



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

28 November 2021, 11h00

Welcome to this service of worship

We are happy you are here! Although we are slowly removing Covid restrictions, we ask that you continue to wear your mask while indoors. Creation Care is important to us, so please take or recycle your bulletin at the end of the service.

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

 You are invited to rise in body or in spirit when you see this symbol

We Gather

Prelude Two Preludes on “Come, Savior of the Nations” *J.S. Bach*
Fred Gramann, *organ*

My Lord Has Come *Will Todd*
Ensemble Lumina
Caroline Drury, *director*

Welcome, Greeting, and Announcements Paul Rock
The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

 Introit The Candle of Hope
tune: LYONS (“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”)
Text: Copyright © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

***The candle of hope we light in this hour
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.***

 Lighting the Candle of Hope The Baik Family

 Hymn No. 2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus *tune: HYFRYDOL*

Gracious God, too often in our quest for happiness and satisfaction we substitute mere pleasure for joy. We grow numb to cries of the hurting and broken, and we miss our purpose in life. In our midst; in our body; in our neighborhood, our city, and our world; people bear the divine mark of God, and yet their tears are magnified by the pain of their experience. Forgive us Lord, for the ways we have turned from the pain of others. Restore our eyes to see their struggle. Give us ears to hear their cries. And grant us hearts filled with hope that we may help those who now sow with tears to one day reap with joy. (time of silent prayer)

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

 Words of Assurance

Friends, let us live with honesty in confession and with joy in the assurance that Christ came into this world and into our lives to heal and forgive. Sisters and brothers, hear and believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous.

Thanks be to God!

 Refrain from “Angels We Have Heard on High”

tune: GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Musical Offering Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming *C. Wiltse/F. Gramann*
The ACP Bronze Ringers Lisa Prevett, *flute*

Children's Blessing

Allison Wheeler

Children may come forward for a pastoral blessing and then go to their worship space.

 Passing of the Peace

Anthem

O Magnum Mysterium
Ensemble Lumina

Francis Poulenc

Sermon series: Renovating & Rebuilding the Post-Pandemic Church

Sermon From Exile to Advent—Isaiah and Prophetic Imagination

A God who alters the future!

Doug Fondell

Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-10 (*page 578 in the pew Bibles*)

We Respond and Are Sent into the World

Prayers of the People

Jodi Fondell

We bring our struggles, celebrations, our gifts, and ourselves to God in prayer.

Call for Offering

Offertory Anthem

Still, Still With Thee
Ensemble Lumina

Fred Gramann



Doxology

Praise to God Who Reigns Above

tune: GLORIA

***Praise to God who reigns above,
Christ who holds us all in love,
Spirit breathes new life and peace,
Grace sustains and sets us free.
Gloria! In excelsis Deo! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!***

Prayer of Dedication

Don Lee



Hymn The Days Are Coming tune: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
lyrics © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

***"The days are coming," said the Lord
To people beaten down,
"The days are coming in this world
When justice will abound.
My people, you will sing and dance,
And hope will blossom forth,
For I will cause a righteous Branch
To spring upon the earth."***

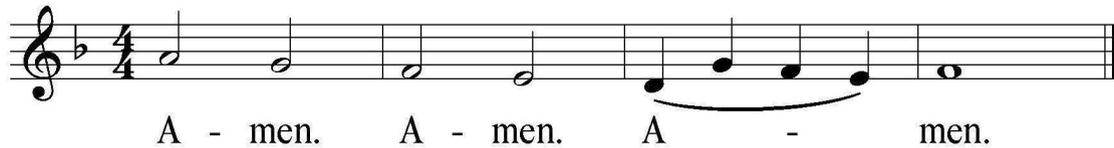
***The days are coming, loving Lord,
To sing of Jesus' birth;
Yet cries for justice still are heard
Throughout this sinful earth.
In Advent, may we work and wait,
Do justice, share, and pray,
And so prepare to celebrate
Your joyful, coming day.***



Benediction

Doug Fondell

Congregational Amen



(There will not be a postlude during Advent)

The American Church in Paris

Welcome to worship – we are so glad that you are here! The **American Church in Paris** is a vibrant community, with many offerings in-person and online for children, youth, and adults alike. In addition to in-person worship in our sanctuary, ACP posts livestreamed worship. Please check our website, acparis.org, for livestream details and the latest news and opportunities to grow and connect every week. Our mission is “**to bear witness in word and deed to the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.**”

Affirmation of Welcome: At ACP, we believe that we are called to love and welcome people of all socio-economic backgrounds, ethnicities, races, nationalities, gender identities, and sexual orientations, and that those who place their faith in Christ and seek to be his disciple are invited to become full members. Welcome!

A "Pass Sanitaire" is required to attend ACP services.

