



**St Luke's Church Fontainebleau**  
**Christmas Day**  
**Holy Communion Service**  
**25 December 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](mailto: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:*

*'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.*

**Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.**

From eternity to eternity you are God,  
**and now we see you as a newborn child.**

God our Father,  
today the Saviour is born  
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.  
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,  
to live in the light of your Son  
and to share the good news of your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who has come into the world.  
**Amen.**

*We remain standing as we sing our first Hymn:*

**Hymn: Joy to the world (Sof 314)**

1. *JOY TO THE WORLD! the Lord has come;  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!*

2. *Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;  
Your sweetest songs employ.  
While fields and streams and hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!*

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,

The wonders of His love,  
The wonders of His love,  
The wonders, the wonders of His love.

#### 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 :*

Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father,  
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour,  
you were born in poverty and laid in a  
manger:  
forgive our greed and rejection of your  
ways.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all your sins,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love,  
your servant Mary responded joyfully to  
your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

#### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *Please stand as we say together :*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father:  
receive our prayer.**

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

#### THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.  
**Amen.**

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*We sit for our first reading.*

#### Hebrews 1. 1-12

*Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

*For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."*

*Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

#### CANTICLE: Psalm 98

*Please say the words printed in bold:*

1 *O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.*  
**His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.**  
2 *The Lord has made known his victory;*

**he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**  
3 *He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.*  
**All the ends of the earth have seen**

**the victory of our God.**

4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
**break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**  
5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
**with the lyre and the sound of melody.**  
6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
**make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**  
7 Let the sea roar and all that fills it,

**the world and those who live in it.**

8 Let the floods clap their hands;  
**let the hills sing together for joy**  
9 at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.  
**He will judge the world with righteousness**  
**and the peoples with equity.**

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: It came upon the midnight clear (SoF 251)

1. *IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR,*  
*That glorious song of old,*  
*From angels bending near the earth*  
*To touch their harps of gold:*  
*'Peace on the earth, goodwill to men*  
*From heaven's all gracious King!'*  
*The world in solemn stillness lay*  
*To hear the angels sing.*

2. *Still through the cloven skies they come,*  
*With peaceful wings unfurled,*  
*And still their heavenly music floats*  
*O'er all the weary world:*  
*Above its sad and lowly plains*  
*They bend on hovering wing,*  
*And ever o'er its Babel sounds*  
*The blessèd angels sing.*

3. *Yet with woes of sin and strife*  
*The world has suffered long,*  
*Beneath the angel-strain have rolled*  
*Two thousand years of wrong;*  
*And man, at war with man, hears not*  
*The love-song which they bring:*  
*O hush the noise, ye men of strife,*  
*And hear the angels sing.*

4. *For lo! the days are hastening on,*  
*By prophet bards foretold,*  
*When with the ever-circling years*  
*Comes round the age of gold;*  
*When peace shall over all the earth*  
*Its ancient splendours fling,*  
*And all the world send back the song*  
*Which now the angels sing.*

#### THE GOSPEL READING

Priest : Today Christ is born:

All : **Alleluia.**

Priest : Today the Saviour has come:

All : **Alleluia.**

Priest : Today the angels sing on earth:

All : **Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.**

Priest : The Lord be with you.

All : **And also with you.**

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

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

### **John 1. 1-14**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

*He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.*

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

.... 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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord 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: O come, come, Immanuel (SoF 410)**

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

*Ref:*

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

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.*

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.*

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:*

Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

**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: O come, all ye faithful (SoF 408)

1. *O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels;*

*Ref:*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

2. *God of God,  
Light of light,  
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;*

*Very God,  
Begotten, not created:*

3. *Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:*

4. *Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing:*

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### THE BLESSING

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.  
**Amen.**

May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,

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

fill you with joy and peace.  
**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the  
God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of  
Christ.  
**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

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### Christmas Services at Saint-Luke's:

#### **Christmas Eve service: no service**

There will be no Christmas Eve service this year. We encourage you to attend the evening service at the Protestant church, Eglise Protestant de Fontainebleau, 3 Rue Béranger, 77300 Fontainebleau on Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> from 7PM.

#### **Christmas Day service:**

The Christmas Day service will take place on Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM. Venue: Eglise Saint-Eloi, Arbonne-La-Forêt.

**Sunday 28 December 2025: no service.**

### Return to Saint-Aspais

Our last service at Saint-Eloi (Arbonne-La-Forêt) will take place on Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. We will need volunteers to help us move all our items and clean the Church after the service.

***The first service at our Chapel in Fontainebleau will take place the week after, on Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.***

### Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will take place on **Saturday January 10th**, 10:00-11:30am, at Donald and Netta's apartment, 2 rue des Bois. If you're planning on coming, please let Donald know ([chaplain.stlukesfontainebleau@gmail.com](mailto:chaplain.stlukesfontainebleau@gmail.com)) so we can plan catering. Many thanks.

### Area Dean

Bishop Robert has asked Donald to become Area Dean with responsibilities for Anglican ministry in the Paris area and north east France. This is a voluntary position, undertaken in addition to his other duties. The purpose of the role is defined thus: 'Area deans support the diocesan bishop and archdeacons in the oversight and pastoral care within their designated deanery, while also relaying issues or concerns affecting colleagues and congregations.' Please pray for Donald as he takes on this new responsibility. He will be commissioned by Archdeacon Peter Hooper on Monday January 26th in St George's Church, Paris.

### Week of Christian Unity services in January 2026:

Dates and venues for the week of Christian unity services organised with all Christian churches in the south Seine-Et-Marne:

#### **Pôle Fontainebleau:**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 at 8PM, Couvent des Carmes, Avon.

#### **Pôle Moret / Nemours / Montereau:**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 at 8PM, Eglise Saint-Lambert, Varennes-Sur-Seine. The sermon will be done by our Chaplain (in French).

### **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](mailto:abelpouget@aol.com) and she would be happy to add your name to the order for the year starting January 2026.

## 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](mailto: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)					
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AGENCE DE FONTAINEBLEAU					
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