



THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6 December 2020

Announcements

Fugue on the Magnificat

Johann Pachelbel

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

Fred Gramann, *organ*

Prelude

Ave Regina

Charles Gounod

Hail, Queen of heaven; hail, Lady of the angels.

Hail, root and gate from which the Light of the world was born.

Jennifer Young and Philip James Glenister, *duet*

Fred Gramann, *organ*

Welcome

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Greeting for Worship

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

And also with you.

We prepare the way of the Lord.

Introit

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

tune: VENI EMMANUEL

Natalie Raynal, *soloist* Josiah Woodson, *production*

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;

To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee; O Israel!

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

*You are invited, in your own home, to light the second candle along with
Hady, Elizabeth, Michel, and Theodore*

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

Doug Fondell

Trusting in God's unfailing grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves,
knowing that we are met with love and compassion.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the Light.

We have been proud in our accomplishments and have despaired over our

shortcomings. Smooth our mountains of pride and lift the valleys of our doubts and

fears. Forgive us and free us to live in the peace of Christ as we offer our silent

prayers of confession.

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.

Refrain from “Angels We Have Heard on High”

tune: GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Children’s Blessing

Allison Wheeler

Music

I Love the Lord

(Spiritual) arr. Page CXVI

Devon Graves, *piano, vocals* Natalie Raynal, *vocals* George Mahkshigian, *guitar, vocals*

David Wallace, *guitar* Josiah Woodson, *production*

The First Lesson – Isaiah 40:1-11

Alexis Akujuobi

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

See, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

Shadow Feet

Brooke Fraser

Devon Graves, *piano, vocals* Natalie Raynal, *vocals* Josiah Woodson, *production*

The Second Lesson – Mark 1:1-8

Rose Marie Burke

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ring of the Bells

Sermon

Good News from the Wilderness

Jodi Fondell

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

Odette Lockwood-Stewart

Offertory Music

Come Unto Him (from the Messiah)
Jennifer Young, *soloist* Fred Gramann, *organ*

G.F. Handel

Prayer of Dedication

Doug Fondell

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Victor Greene, Doug Fondell

The Invitation to the Table - The Eucharistic Prayer

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, Lord, for the invitation to draw near your table and to receive these gifts. In this season of hope, may the meal we've shared nourish us to be the body of Christ in the world. With the angels we sing your praises, Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia! Amen.

Hymn

John Went Out to Preach God's Word

tune: MENDELSSOHN ("Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")

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***John went out to preach God's word, to prepare us for the Lord.
Speaking to the waiting crowd, He was faithful, stern and loud:
"Brood of vipers! Would you flee? Now the ax is by the tree!
Don't look at what others do; God wants change and growth in you.
Live like children who obey! Bear good fruit! Begin this day!"***

***People asked, "What should we do?" John said, "Share your clothes and food.
Don't take more than what you need; Live by faith and not by greed.
Don't cause others grief or pain; Earn your bread through honest gain.
Here's what you are called to do: God wants change and growth in you.
Live like children who obey! Bear good fruit! Begin this day!"***

***Then the people asked of John, "Could he be the Chosen One?"
John gave them a quick reply: "He is greater still than I.
He'll bring change outside and in, He will judge and conquer sin.
He will come to make you new; God wants change and growth in you.
Live like children who obey! Bear good fruit! Begin this day!"***

Benediction

Jodi 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 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: **16 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 19h 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 14 December at acparis.org.

Advent and Christmas Eve Worship in the Sanctuary Schedule

13 and 20 December

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

21 December

- 19h Longest Night Service of Worship

24 December Christmas Eve

- 11h Family Service (geared towards families with children under 10 yrs.)
- 17h30 Christmas Music Prelude
- 18h Candlelight Service
- 21h30 Christmas Music Prelude
- 22h Candlelight Service

All Worship in the Sanctuary services require registration in advance at acparis.org to reserve your seats. We continue to Worship Online with weekly postings starting from 9h on Sundays at 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 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

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

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.

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.

Women's Fellowship: 13 December 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.

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 – Monday 7 and 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)



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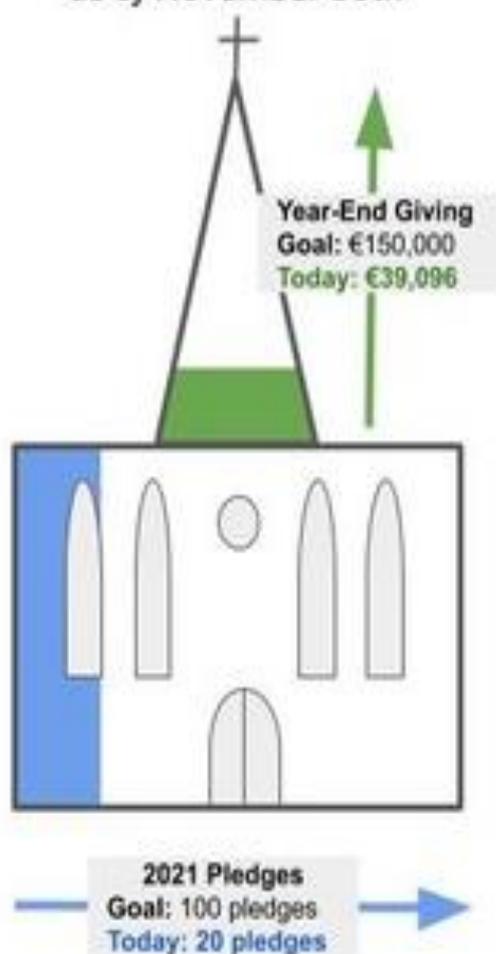
Your support of the ACP is vital!

Giving Tuesday Matching Program: Each dollar or euro given through **7 December**, up to €20,000, will be matched by some generous donors! Now is the time to turn your €20 donation into €40, your €100 into €200, etc. for the benefit of ACP. (And don't forget that for French taxpayers the cost of your donation may be reduced by 66%). We invite you to give by virement, check, cash or online at www.acparis.org/online-giving, and note "Giving Tuesday" on your donation.

A Future with Hope - Strengthened through Generosity

ACP 2020 Generosity Campaign Update

as of November 30th



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.