



St Luke's Church Fontainebleau
Advent Sunday
Holy Communion Service
30 November 2025
Service led by Rev'd Dr Donald McFadyen



Welcome to our service this morning.

The outline for today's service is contained in this service guide and from our [website](#).

You are invited to respond at various points with the words in bold print.

If you have any prayer concerns that you would like included in our prayers today there is a book at the back of the Chapel where you can write these down.

Our chaplain contact details: chaplain.stlukesfontainebleau@gmail.com



Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life.

It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity.

It is through encountering God within worship
that we are formed and transformed as his people.

As we sit quietly before this service commences let us prepare ourselves to meet Jesus and receive him into our hearts by spending a few moments in prayer and reflection.

THE GATHERING

Please stand as the Advent Wreath is lit, and as we are led in the following prayer:

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make his home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.

Amen.

We remain standing as we sing our first Hymn:

Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel (SoF 410)

1. *O COME, O COME, IMMANUEL,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.*

2. *O come, O come, Thou Lord of might
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.*

*Ref:
Rejoice, rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

3. *O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.*

4. *O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.*

5. *O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.*

THE GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grace and peace be with you
and keep you in the love of Christ.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFSSION & ABSOLUTION *Please sit or kneel as we pray together :*

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

God, through Jesus Christ,
will judge the secret thoughts of all:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom of heaven:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Let anyone who has an ear
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the
churches:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life
eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We sit for our first reading.

Isaiah 2. 1-5

*The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.*

*Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways*

*and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*

*He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!*

....This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: Psalm 122

Please say the words printed in bold:

1 *I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"*
**2 Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
3 *Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.*
**4 To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

5 *For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.*
**6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.**
7 *Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers."*
**8 For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, "Peace be within you."**
**9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good.**

We say together:

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now,
and shall be forever.
Amen.**

Gradual Hymn: Great is the darkness (SoF 742)

1. GREAT IS THE DARKNESS that covers the earth,
Oppression, injustice and pain.
Nations are slipping in hopeless despair,
Though many have come in Your name.
Watching while sanity dies,
Touched by the madness and lies.

Ref:

*Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
Pour out Your Spirit we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
Pour out Your Spirit on us today.*

**2. May now Your church rise with power and love,
This glorious gospel proclaim.
In every nation salvation will come**

*To those who believe in Your name.
Help us bring light to this world
That we might speed Your return.*

3. Great celebrations on that final day

*When out of the heavens You come.
Darkness will vanish, all sorrow will end,
And rulers will bow at Your throne.
Our great commission complete,
Then face to face we shall meet.*

THE GOSPEL READING

Priest : Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

cf Isaiah 40.3–5

All : **Alleluia.**

Priest : The Lord be with you.

All : **And also with you.**

Priest: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All : **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 24. 36-44

Jesus said, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect".

.... This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON *Please be seated.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Please stand .*

Let us declare our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from
heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin
Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,

who with the Father and the Son is worshipped
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Please sit or kneel.*

...

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE GREETING OF PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

cf Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the triune God be always with you
and also with you.

You are invited to greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

We sing our Offertory Hymn during which the collection is taken up.

Offertory hymn: Longing for light, we wait in darkness (SoF 2417)

1 *Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.*

(Chorus)

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine
through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church
gathered today.
Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.*

2 *Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.*

3 *Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.*

(Chorus)

4 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,

making your kingdom come.
(Chorus)

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Please remain standing.*

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table:

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.

Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

God is praised for his mighty acts and we respond:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Last Supper is recalled and we follow with the acclamation:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray,
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

All baptised and communicant members of other Churches are invited to come forward and receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those who do not receive Communion for whatever reason are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer the People say AMEN. A short time of silent prayer follows.

The priest may say a special post-communion prayer.

We pray together:

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

OUR NOTICES

Please stand while we sing our Final Hymn.

Final hymn: Lo, he comes with clouds descending (SoF 347)

1. *LO, HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.*

2. *Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing,
Deeply wailing,
Deeply wailing,
Shall their true Messiah see.*

3. *Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears;
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture,
With what rapture,
With what rapture,
Gaze we on those glorious scars.*

4. *Yea, Amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for Thine own:
Come, Lord Jesus!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Everlasting God, come down!*

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Acclamation:

With love
and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.