All congregants of more than 17 years of age will be required to present at least one of the following documents upon arrival:

1. Proof of completion of a full vaccination schedule at least 7 days old (or 4 weeks in the case of a single shot Johnson & Johnson vaccination).
2. A negative RT-PCR or antigenic test less than 72 hours old.
3. The result of a positive RT-PCR or antigenic test demonstrating recovery of Covid-19, at least 11 days old and less than 6 months old.

Proof will be accepted in the form of a paper certificate or digitally via the “TousAntiCovid” mobile phone application. Mask mandate protocols remain in place.

Announcements

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in gratitude for Caroline, Hadi, Luciano, and Leonora by Ensemble Lumina.

In need of prayer? If you are in need of prayer today, a lay caregiver is available in the chapel (to the right of the sanctuary) to pray with you. 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.

Coffee Fellowship: Please join us in the theater after the service for a warm drink and warm fellowship. If you are new, also stop by our newcomer table so we can welcome you to ACP!

Addiction and Recovery: discussion with Rev. Tana: Today, 12h30 in the Library (2nd floor). Rev. Tana McDonald will briefly share her experience growing up in an alcoholic family and her own struggle with addiction as a young adult. She will touch on her volunteer work in California the last two years at a Behavior Modification Hospital with parolee young mothers with addiction history. The talk will close with experiences in Paris and at the American Church, working with those who struggle with addiction here. There will be time for Q&A.

Atelier Concert Series: Tonight 17h30 in our sanctuary: Ensemble NATUS presenting works for organ, piano, flute, and guitar. Free admission.

November Thurber Conversation: 30 November 19h30-21h in person and via Zoom. Join us for a conversation with Diana Butler Bass, an awarding-winning author and inspiring preacher, who is passionate about where faith intersects with politics. Register online at acparis.org/signups.

Christmas Vespers Service featuring Ensemble Lumina: 5 December at 17h30 in the Sanctuary. Let the music of Ensemble Lumina, under the direction of Caroline Drury, brighten your Christmas spirit and quiet your holiday stress with a variety of seasonal music and texts from around the world. All are welcome.

Candlelight Christmas Concerts: 11 December 17h and 20h: Ticket order forms are available at the reception desk or on our website, acparis.org. Tickets for non-reserved seating can be purchased directly at the reception desk. Advance purchase is recommended as these concerts sell out.

Longest Night Service: 21 December 19h30 in the Sanctuary. Join us to reflect on losses and fears, and hope in prayer. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." *John 1:5*

Christmas Eve Services: 24 December, in the Sanctuary. 16h Family Service; 19h30 Candlelight Service (prelude at 19h); 22h Candlelight Service (prelude at 21h30). Join us for a Christmas cookie reception in the Thurber Room following the 22h service.

Christmas Poinsettias: We would like to extend to you the opportunity to tangibly participate in our Christmas Eve worship services this year, wherever you may be, by providing a Christmas Poinsettia for the ACP sanctuary and making a special dedication in honor or memory of a loved one in our worship bulletins. The suggested donation for the poinsettia is 25€ per plant. However, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a special donation for your poinsettia to help ACP thrive into the next year. Last day to order: 19 December. Order today at acparis.org/poinsettias.

Our Evolving Sanctuary Project: The scaffolding has moved!! This is a good sign, it means the sound and light project is moving along. Hundreds of meters of wires have been run and new lights have been installed on one side of the sanctuary.

Sunday Newcomer Table: We are looking for volunteers to help staff our welcome table after worship. If you'd like to join this team, please let Pastor Jodi know at associatepastor@acparis.org.

Volunteer Editor for *The Spire*: ACP's thriving monthly magazine *The Spire* is looking for a volunteer editor-in-chief. Interested? For further information please contact us at communications@acparis.org.

Children's Ministries

Children's Worship: Children's Worship is held during the 11h and 14h services! For safety reasons, all children must be registered for the program to attend. You can register your child for Children's Worship at acparis.org/cw-registration or by using the QR code here. We also ask that you register your child's attendance in advance of each Sunday at acparis.org/signups. If you are an adult and are interested in joining our Children's Worship leadership team, contact Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org.



Family Mission Sunday: Today, 12h15–13h15.

Kids' Monthly Bible Study: 5 December 12h15-13h15 in room G7. All children ages 7 and older are welcome! This year, we will be learning more about Jesus through studying the "I am" statements found in the Gospel of John. Please register your child at acparis.org.

Children's Worship: 12 December: Children's Lessons and Carols Service, 11h; Intergenerational Advent Service, 14h.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Youth Ministry (collège, lycée): Youth meet weekly on Sundays 12h30-13h45 in the Catacombs on the basement level of ACP. Contact youthpastor@acparis.org for more information.

Young Adult Ministry (ages 18-30): Young Adults meet weekly on Tuesday nights 19h30-21h30 in the Library. Contact youthpastor@acparis.org for more information. Follow our YA group on Instagram here: https://www.instagram.com/acp_ya/.

