



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

15 NOVEMBER 2020

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF WORSHIP ONLINE

Announcements Andante *Antonio Vivaldi*

Prelude Toccata on “Now Thank We All Our God” *Gerhard Krapf*
Fred Gramann, *organist*

Welcome and Call to Worship Jodi Fondell

Hymn We Give Thee but Thine Own *tune: SCHUMANN*

***We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.***

***May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first fruits give.***

***The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace – it is a Christlike thing.***

***And we believe thy Word, though dim our faith may be;
whate'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it unto thee.***

Prayer of Confession Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Merciful God, we confess to you once again our struggles to be your faithful disciples. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others. Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall once again, keeping company with our old friend, sin. Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves once again, with scorn for the poor choices they somehow make. Have mercy on us as we speak our silent confessions to you this day.

(Moments for silent confession)

Once again, open our eyes to your kingdom in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness and Peace

Friends, the good news is this: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, the one who has served us best and the one who calls us to serve. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous. Thanks be to God.**

Amen.

Gloria Patri

Blessing of the Children

Allison Wheeler

Musical Offering This Little Light of Mine *Harry Dixon Loes*
George Makhshigian: *guitar, vocals* Marta Hobbs, *production*

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations, ‘The LORD has done great things for them.’
The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering

Allegro

G.F. Handel

Simon Fournier, *trumpet* Fred Gramann, *organ*

The Second Lesson – Matthew 25:14-30

Teri Lee Valluy

For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

God’s Dream for Humanity

Doug Fondell

Musical Offering

Endless Alleluia

Cory Asbury

Devon Graves, *guitar, vocals* Marta Hobbs, *production*Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (*in your mother tongue*)

Invitation to the Giving of Tithes and Gifts

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

2021 Generosity Campaign

Don Farnan

ACP Story

Lisa Quirona

Offertory Music

Panis Angelicus

César Franck

Jennifer Young and Philip James Glenister, *duet* Fred Gramann, *piano*

Prayer of Dedication

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Hymn

O God, We Yearn for Safety

tune: AURELIA (The Church's One Foundation")

Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

***O God, we yearn for safety; We long to be secure.
Yet faithful, loving service Is what you value more.
You give us what is needed; You love, forgive and save.
Then, sending us to serve you, You call us to be brave.***

***You give to some ten talents — to others, two or three;
To some you give one blessing To manage faithfully.
For you, O Lord, are loving And don't demand success;
You daily call your people To lives of faithfulness.***

***O God, it seems much safer To live from day to day,
Protecting what you lend us And hiding it away.
Yet all these gifts can't flourish When hidden in the ground;
When we are brave to share them Your blessings will abound.***

Benediction

Doug Fondell

Congregational Amen

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 will continue to **Worship Online** at acparis.org for the foreseeable future.

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.

Worship/Coffee Fellowship Online: Sundays at 10h45 via Zoom. At 11h, we will worship online together via shared screen. Once the service has ended, we will return to the large group and then fellowship will follow in smaller breakout groups. 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, please register at: acparis.org/worship-fellowship.

GratiZoom – An online gathering devoted to Thanks Giving and Giving Thanks: Sunday 22 November at 17h via Zoom. Please join this special gathering where we will focus on our gratitude for all that God is doing in the midst of this challenging season, and how ACP is inspiring the lives and faith of others. Additionally, we will have an update on the finances of ACP and prayerfully consider how each one of us can continue to generously support the missions and ministries of our church and community. We'll also have a chance to share in Zoom breakout groups and connect with others from the ACP community. Register at acparis.org by 21 November in order to receive the GratiZoom link.

Community Worship Thanksgiving Day Online Service: 26 November 18h at acparis.org. Join the American Church, the American Cathedral, and other communities of faith in Paris as we come together online for a special service to give thanks to God!

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 return to the large group and then fellowship will follow in smaller breakout groups. 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, please register at: acparis.org/worship-fellowship.

Mondays from 12h at acparis.org

Musings with the Maestro with Fred Gramann and ACP Musicians

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 12h at acparis.org

Sanctuary Sessions with *Natalie Raynal and ACP Contemporary Worship Musicians*

Join us for acoustic sessions in the sanctuary with musicians from ACP's contemporary worship team.

Thursdays 19h-19h30 via Zoom

Thursday Evening Communion with *Pastor Odette*

A weekly opportunity to see each others' 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

Children's Ministries

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

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 Monthly Bible Study: Today 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 has begun, but new participants are welcome. If you would like to participate in a "Making Sense of the Bible" small group encounter with others via Zoom, please register your interest at acparis.org.

Sunday Afternoon Adult Bible Study: Sundays 16h-17h30 via Zoom. All adults are welcome to join this study as hosts Nathaniel Akujobi 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.

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

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

Jörg Kaldewey

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ymusic@acparis.org

secretary@acparis.org

weddings@acparis.org

2021 Generosity Campaign

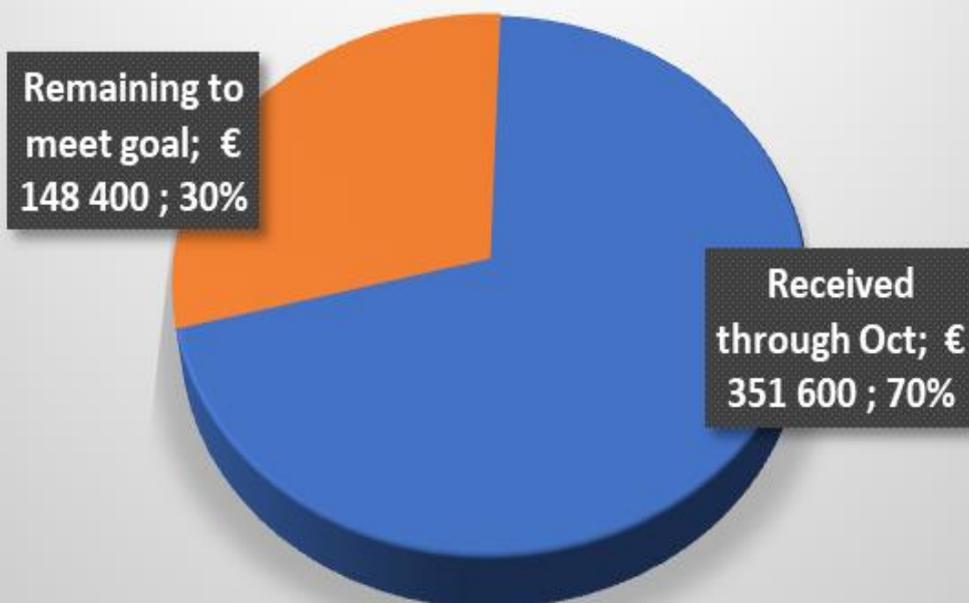
Jeremiah reminds of us of God's plans for a future with hope.

“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.” Jeremiah 29:11

The act of generosity is an integral part, along with faith, love, and kindness, of this plan; it inspires hope.

One of ACP's goals is for 100 individuals or families in our congregation to take the spiritual step of committing to be generous contributors to God's work at the ACP by pledging their donation for 2021. This goal is not focused on the amount that each individual or family commits, but about the very act of pledging to be purposeful about our role in carrying out the ACP's mission. Normally 45 families take this spiritual step – please help us meet our goal of 100 in 2021! Let's show our collective generosity, pledge now at acparis.org/generosity.

Congregational Giving Through Oct. Goal is €500,000



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