



# THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

30 AUGUST 2020

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

### [Announcements](#)

### [Prelude](#)

The Lord is My Shepherd *R. Vaughan Williams*  
John Bernard, *soloist* Laurana Mitchelmore, *accompanist*

### [Greeting for Worship](#)

Jodi Fondell

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

### Call to Worship (*from Psalm 105*)

O give thanks! Call upon the name of the LORD!  
**Sing the song of your soul to the God of all the nations.**  
O give thanks! Seek the LORD in His sanctuary;  
**All the earth is God's sanctuary;**  
Praise and thanks and glory to God;  
**Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer of us all.**  
Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice;  
**Remember God's wonderful works in every generation.**  
Let our daily living praise the Living God;  
**Testify to God's grace in your life.**  
For God is faithful and just;  
**Steadfast in an everlasting covenant;**  
O give thanks to the LORD! Call upon God's name!  
**Alleluia! Amen.**

### [Hymn](#)

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

*tune:* LOBE DEN HERREN

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!***

***Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Who, as on wings of an eagle, uplifteth, sustaineth.  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires all have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?***

***Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen sound from His people again;  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.***

### [Prayer of Confession](#) (unison)

**Gracious and merciful God, you call us to be your people here and now. Forgive us when we live our lives as though the Gospel is letters on a page and the church is an organization in which we may or may not participate. Forgive us when we live our lives as though Christ is not alive and among us. Forgive us and have mercy on us, O God. Let the risen Christ awaken us and the Gospel be the power of our lives. Help us to be the church rather than go to church, and to witness everywhere to your love through Jesus Christ. (*Moments for silent confession*)**  
For we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness and Peace

Friends, hear and believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous.

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

## [Gloria Patri](#)

## [Welcome](#)

Doug Fondell

## [Blessing of the Children](#)

Allison Wheeler

## [Musical Offering](#)

Love Divine

arr. Fred Gramann

(composed in honor of Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart)

The ACP Bronze Ringers

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

Prayer for Illumination

Victor Greene

## [The First Lesson – Romans 12:9-21](#)

Alison Benney

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## [Musical Offering](#)

As A New Day Dawns

David Gungor

Scott Herr, guitar, vocals Natalie Raynal, vocals Alexia Rabé, vocals John Arndt, production

## [The Second Lesson – Matthew 16:21-28](#)

Tarani Merriweather

*From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## [Sermon](#)

Love Resurrects

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Musical Offering

I Will Not Give Up  
Josiah Woodson, *piano* Devon Graves and Natalie Raynal, *vocals*  
Jeff Hohener, *videography* Josiah Woodson, *production*

Devon Graves

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (*in your mother tongue*)

Allison Wheeler

The Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory Solo

Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray  
John Bernard, *soloist* Laurana Mitchelmore, *accompanist*

Spiritual, arr. *H.T. Burleigh*

Dedication of Our Tithes and Offerings

Jodi Fondell

Hymn

God, Whose Love Is Always Stronger

Tune: BEACH SPRING ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

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***God, whose love is always stronger than our weakness, pride and fear,  
In your world, we pray and wonder how to be more faithful here.  
Hate too often grows inside us; fear rules what the nations do.  
So we pray, when wars divide us: give us love, Lord! Make us new!***

***Love is patient, kind and caring, never arrogant or rude,  
Never boastful, all things bearing; love rejoices in the truth.  
When we're caught up in believing war will make the terror cease,  
Show us Jesus' way of living; May our strength be in your peace.***

***May our faith in you be nourished; may your churches hear your call.  
May our lives be filled with courage as we speak your love for all.  
Now emboldened by your Spirit who has given us new birth,  
Give us love, that we may share it till your love renews the earth!***

Benediction

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Congregational Amen

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## The American Church in Paris Re-gathered and also virtual

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the **American Church in Paris** has been dedicated to remaining a vibrant community and to providing online resources for worship, learning, spiritual formation, and holistic health. Now, in this "post-confinement" period, we are taking steps to re-open the church buildings for worship, schools and other community groups in a way that is safe, sustainable, and fair for all.

