



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

6 SEPTEMBER 2020

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

[Announcements](#)

[Prelude](#)

Chorale Prelude on "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"
Fred Gramann, *organ*

J.S. Bach

[Greeting for Worship](#)

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

Victor Greene

Call to Worship (from Jeremiah 29)

Let us turn to the Word of God, our everlasting Light;
We bring the world to the Light of God's Word.

(Let us pray as the bells call us to worship)

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

We praise you, O God. We entrust our lives, our future to you.

Wherever you are, seek God's peace and pray to the Lord;

We entrust our lives, our future to you.

God of hope, as we gather in praise, we pray for all your children;

We entrust our lives, our future to you.

From many nations, with different histories, and countless questions,
we worship the Living God;

**As we pray our lives, may we live our prayers,
in the name and in the way of Jesus.**

Let us remember the Word God gave to the prophet Jeremiah:

**"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."**

May it be so!

Amen.

[Hymn](#)

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

tune: SOLID ROCK

***My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim, but wholly trust in Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

***When weary in this earthly race, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every wild and stormy gale my anchor holds and will not fail.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

***When the last trumpet's voice shall sound, O may I then in him be found!
Clothed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before his throne.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand, all other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.***

[Prayer of Confession](#) (unison)

Almighty God, there are strong forces of spiritual wickedness in our lands and in our histories. We did not shape these forces, but we see them, and we recognize the ways that sin poisons our very souls. As followers of Jesus, we are called to accept the freedom and grace you give us to renounce and resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. Yet we confess that we do not always renounce, or resist. Forgive us. Jesus is our Lord. Help us to put our whole trust in him, and to serve him in union with the church that Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations and races...(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:
Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in sin—it is by grace we have been saved.
It is by grace we have been saved. Amen.

[Gloria Patri](#)

[Welcome](#)

Jodi Fondell

[Blessing of the Children](#)

Allison Wheeler

[Musical Offering](#)

At the River adapted by Aaron Copland
Philip James Glenister, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *piano*

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

Prayer for Illumination

Jodi Fondell

[The First Lesson – Jeremiah 29:4-11](#)

Delia Esteban

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord. For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Leader: I will read again the 11th verse. I will read it a third time. Listen to the words of the Lord through the prophet Jeremiah. Hear God's word to you as we read, hear, learn this memory verse for ACP this year:

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

(moment of silent prayer)

Leader: Hear God's word to us all:

All: “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering

Keep the Hope *George Makhshigian, John Arndt*
George Makhshigian, *vocals* John Arndt, *piano* Josiah Woodson, *flute*
Devon Graves, Natalie Raynal, *backing vocals* John Arndt, *production*

The Second Lesson – Romans 8:18-25

Peter DeWit

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Leader: Listen for God's word to you, to us all, as I read again this memory verse, this question, from Paul's letter to the Romans.

"For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?"

(moment of silent prayer)

Leader: Hear God's word to us all:

**All : "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope.
For who hopes for what is seen?"**

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Future With Hope

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Musical Offering

Love Bade Me Welcome *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Philip James Glenister, *soloist* Natalie Raynal, *soloist*
Fred Gramann, *organ*

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

Doug Fondell

The Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory Music

The Blessing
Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes, S. Furtick, Chris Brown
Alexia Rabé, *lead vocals* Natalie Raynal, *backing vocals*
Florence Hennequin, *cello* John Arndt, *production*

Dedication of Our Tithes and Offerings

Victor Greene

Hymn

We Hope Against All Hope *tune: LEONI*
Text: Copyright © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

***We hope against all hope! O God, we trust your word —
And we believe in what we've neither seen nor heard.
As Abraham believed and Sarah trusted, too,
So give us faith to hear, O Lord, and trust in you.***

***When everything seems lost, when dreams and visions die,
When things that we can trust are in such short supply,
God, give us faith to see amid the world's despair
That still you call each one of us your child, your heir.***

*When blessings overflow, when dreams and visions soar,
We pray we won't be filled with pride but trust you more.
You choose what you will give; we cannot earn our way.
By grace you give us faith for every passing day.*

*God, give us faith-filled eyes to see the things you see —
Not only what there is, but what will surely be.
For everywhere we go, your promises are true:
We're travelers on the journey and we trust in you.*

[Benediction](#)

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

[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. 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. 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

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 worshipping in new and different ways. Interested? Please email connections@acparis.org.

Ministry Fair: 20 September: In-person and virtual. The in-person ministry fair will be in the ACP Courtyard after the 20 September 11h worship service, and the Virtual ministry fair will be online at 14h via Zoom. Join the virtual ministry fair by going to acparis.org/ministryfair for the zoom link.

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 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: 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 for registration and more details.

Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020: A virtual monthly bible study for all children seven and older, meeting concurrently with our monthly women's bible study on. This year we will spend the year studying the Lord's Prayer. Our first meeting will be on 27 September at 12h15. Please contact Rev. Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org for more information, and/or register your at acparis.org.

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

The Enneagram Journey: Wednesdays: 9 September to 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.

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. 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.

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

Adult Vocal and Handbell Choirs: The adult music ministry program will begin rehearsals again soon: Celebration Ringers: Monday 14 September, Adult Choir: Wednesday 16 September, Bronze Ringers: Thursday 17 September. Rehearsals will be 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.

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.

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



Survey says...

Have you completed the ACP Worship ReGathering Survey for Autumn 2020? Above are some of the important words of feedback we have received so far. You can access the survey **until the end of the day today** at <https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/vpxTLy> or with the QR code seen here.. We can't wait to hear from you!



Ministers of the American Church in Paris

<p>Ministers Interim Senior Pastor</p> <p>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</p>	<p>The Entire Congregation The Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart</p> <p>The Rev. Jodi Fondell The Rev. Doug Fondell Victor Greene (M.Div.) The Rev. Allison Wheeler Fred Gramann Natalie Raynal Sara Barton Heather Walter Jörg Kaldewey</p>	<p>seniorpastor@acparis.org associatepastor@acparis.org ap2@acparis.org youthpastor@acparis.org childrensworship@acparis.org music@acparis.org cmusic@acparis.org ymusic@acparis.org secretary@acparis.org weddings@acparis.org</p>
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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.



American Church in Paris

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