With judgement and mercy,
come, Lord Jesus.

In power and glory,
come, Lord Jesus.

In wisdom and truth,
come, Lord Jesus.

The Dismissal Gospel:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' *Mark 1.14,15*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE BLESSING

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.
Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in
power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast
in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.



Advent Appeal 2025



Bishop's Advent Appeal

Al-Ahli Anglican Hospital, Gaza



“When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” – Psalm 34:17-18 (NRSV)

The headlines may be fading, but the suffering in Gaza is far from over. Months of devastation have left entire communities struggling. The impact of conflict lingers long after the fighting stops. Disease spreads rapidly, food and clean water remain scarce. At the time of writing, 68,280 people have been killed in Gaza, the vast majority of whom are civilian women and children, and the toll of wounded stands at 170,375.



Despite overwhelming challenges, the medical team at Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza is doing everything in their power to care for the injured and sick. They face impossible odds: shortages of medicine and essential supplies, dwindling fuel reserves for life-saving equipment, and an ever-growing number of patients in desperate need.

At Al-Ahli Hospital, doctors and nurses have treated over 190,000 outpatients and performed more than 6,000 surgeries in the past year alone. The demand is relentless. The injuries they see of burns, broken bones and shrapnel wounds are devastating.

Beyond emergency treatment, Al-Ahli hospital offers long-term rehabilitation, mental health support, and essential community care. Many of those injured will face lifelong disabilities, requiring physiotherapy, pain management, and counselling. Without urgent funding, these critical services could be lost.

This Advent, I am asking you to support the work of one of our partners in the Gospel, USPG, whose partnership with the Diocese of Jerusalem gives us the opportunity to sustain this vital hospital, ensuring that it remains open and equipped to serve those who need it most, not only in moments of immediate crisis but in the long, difficult years of recovery that follow.

It looks – for now – that there is a fragile semi-peace. It is to be hoped that this not only lasts but spreads and deepens, and that rebuilding can begin. Your gift today will help keep the hospital open and equipped to provide urgent medical aid, long-term rehabilitation, and dignity to those in crisis.

"Every donation and every prayer are an act of love. It is a message to families in Gaza that they are not forgotten," says Sawson Aranki-Batato, Programme Development Officer, Diocese of Jerusalem.

I commend to you these resources for prayer as I ask you to give generously to this Appeal (details below).

[Prayers for peace in the Middle East — Embrace the Middle East](#)

[How to pray for Gaza and Israel - Tearfund](#)

[Pray for Peace in Israel and Gaza - 24-7 Prayer International](#)

O God, whose heart breaks for the world,
May your justice dwell in the land
May your righteousness abide in fruitful fields
May the effect of righteousness be quietness and trust forever
May the effect of justice be peace—enduring peace.
Amen.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe



How you can donate to the Bishop in Europe's Advent Appeal 2025:

Via your Chaplaincy Treasurer to Nick Wraight in the Diocesan Office:

By bank transfer:

Account number: 40317039

Sort code: 20-06-13

IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39

Swift / BIC: BUKBGB22

By cheque made out to: Diocese in Europe

Diocese in Europe Board of Finance

14, Tufton St

London SW1P 3QZ

(Please add the words "Advent Appeal 2025" to any note you send with the cheque)

On the Diocese in Europe Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope>
(please add "2025 Advent Appeal" in the Message from Donor column)

Church Notices

Praise and Prayer evenings

You are warmly invited to our final Praise & Prayer of 2025, an opportunity to meet together in an informal setting, sing praise to God, and pray for our church and world. This time we will be at the Couvent des Carmes D'Avon, 1 Rue Père Jacques, 77210 Avon. It will be a wonderful way to mark the end of the church year (the new year begins on Sunday, the first of Advent).

We start at 7.30pm and finish by 9pm. It would be lovely to see you there.

