



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13 December 2020

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP ONLINE

Announcements

Prelude

Variations on a Pastoral Theme
Fred Gramann, *organist*

Franz Murschhauser

Welcome

Jodi Fondell

Greeting for Worship

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

Introit

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Natalie Raynal, *soloist*

tune: VENI EMMANUEL

***O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

You are invited, in your own home, to light the second candle along with the ACP Young Adults.

Come Lord Jesus, you are the way, the truth and the life;

Come living Savior, come to your world which waits for you.

Candle Hymn

God Almighty, We Are Waiting

tune: NETTLETON ("Come Thou Fount")

***God Almighty, we are waiting for a savior to appear.
Meet us in our desert journey; give a sign that you are near:
Burning bushes, parted waters, food aplenty in the wild.
As we look for signs and wonders, help us see you in a child.***

Tolling of the Bell Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Victor Greene

**Holy and loving God, we bring our lives to you, blessed, troubled, broken, or at ease.
When we have power over others, take away our pride and show us humility. When
we turn away from our neighbor, show us the world you so love through your eyes.
Forgive us. Free us. Teach us your paths that we might walk with you today and all
the days of our lives.**

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear the Good News: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous.

Thanks be to God.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Children’s Blessing

Allison Wheeler

Music Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent *4th c. French carol*
Recorded in memory of Ransford Cline-Thomas (15 September 1947-21 April 2020)
 Devon Graves, *piano, vocals* George Mahkshigian, *guitar, vocals*
 Josiah Woodson, *bass* Natalie Raynal, *vocals* John Arndt, *production*

The First Lesson – Isaiah 61:1-4

Max Valluy

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music Schlafendes Jesuskind *Hugo Wolf*
Son of the Virgin, Heavenly Child! Asleep on the ground, on the wood of suffering which the pious painter, in meaningful play, has laid beneath Thy gentle dreams; O flower, still the Glory of God the Father! Though still hidden in the dark bud! Ah, if one could see what pictures, behind this brow and these dark lashes, are reflected in gentle succession!
 Jennifer Young, *soloist* Laurana Mitchelmore, *piano*

The Second Lesson – John 1:6-8, 19-28

Peter DeWit

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music I Wonder As I Wander *John Jacob Niles*
 Devon Graves, *piano, vocals* Natalie Raynal, *vocals* Marta Hobbs, *production*

Sermon

Testify to the Light

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Response in Prayer	Wait for the Lord	Taizé
<i>Wait for the Lord, his day is near.</i>		
<i>Wait for the Lord; be strong take heart.</i>		
Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (in your mother tongue) Invitation to Offering		Doug Fondell
Offertory Music	Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme Philip James Glenister, <i>soloist</i> Fred Gramann, <i>organ</i>	<i>J.S. Bach</i>
Prayer of Dedication		Allison Wheeler
Hymn	Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us	<i>tune: WACHET AUF</i>
Benediction		Odette Lockwood-Stewart
Congregational Response	Rejoice! Rejoice!	<i>tune: VENI EMMANUEL</i>

The American Church in Paris Online Community

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the **American Church in Paris** is dedicated to remaining a vibrant community and to providing online resources for worship, learning, spiritual formation, and well-being, and Christian discipleship. We will follow government guidelines to carefully re-open church buildings for schools, worship, and community groups in a way that is safe, sustainable, and fair for all.

We continue to **Worship Online** at acparis.org where you can also find daily resources from ACP. Please continue to check our website for the latest news and to participate in new opportunities every week.

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 again in person.

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? 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 prayerrequests@acparis.org.

An Advent Adventure: Carols and special music are an integral part of the Advent season, a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. A special video presentation has been prepared by Fred Gramann for our community to provide for this need at a time when we sadly cannot sing together in worship. You will find a brief history of each carol and be able to sing along. In addition, there are musical contributions by several of our ACP musicians. The video is posted on the ACP website (acparis.org).

