



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

27 SEPTEMBER 2020

WELCOME TO THIS VIRTUAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Chorale "Christ lag in Todesbanden"

Prelude

Organ Prelude on "Christ lag in Todesbanden"

J.S. Bach

Christ lay in the bonds of death, given up for our sin. He rose again and brought us life.
Therefore, be glad; praise and thank God; sing Alleluia! (*Martin Luther*)

Greeting for Worship

Victor Greene

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

Call to Worship (*based on Psalm 25: 1-9*)

Come, lift up your hearts to the Lord!

To you, O Lord, we lift up our hearts!

In you we trust!

Do not let us be put to shame.

Our God is full of compassionate love.

He brings wayward people back to His way,
and teaches the humble the way they should go.

**Show us the right path, O Lord;
point out the way for us to follow.**

**Lead us by your truth, and teach us,
for you are the God who guides us in love.**

In you we place our hope!

Hymn

Lead Me, Lord

tune: LEAD ME, LORD

Lyrics: Vs. 1: Samuel Wesley, vs. 2 & 3: Fred Gramann



Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righ - teous-ness;
Teach us, Lord, teach us still to trust in thee,
Sure - ly, Lord, sure - ly you have plans for us



make thy way plain be - fore my face.
that we may sense thy strength a - new.
that will keep each of us from harm.



For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord on - ly, that
What lies a - head, Lord, thou canst know on - ly. O
You grant a fu - ture full of hope, Where



mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.
Lord, lead us through the days a - head.
we may rest safe - ly in your arms.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of patience, your people grow weary. We complain and question and blame. We put you to the test. Our mouths say yes, but our deeds say no. When we fail to follow through on good intentions, when we give our attention to trivial things; when we give in to anger and fear, call us home to you. As you poured out your very self through your beloved Son, pour your Spirit into our hearts today. Forgive us our wrongdoing.

(Moments for silent confession)

Merciful God, reclaim us with your love.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness and Peace (Ephesians 2:4-5)

The Lord hears our cries of repentance. Christ knows our hearts, inside and out. The God who created us promises to care for us, even when we turn away.

Friends, hear and believe the good news.

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

Gloria Patri

Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Blessing of the Children

Allison Wheeler

Musical Offering

En Prière (In Prayer)

Gabriel Fauré

If you can hear a child's voice, O my Father, then listen to the prayer of Jesus on bended knee before You. If You have chosen me to teach your laws on earth, I will know how to serve You, holy King of kings.

Jennifer Young, soloist

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

Prayer for Illumination

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

The First Lesson – Philippians 2:1-13 (Paul's Epistle to the Philippians)

Marta Hobbs

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering

New Wine

Brooke Ligertwood

Alexia Rabé, piano, vocals Natalie Raynal, vocals Marta Hobbs, videography, production

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon By What Authority? Doug Fondell

Musical Offering Give Me Jesus *Fernando Ortega*
Devon Graves, arrangement, piano, vocals *John Arndt, production*

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

The Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory Music Psalms 34 and 138 *Arthur Honegger*

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. (Psalm 34)

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; I sing your praise; I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. (Psalm 138)

Jennifer Young, soloist

Dedication of Our Tithes and Offerings Victor Greene

Hymn At the Name of Jesus *tune: MERRIAL (“Now the Day is Over”)*

***At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him King of glory now.***

***Humbled for a season to receive a name
From the lips of sinners, unto whom he came,***

***Faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious, when from death he passed.***

***Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
With his Father's glory, O'er the earth to reign!***

Benediction Doug Fondell

Congregational Amen

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. We are now 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 been 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. 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 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

Ushers Needed: ACP is committed to moving forward with **Worship in the Sanctuary** 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 worshippers 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.

Children's Ministries

Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020-21: today at 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 childrensworsip@acparis.org for more information, and/or register at acparis.org.

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 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. For more information, contact childrensworship@acparis.org.

ACP Children's Music Ministry Fall program 2020: Join us in 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 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 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.

Adult Ministries

Women's Monthly Bible Study: today at 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.

Alpha and Alpha Campus online: An 11-week course, beginning 1 October, via Zoom. Whether you've got questions, you're new to Christianity, or you want to revitalize your faith, the Alpha Course is a safe place to ask questions and explore faith. Each session starts with a video talk, followed by small groups (in English and French). For more information and to register: alpha@acparis.org. Who will YOU invite?

Virtual Thurber Conversation: 13 October via zoom. Join this timely discussion on "Lament and Hope" led by Dr. Soong-Chang Rah, the Milton B. Engebretson Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL – USA. Contact Pastor Jodi at associatepastor@acparis.org to register or for more information.

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.

Sandwich Ministry: Wednesdays in September from 17h-18h in the ACP Courtyard. Join us to make sandwiches to be delivered to homeless and refugee populations, while following strict Covid-19 protocols. If you would like to help, please contact secretary@acparis.org to sign up.

Men's Ministry Bible Study at ACP: Thursdays 7h30-8h30, in the ACP Theater. In-house and Zoom option available. Register at acparis.org/men-thursday.

Adult Handbell Choirs: The adult handbell choir ministry program has begun rehearsals: Celebration Ringers on Mondays, and Bronze Ringers on Thursdays. Rehearsals are held in accordance with strict health protocols, including masks and social distancing. If you are interested in more information, please contact Fred Gramann at music@acparis.org.

For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, and adults mentioned above, see acparis.org.

2020 Generosity through August



Goal represents congregational giving goal (not including AFCU) for full year. Visit acparis.org/support-us for information on how to give!

Please Give!



Electronic GIVING is easy and efficient for ACP! = We now have several ways to give electronically – by bank transfer/virement or online bank card giving to the ACP or through the AFCU for those who want a US tax deduction. We still accept checks too! More is explained on the ACP website at “Support Us.”

Bank transfer or virement in Euros – You can set up a one-time or periodic automatic bank transfer from your European bank directly to the ACP bank account. This is one of the most seamless methods of giving as your donation goes directly to the ACP bank account with no processing fees or commissions. How? Easy – read the [Simplify Your Stewardship](#) document on ACP’s webpage. Once you have set up your virement, please send an email to acctg@acparis.org, as we want to ensure we have your contact details on file to facilitate sending you an annual French tax receipt.

By Bank Card in France – Go to our website and click on the button – it’s easy! Have your card information ready.

Giving through the AFCU – It is easy for US taxpayers to send your financial support for the ACP through the AFCU. To make a payment for the ACP using PayPal or credit card, visit the [AFCU website via the link on the website here](#). Please be sure to specify that your gift is designated “for ACP” in the instructions field. This documentation is required to ensure that your donation is designated for the American Church in Paris as the AFCU supports other international churches.

ACP IS A FRENCH NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Giving by cash, direct bank transfer, electronically or check may be eligible for tax deduction if you are a French tax resident. We invite you to ask us if you require more information: acctg@acparis.org

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Thank you!

Ministers of the American Church in Paris

Ministers

Interim Senior Pastor
Interim Associate Pastor
Interim Associate Pastor
Youth / Young Adult Pastor
Children's Ministry Director
Director of Music
Contemporary Music Dir.
Youth / Children Music Dir.
Executive Secretary
Wedding Coordinator

The Entire Congregation

The Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart
The Rev. Jodi Fondell
The Rev. Doug Fondell
Victor Greene (M.Div.)
The Rev. Allison Wheeler
Fred Gramann
Natalie Raynal
Sara Barton
Heather Walter
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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 the Reception desk to find out how.



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