Adult Ministries

Women's Monthly Bible Study: 5 December 12h30-13h30 in room F2 (1st floor). All women are welcome to join us in a once-monthly study on women in parables! Register at acparis.org.

Women's Fellowship Christmas Party: 12 December 12h30-13h30 in the Associate Pastor's residence. All women are welcome to join as we gather and share Christmas Cheer. Register at acparis.org/signups.

St. Paul: The Bridge Builder, Wednesday Evening Adult Learning at ACP: Weekly through 15 December 19h30-21h via Zoom. Join us each Wednesday evening as we explore the mission and vision of the Apostle Paul as revealed in his letters to the churches in Asia Minor. Register at acparis.org/signups.

Men's Morning Bible Study at ACP: Thursdays 7h30-8h30. Information at acparis.org/men-thursday. Live and zoom options.

Silent Prayer Thursdays at ACP: Thursdays 18h-19h 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, followed by the reading of a short sacred text according to the method of Lectio Divina. Register at acparis.org.

Sunday Evening Adult Bible Study: A new study will resume in January. Information on that study will be forthcoming.

Recycling reminder: The garbage bins with yellow lids are for recycling paper, cans, and plastics. Please think about recycling your bulletin on the way out today!

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.

For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, adults, and mission and service opportunities, see acparis.org.

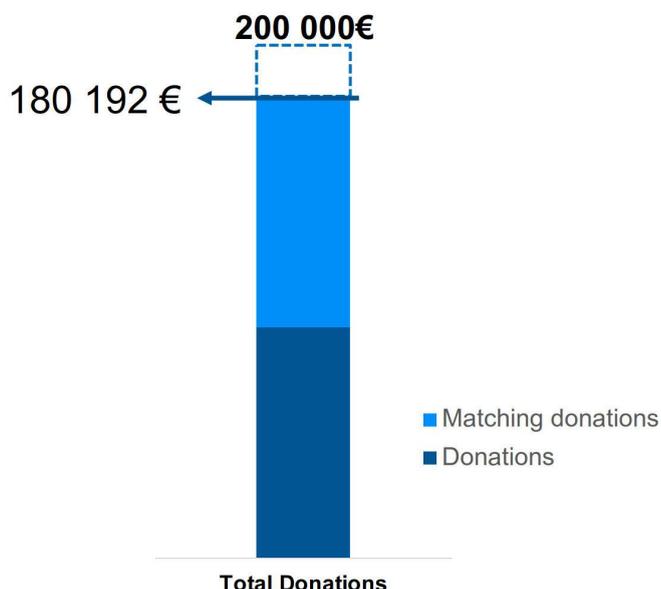
Matching Campaign 2021

Your donation has a big impact!



You donate *Matching donation Double the impact

*Some generous supporters will match donations above regular giving up to 100,000 € between now and Thanksgiving (Nov 25).



ACP is dependent on your continued giving – so if you stop giving we will be unable to continue operating at our current level.

Ministers of the American Church in Paris

Ministers	The Entire Congregation	
Senior Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Paul Rock	paulrock@acparis.org
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Jodi Fondell	associatepastor@acparis.org
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Doug Fondell	ap2@acparis.org
Youth & Young Adult Pastor	The Rev. Elizabeth Murray	youthpastor@acparis.org
Children's Ministry Director	The Rev. Allison Wheeler	childrensworship@acparis.org
Visiting Pastor	The Rev. Don Lee	visitingpastor@acparis.org
Director of Music	Fred Gramann	music@acparis.org
Contemporary Music Dir.	Natalie Raynal	cmusic@acparis.org
Youth/Children Music Dir.	Sara Barton	ymusic@acparis.org
Pastoral Intern	Kate Snipes	pastorintern@acparis.org
Executive Secretary	Heather Walter	secretary@acparis.org
Wedding Coordinator	Jörg Kaldewey	weddings@acparis.org

www.acparis.org [Facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis)

The Ministry of the American Church depends on you

The American Church in Paris depends on the generosity of members and alumni in Paris and worldwide who continue to be touched by its ministries. Please give at acparis.org/donate (QR code below), email acctg@acparis.org, or visit acparis.org/support-us for more information on being a part of ACP's ministry through regular stewardship or planned giving. You can also speak with a pastor after today's service. Gifts by those subject to French income tax receive a 66% reduction in their tax due (up to 20% of taxable income). The after-tax cost of your support is therefore only €34 for a €100 gift. This applies to gifts made online, by check or by bank transfer in EUR to The American Church in Paris. For those who may prefer the charitable deduction from taxable income in the US, checks in US dollars should be made out to The American and Foreign Christian Union (AFCU) and marked "ACP Stewardship".



The American Church in Paris
www.acparis.org



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American Church in Paris

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