

Words of Assurance

Hear the Good News.

In Jesus Christ we are healed, 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.

Children’s Blessing

Allison Wheeler

Music

God Our Mother

The Brilliance

Devon Graves, Natalie Raynal, George Mahkshigian, *vocals* Josiah Woodson, *production*

The First Lesson – Isaiah 64:1-9

Kerry Lieury

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

Every Mother’s Child

The Brilliance

Devon Graves, Natalie Raynal, George Mahkshigian, *vocals* Josiah Woodson, *production*

The Second Lesson – Mark 13:24-37

Walter Dickerson

But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ringing of the Bells

Sermon

Keep Awake

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Response in Prayer

Wait for the Lord

Taizé

Wait for the Lord, his day is near

Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart

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

Invitation to offering

Victor Greene

Generosity Campaign

Don Farnan

ACP Story

Christian Nazar Aghaei

Offertory Solo

Comfort Ye, My People
Every Valley Shall be Exalted

G.F. Handel

Philip James Glenister, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

Prayer of Dedication

Allison Wheeler

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

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

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 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).

2021 Generosity Campaign: *Consider this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:6-7*

Paul reminds us of that promise by God and also implies we aren't supposed to feel pressure or squirm in our seats during a generosity moment but assume a spirit of generosity. Go to acparis.org and under “Welcome” you will find information on our Generosity Campaign and a link to make your financial pledge to ACP. Please pledge today!

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 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 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 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

Kids' Monthly Bible Study 2020-21: 6 December 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

ACP Today radio show: 30 November, 20h45-21h30: Listen in as Amit Pieter and Pastor Jodi co-host a discussion about ACP's prison ministry, the Rainbow Connection grieving support group, and we'll be calling Tim Vance in California to see how he's been doing in the last year. Listen via 100.7 FM or go to <https://frequenceprotestante.com>.

Women's Monthly Bible Study: 6 December 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.

Virtual Thurber Conversation: 8 December 19h30 via Zoom, live from Bethlehem! Dr. Salim J. Munayer will speak on "Encountering the Christ-Child Through My Enemy's Eyes: Envisioning Reconciliation in Israel-Palestine." Visit acparis.org for details on how to join or for more information.

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.

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 Dir.	Natalie Raynal	cmusic@acparis.org
Youth / Children Music Dir.	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

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 acparis.org to find out how.



American Church in Paris

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