

Anthem

Oceans *M. Crocker, J. Houston, S. Ligthelm*

Alexia Rabé and Natalie Rayal, *vocalists*; Florence Hennequin, *cellist*

[Lighting the Candle for God's Global Vision of Compassion, Justice and Peace](#)

Prayer for Illumination

Grant Mongin

[The First Lesson](#) – Acts 1:1-11

Lector: Chinwe Akujuobi

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

[Solo](#)

Agnus Dei

*Georges Bizet*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us and grant us peace.*

Frédéric Goncalves, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *accompanist*

[The Second Lesson](#) – Luke 24:44-53

Lector: Mary Claire King

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

[Sermon](#)

Caught in the Middle

Scott Herr

[Musical Response](#)

Adagio

*W.A. Mozart*

Carol Mundinger, *clarinet* Fred Gramann, *piano*

[Prayers of the People](#)

Doug Fondell

[Offering of Tithes and Gifts](#)

Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Prayer of Dedication

Jodi Fondell

[Hymn](#)

O Christ, When You Ascended

*tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN (“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”)*

*Text: © Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*

***O Christ, when you ascended, you took your rightful throne;  
Your time on earth had ended – yet we weren't left alone.  
You reign o'er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way.  
Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each day.***

***We look at earthly rulers and see what they command:  
We note their years of power, the borders of their land.  
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space;  
Your reign is never-ending, you rule in every place.***

***It's often quite a challenge to follow in your Way;  
We're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey.  
Sometimes we give you Sundays – an hour, maybe two –  
But your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.***

***One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known;  
One day this world of sinners will bow before your throne.  
One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your name;  
On earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign.***

[Benediction](#)

Scott Herr

Congregational Amen

[Postlude](#)

Te Deum (We praise Thee, O Lord) *M.A. Charpentier*  
Simon Fournier, *trumpet* Fred Gramann, *organ*

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## **#ACPNotCancelled**

### Together in Christ, While Physically Apart

Grace and peace to you! In the midst of the unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic, the American Church in Paris is dedicated to remaining a vibrant community and to provide you with resources for worship, learning, spiritual formation, and holistic health. We seek to grow spiritually closer as a community while observing physical distancing for safety.

While all activities at the ACP church sanctuary and Church House are cancelled until the confinement is lifted, the congregation is coming alive in new on-line and virtual ways. Stay tuned to [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).

We pray that even during this crisis, we will continue to live into our mission "to bear witness in word and deed to the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ."

God be with you 'til we meet again!



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