



St Luke's Church Fontainebleau

Christ the King | The Sunday Next Before Advent

Service of the Word

23 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.

WELCOME

Please stand as we sing our first Hymn.

OPENING HYMN: MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN (SOF 400)

1. MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN,
*My Saviour's love to me:
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?*

2. He came from His blessed throne,
*Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But O! my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend.*

3. Sometimes they strew His way,
*And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day*

*Hosannas to their King:
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
And for His death they thirst and cry.*

5. In life no house, no home
*My Lord on earth might have;
In death, no friendly tomb,
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heaven was His home;
And mine the tomb wherein He lay.*

6. Here might I stay and sing,
*No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King!
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.*

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

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Words of welcome and introduction may follow.

**Loving Lord, fill us with your new life
and with the joy and peace of your presence.
May we praise you now with our lips
and make room in our hearts for you. Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Please be seated.

The word of God is living and active.
It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
All is open and laid bare before the eyes of him
to whom we give account.
We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Let your faithful love come unto me, O
Lord,
even your salvation, according to your
promise:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon my path:

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

I have gone astray like a sheep that is
lost;
O seek your servant, for I do not forget
your commandments.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins, and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Please stand as we say together:

**Glory to the Father,
the God of love who created us;
Who continually preserves and sustains us;
Who has loved us with an everlasting love,
and given us the light and knowledge of his
glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God forever.**

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We sit for our first reading:

JEREMIAH 23:1-6

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: "It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings," says the Lord. "Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them

who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing," says the Lord.

"The days are surely coming," says the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"

For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: PSALM 46

Please say the words in bold:

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
should change,
**though the mountains shake in the heart
of the sea,**
3 though its waters roar and foam,
**though the mountains tremble with its
tumult.**
4 There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be
moved;
**God will help it when the morning
dawns.**
6 The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms
totter;

he utters his voice; the earth melts.
7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;
**see what desolations he has brought on
the earth.**
9 He makes wars cease to the end of the
earth;
**he breaks the bow and shatters the
spear;**
he burns the shields with fire.
10 "Be still, and know that I am God!
**I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth."**
11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

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.**

HYMN: MY LORD, WHAT LOVE IS THIS (SoF 398)

MY LORD, WHAT LOVE IS THIS

*That pays so dearly,
That I, the guilty one,
May go free!*

Ref:

*Amazing love, O what sacrifice,
The Son of God given for me.
My debt He pays, and my death He dies,
That I might live, that I might live.*

(Last time only)

That I might live!

*And so they watched Him die,
Despised, rejected;
But oh, the blood He shed
Flowed for me!*

*And now, this love of Christ
Shall flow like rivers;
Come wash your guilt away,
Live again!*

We sit for our second reading:

NEW TESTAMENT READING: LUKE 23:33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Please stand.

Let us affirm our faith in God:

Do you believe and trust in God the
Father who made the world?
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son
Jesus Christ who redeemed mankind?
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy
Spirit who gives life to the people of
God?

I believe and trust in him.

**This is the faith of the Church
This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated.

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

THE PEACE

Please stand.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN: THE SERVANT KING (SOF 120)

During which an offering is collected:

1. FROM HEAVEN YOU CAME,
Helpless babe,
Entered our world,
Your glory veiled;
Not to be served
But to serve,
And give Your life
That we might live.

Ref:

*This is our God,
The Servant King,
He calls us now
To follow Him,
To bring our lives
As a daily offering
Of worship to
The Servant King.*

2. There in the garden
Of tears,
My heavy load
He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow
Was torn,
'Yet not My will
But Yours,' He said.

3. Come see His hands
And His feet,
The scars that speak
Of sacrifice;
Hands that flung stars
Into space
To cruel nails
Surrendered.

We say together:

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

OUR NOTICES

THE SENDING OUT

We sing our Final Hymn:

FINAL HYMN: CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS (SOF 77)

*1. CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.*

*2. Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save:
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.*

*3. Crown Him the Lord of love;
Behold His hands and side,
Those wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified:*

*No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends His burning eye
At mysteries so bright.*

*4. Crown Him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
And all be prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end,
And round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.*

*5. Crown Him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime!
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.*

THE BLESSING

Go now in peace,
knowing that you have been born again,
not of perishable seed, but of imperishable,
through the living and enduring word of God;
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. Amen.

You are invited to refreshments following the service, please stay for a chat and if we can be of help in any way, please speak to the clergy or to a member of the welcome team. You may also contact our chaplain at the following email address: chaplain.stlukesfontainebleau@gmail.com.





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

Please put in your diaries one further date when we come together to praise God for his goodness and pray for our life as St Luke's and for God's world: Friday 28th November at 7:30pm at the home of Christopher and Marie-Céline, 31 rue Madame Müller, 77210 Avon.

Men's Breakfast

The next two Men's Breakfasts 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.

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