ACP Poinsettia Spectacular: 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 our beloved ACP thrive through the end of this trying year. We are dreaming of having many poinsettias decorating the sanctuary, each one given with love for the ACP while honoring or remembering the donors' loved ones from all over the world. Last day to order: **15 December**. Order today at acparis.org/poinsettias.

ACP Online Christmas Party: 20 December at 17h via Zoom. We invite you to join fellow ACP congregants, dressed in festive Christmas attire, and enjoy games, music, and other surprises as we seek to make new memories during this extraordinary year. Visit acparis.org for more information and to register to receive the Zoom details.

The Longest Night Service: 21 December 18h in the Sanctuary. This Advent season we find ourselves near the end of a difficult year, both for the entire world and for many in our congregation. During this time of holiday celebration when voices are traditionally lifted in joy, those suffering may find their pain becomes more acute in contrast to the joy around them. ACP will host a live service for those members who need the space and time to honor lost loved ones and to reflect on the harsh reality of 2020. As we observe our shared grief with scripture and music, we also honor the God that grieves with us and anticipate hope. Registration opens on 16 December at acparis.org.

ACP Community Life Christmas Pie Fundraiser: ACP is making delicious pies for your holiday celebrations. We will offer three types of pies: sweet potato, pumpkin, and pecan pie. The minimum suggested donation for each pie is 35€ per pie. This will cover the cost of the pie and the rest of your donation will go directly toward reaching ACP's year-end giving goals. Let's reach our goals together! Visit acparis.org for more information and to order your pie(s) today.

Worship in the Sanctuary Schedule Advent and Christmas Eve

20 December

- 11h Worship in Sanctuary
- 14h Advent Open Doors, Contemporary Music, Prayer and Silence

21 December

- 18h Longest Night Service of Worship

24 December Christmas Eve

- 11h Family Service (geared towards families with children under 10 years old)
- 17h30 Prelude
- 18h Candlelight Service
- 21h30 Prelude
- 22h Candlelight Service

All Worship in the Sanctuary services require registration in advance at acparis.org to reserve your seats. We will continue with Worship in the Sanctuary on 27 December and into the New Year, and Worship Online with weekly postings starting from 9h on Sundays at acparis.org.



Monday 21 December
Longest Night Service - 18h
Near the end of a difficult year, during holiday celebrations, those suffering loss need a time to acknowledge shared grief. With scripture and music, we honor the God that grieves with us as we anticipate hope.

Thursday 24 December
Christmas Eve
Family Service - 11h
This service is designed especially with children in mind, but all ages are welcome.

Candlelight Services

17h30 Prelude
18h00 Service

21h30 Prelude
22h00 Service

These services center around the reading of scripture, sermon and special music, culminating in the lighting of the Christ candle and the congregation's individual candles.

Registration for these services opens on
16 December at www.acparis.org

ACP Weekly

Sundays from 10h45 via Zoom – Worship/Coffee Fellowship Online

At 11h, we will worship online together via shared screen. Once the service has ended, we will have zoom fellowship. If you worship online at another time, please feel free to join the zoom meeting for the fellowship at noon! If you would like the Zoom link, please register at: acparis.org/worship-fellowship.

Mondays from 6h at acparis.org – Monday Musings with the Maestro

ACP Music Director Fred Gramann shares the behind-the-scenes stories about music and musicians associated with the American Church in Paris over its long history. Whether you're up for cogitating, ruminating, or just pondering with Fred, you're welcome to tune in and perhaps be, well, a-mused.

Wednesdays from 6h at acparis.org – Contemporary Advent Vespers

Join *Natalie Raynal* and *ACP Contemporary Worship Musicians* for acoustic sessions in the sanctuary.

Thursdays 19h-19h30 via Zoom – Thursday evening Communion with *Pastor Odette*

A weekly opportunity to see each other's faces, to pray, to center our lives with Holy Communion in community, remembering that Jesus is with us through the power of the Holy Spirit in the bread and wine. Register at acparis.org/communion

Fridays 19h-20h or Saturdays 8h30-9h30 via Zoom – Lectio Divina at ACP – An Advent Journey with *Jörg Kaldewey*

The practice of Lectio Divina is an ancient monastic prayer tradition which emphasizes scripture as the "Living Word of God," and is a contemplative way to read short passages of sacred text and discover meaning deeper than the literal layer. See acparis.org for more details and to register for the Zoom link.