Google map: [Centre spirituel des carmes d'Avon](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Centre+spirituel+des+carmes+d'Avon/@48.711111,2.405556,15z)

Men's Breakfast

The final Men's Breakfast of the year will be held on Saturday 13th December at Donald and Netta's apartment, 2 rue des Bois, Fontainebleau.

If you intend to come, please drop Donald an email (chaplain.stlukesfontainebleau@gmail.com) so that we can organise the catering appropriately. Many thanks.

Return to Saint-Aspais

Unfortunately the works at Saint-Aspais are not complete yet and the earliest date for our return to Fontainebleau is now Dec 7th.

Reading the Bible

Following on from our celebration of Bible Sunday, and as some of you are aware, we have a group of New Daylight Bible Reading Fellowship readers in St Luke's who subscribe annually to receive a set of quarterly notes at a cost of approx 30€ per year. These help you develop a 'holy habit' of reading a little part of the Bible each day, with the help of gifted teachers who introduce you to one of its books, and whose commentary helps you understand it better.

As the blurb says, 'New Daylight provides four months of daily Bible readings and comment, with a regular team of contributors drawn from a range of church backgrounds. It is ideal for anybody wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of scripture.'

If you'd like to join the group receiving New Daylight, please contact Annabel Pouget: abelpouget@aol.com and she would be happy to add your name to the order for the year starting January 2026.

Ladies of St. Luke's

Save the date of Friday, 5th December, for an evening of sweet delight around the theme of "Let there be light" as we welcome the lovely season of Advent. Contact: [Barbara Morris](#).



"Let there be light"

Come and join us for an evening of sweet delight
on Friday, 5th December, 20h - 22h
around the theme of
"Let there be light"
(and cake and fizz, fun and laughter,
and a wee pause for thought)

chez Barbara Morris in Fontainebleau
RSVP before 3rd December, 06 30 04 26 88,
barbara.morris47@gmail.com



Giving to Saint-Luke's

The Anglican Church of St. Luke's Fontainebleau is 100% self-funded and our ministry depends on God's faithfulness and the faithful giving of time, talents, and money from our congregation as we seek to serve Jesus Christ through welcome, worship, and witness.

GIVING TO ST LUKE'S CAN BE MADE IN A VARIETY OF WAYS:

1. Regular monthly giving by bank transfer. This is by far the easiest and most efficient way to provide regular financial support to St Luke's (bank details at the bottom of page).
2. Occasional or one-off donations via Bank Transfer.
3. Regular or occasional giving by cheque: either by sending a cheque made payable to "*Eglise Anglicane de Fontainebleau*" to the Treasurer or simply placing a cheque in the collection basket during the service.
4. Cash offerings in the collection basket in the service (Euros preferably !). Please consider replacing any giving that you would have made in cash with a cheque or an online donation during the period of suspension of physical services.

* All information concerning giving and donations is private and treated as confidential *

* Standing orders for regular giving by bank transfer can be amended or cancelled at any time *

TAX CERTIFICATES

If you are a French taxpayer, you will receive an annual 'tax certificate' for your giving online, by bank transfer or cheque which will allow you to claim a reduction on your tax (*)

*up to a limit for all your charitable giving of 20% of your taxable income

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should you require any additional information or have any questions or require assistance, please contact Christopher Burton-Page: treasurer.stlukesfontainebleau@gmail.com

THANK YOU - your generous giving, whatever the amount, large or small, is so important to us and is greatly appreciated.

RELEVE D'IDENTITE BANCAIRE					
Identifiant national de compte bancaire - RIB					
Banque 30087	Guichet 33862	N° compte 00013539701	Clé 36	Devise EUR	AGENCE DE FONTAINEBLEAU
Identifiant international de compte bancaire					
IBAN (International Bank Account Number)					
FR76	3008	7338	6200	0135	3970 136
BIC (Bank Identifier Code)					
CMCIFRPP					
Domiciliation					
AGENCE DE FONTAINEBLEAU					
8 PLACE DE LA REPUBLIQUE					
77300 FONTAINEBLEAU					
Tél : 08-20-07-91-34					