Please continue to check our website for the latest news. We have begun re-gathering for **Worship in the Sanctuary** on Sundays at 11h. Capacity is limited and seating is reserved because of Covid-19 protocols. To register, please visit [acparis.org/register](http://acparis.org/register). These services are different from those before the pandemic, but we hope are still honoring to God and inspiring to our congregation and our extended community. We will continue the **Virtual Worship Services** on [acparis.org](http://acparis.org) for the foreseeable future.

Whether you are one of the thousands of viewers from many different countries who join us for online worship, or new to Paris and seeking a church family, we hope you will be patient until we can meet without restrictions again!

In the meantime, 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?** During this difficult season of social distancing, our attempts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus bring stressors, worries, and fears that we may be struggling to manage. 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 during your time of struggle please contact us at [prayerrequests@acparis.org](mailto:prayerrequests@acparis.org)

**Sanctuary Worship Ushers Needed:** ACP is committed to moving forward with in-sanctuary worship services as Covid-19 protocols allow, and also providing a quality online experience for those not able to return to church for live worship. Volunteers are needed for each service to welcome and seat worshipers in a safe and efficient manner. Training is available and the commitment is for about 2.5 hours on a Sunday. Please do prayerfully consider how you could help out as we continue to adjust to worshiping in new and different ways. Interested? Please email [connections@acparis.org](mailto:connections@acparis.org).

## Children's Ministries

**Threaded Together – A Children's Ministry Initiative:** When it feels like everything is unraveling, we trust in God to thread us together more tightly with Him and with one another. During these days where 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. For more information, contact Allison Wheeler at [childrensworship@acparis.org](mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org).

**ACP Children's Music Ministry Fall program 2020:** Lifting a joyful noise unto the Lord through voice and instrument, in praise, prayer, and thanksgiving: though we are not able to rehearse in person (yet!), the ACP children's choirs will continue in the fall via virtual choir rehearsals sent as private YouTube video links to watch, and alternating with Zoom rehearsals. Children of all ages are welcome. Whether you have participated in ACP choirs for years, or are new to singing, you have a home here – come and join us! See [acparis.org/childrensmusic](http://acparis.org/childrensmusic) for registration and more details.

## Youth and Young Adult Ministries

**Fall 2020-2021 program** *Out There: Together in One Place*. For more information, contact Pastor Victor Greene at [youthpastor@acparis.org](mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org).

## Adult Ministries

**The Enneagram Journey:** Wednesdays: 9 September – 25 November, 19h30-21h30 via Zoom. The Enneagram unleashes the potential to understand ourselves and others more fully – what inspires us, what challenges us, what can help us to build healthy relationship to others, what can nurture our personal and corporate walk with God. Register for this virtual study hosted by Pastors Doug and Jodi at [acparis.org/enneagram](http://acparis.org/enneagram).

**Virtual Thurber Conversation:** Plans to Give You Hope: Looking Back as We Look Forward: 15 September, 19h30 via Zoom. The pandemic has caused us to ask “What Does the Future Hold?” Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that God knows the plan and it includes a future filled with hope. Register at [acparis.org/thurber](http://acparis.org/thurber). Thurber Conversations are an adult community gathering and growth time that is open to all.

**Men's Ministry Bible Study at ACP:** Thursdays 7h30-8h30, in the ACP Theater beginning 3 September. In-house and Zoom option available. Register at [acparis.org/men-thursday](http://acparis.org/men-thursday).

**Women's Monthly Fellowship:** Sunday, September 13 at 17h00 via Zoom. Carolyn Bouazouni will be sharing about her journey from a working in a corporate job to being deeply involved in prison ministry. More information at [acparis.org/womensfellowship](http://acparis.org/womensfellowship).

**Women's Monthly Bible Study:** Women of the Old Testament led by Teri Lee Valluy – beginning 27 September via Zoom. Register at [acparis.org/women-sunday](http://acparis.org/women-sunday).

**For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, and adults mentioned above, see [acparis.org](http://acparis.org).**