Children's Ministries

Threaded Together: A Children's Ministry Initiative. 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 or contact childrensworship@acparis.org for information.

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. 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. See acparis.org/childrensmusic for registration.

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 Fellowship: Today at 16h via Zoom to honor the feast of St. Lucy. We will reflect on the meaning of Advent season and hear from Rev. Jodi Fondell about the tradition of Lucia Day, widely celebrated in Scandinavia. Register to join the Zoom at acparis.org.

Movie discussion group: 17 December, 19h30 (via Zoom). Movies to see on Netflix ahead of time: *The Life Ahead (La Vie devant soi)*, *My Octopus Teacher (La Sagesse de la pieuvre)*, *Mank*, *Annihilation*. For more info or to request the Zoom invitation, contact movies@acparis.org.

Sunday Afternoon Adult Bible Study: Sundays 16h-17h30 via Zoom. All adults are welcome to join this study as hosts Nathaniel Akujuobi and Patti Lafage lead us through an in-depth study of the book of Philippians. To register and receive the Zoom link please sign up at acparis.org.

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.

Read all about it – inspiration information, news, and events from ACP in the most recent edition of the Spire. Available now on the app, or at acparis.org.

ACP Today radio show – 21 December, 20h45-21h15. Tune in to 100.7 FM or listen in at <https://frequenceprotestante.com/>.

For more information on all the offerings for children, youth, and adults mentioned above, see acparis.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
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Doug Fondell	ap2@acparis.org
Youth / Young Adult Pastor	Victor Greene (M.Div.)	youthpastor@acparis.org
Children's Ministry Director	The Rev. Allison Wheeler	childrensworship@acparis.org
Director of Music	Fred Gramann	music@acparis.org
Contemporary Music Director	Natalie Raynal	cmusic@acparis.org
Youth / Children Music Director	Sara Barton	ymusic@acparis.org
Executive Secretary	Heather Walter	secretary@acparis.org
Wedding Coordinator	Jörg Kaldewey	weddings@acparis.org

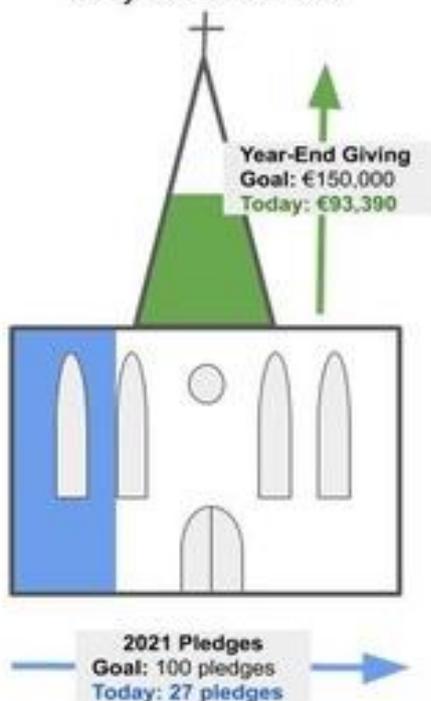
www.acparis.org [Twitter.com/AmChurchParis](https://twitter.com/AmChurchParis) [Facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis](https://facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis)

Your support of the ACP is vital!

A Future with Hope - Strengthened through Generosity

ACP 2020 Generosity Campaign Update

as of December 7th



Generosity Campaign goals: 1) to double the number of 2021 pledges – no amount is too small or too large, and 2) increase 2020 seasonal financial giving to the ACP. Your generosity is critical to help ACP's ministries that change the lives of congregants in Paris and afar as well as life-changing outreach missions in Paris and across the globe. For more information and how to pledge, please visit acparis.org.



American Church in Paris

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