



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11 OCTOBER 2020

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP ONLINE

Announcements

Canzona

Dietrich Buxtehude

Prelude

Chorale Prelude on "Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ"

J.S. Bach

Ringling of the Bells

The Celebration Ringers

Greeting for Worship

Victor Greene

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

And also with you.

Call to Worship

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice!

Today we choose to rejoice. Today we choose to worship and give thanks.

Seek the peace of God that will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Today we choose God's peace; today we place our trust in God.

Turn your hearts away from the distractions and disappointments of life that will always flow in and flow out like the tide.

Set your affections on things above and worship the Lord who loves you and cares for you. We come to worship God who alone is excellent and worthy of praise!

Hymn

Come and Join the Celebration

tune: NETTLETON (Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing)

Text: Copyright © 2010 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Come and join the celebration! Praise the Lord and gladly sing.

Hear the gospel proclamation: God in Christ changed everything!

Tell again the wondrous story; let your praises rise above.

God, we sing and give you glory for your everlasting love.

Sing with joy, for on a Sunday friends of Jesus went to grieve.

Soon they found his tomb was empty; telling others, they believed.

God of miracle and wonder, Jesus died and lives again.

Death has lost, for you are stronger; all creation sings, "Amen!"

Sing with joy, each generation! Sing with those who've gone before.

Join the kingdom celebration, old and young, both rich and poor.

We have life, for we're forgiven; where, O death, is now your sting?

Born of dust, we're claimed for heaven, so let all God's people sing.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, in our impatience for answers, we sometimes turn to idols of our own making and forget our covenant with you. Passionate for what is right, we wrong those with whom we differ. Pleased at the invitation to your banquet, we fail to arrive with humility and thanksgiving. At times, we are anxious and filled with worry. We grumble instead of giving thanks. We spend too much time thinking of our own needs instead of entrusting our concerns to you. Forgive us dear Lord, when our faith is weak. Hear now our private prayers of confession.

(Moments for silent confession)

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

Assurance of Forgiveness and Peace

Do not worry; the Lord is near. God hears our prayers with compassion and with abundant, steadfast love. Rejoice, for in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous. **Amen.**

Gloria Patri

Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Blessing of the Children

Allison Wheeler

Musical Offering

Psalm 42

Victoria Kelly, Kirk Franklin

Kym Stewart, *vocals* Alexia Rabé, *piano* Mimi Sunnerstam, *cello* Josiah Woodson, *production*

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

Prayer for Illumination

Doug Fondell

The First Lesson – Matthew 22:1-14

Tarani Merriweather

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again, he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so, the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering

Rescue

Lauren Daigle, Paul Mabury, Jason Ingram

Alexia Rabé, *piano, vocals* Mimi Sunnerstam, *cello* Lara Caister, *violin* Josiah Woodson, *production*

The Second Lesson – Philippians 4:1-9

David Van Cleve

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Peace of Christ

Jodi Fondell

Musical Offering

Canon
The ACP Bronze Ringers

Johann Pachelbel

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

Invitation to the Giving of Tithes and Gifts

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Offertory Solo

Und Gott schuf grosse Walfische
(*from The Creation*)

Josef Haydn

*And God created the great whales and every living creature.
And God blessed them, saying: Be fruitful and multiply!
Birds of the air, be multiplied and sing from every tree!
Multiply, creatures of the sea, and fill ocean depths!
Be fruitful, grow, and multiply, and in your God and Lord rejoice!*

Nun scheint in vollem Glanze der Himmel

*Now heaven brightly shines in its full glory; earth revels in its rich attire.
The sky is filled with birds; the seas are brimming with fish and mighty beasts roam the land.
Yet God's work is incomplete, lacking humankind, that they might admire their Maker's
power, gratefully praising God's goodness with all their hearts and voices.*

Frédéric Goncalves, soloist Fred Gramann, piano

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Allison Wheeler

Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

tune: DARWALL'S 148TH

***Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
And triumph evermore;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

***God's kingdom cannot fail,
Christ rules o'er earth and Heav'n,
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

***Rejoice in glorious hope!
For Christ, the Judge, shall come,
To glorify the saints
For their eternal home;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

Benediction

Jodi Fondell

Congregational Amen

The American Church in Paris re-gathered and also on-line

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 continue to follow government guidelines to most prudently 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 **Worship On-line** at 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 services in the sanctuary 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.

Children's Ministries

Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020-21: 15 November, 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, 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

Monthly Women's Fellowship: Today 16h via Zoom. Kymberli Stewart will speak of her journey through challenges, and how the challenges helped lead her back to God. Visit acparis.org for details on how to join.

Virtual Thurber Conversation: 13 October 19h30 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.

Bloom Where You're Planted: 14 November, 15h (Paris time). ACP's popular expat orientation seminar will feature top speakers and informative workshops — and this year it will be virtual. Participants will be able to watch from anywhere, live on Zoom, or later via a recording. For more information, see BloomParis.org. Share the link with friends or colleagues who dream of moving to France one day.

Women's Monthly Bible Study: 15 November, 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.

Making Sense of the Bible: This six-week, small group pursuit of greater Biblical Understanding will begin early in November. If you would like to participate in a “Making Sense of the Bible” small group encounter with others via Zoom or in-person, please register your interest at acparis.org, or speak directly to Pastor Doug following our worship service today at ACP.

Alpha and Alpha Campus online: An 11-week course, Thursdays 20h30-22h 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?

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.

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.

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

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THE 55TH ANNUAL

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VIRTUAL EVENT

ATTEND FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE!

SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER

LIVESTREAM STARTS: 3PM (9AM ET)
OR WATCH ANYTIME

**SAVE 27%
IF YOU
REGISTER BY
OCTOBER 31**

**VISIT:
[BLOOMPARIS.ORG](https://bloomparis.org)**

Ministers of the American Church in Paris

Ministers	The Entire Congregation	
Interim Senior Pastor	The Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart	seniorpastor@acparis.org
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Jodi Fondell	associatepastor@acparis.org
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Youth / Young Adult Pastor	Victor Greene (M.Div.)	youthpastor@acparis.org
Children's Ministry Director	The Rev. Allison Wheeler	childrensworship@acparis.org
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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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