



# St Luke's Church Fontainebleau

## Second Sunday of Advent Service of the Word

7 December 2025

*Service led by Nancy Austin CWL*



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:*

God our Father,  
you spoke to the prophets of old  
of a Saviour who would bring peace.  
You helped them to spread the joyful message  
of his coming kingdom.  
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
to share with those around us  
the good news of your power and love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.  
**Amen.**

*Please remain standing as we sing our first Hymn.*

### OPENING HYMN: ON JORDAN'S BANKS THE BAPTIST'S CRY

*1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and harken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*2 Then cleansed be every life from sin:  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.*

*3 We hail you as our Saviour, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward.  
Without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.*

*4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine*

*and fill the world with love divine.*

*5 All praise to you, eternal Son,*

*whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.*

#### CONFESSION

*Please be seated.*

The sun of righteousness has dawned  
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Turn to us again, O God our saviour,  
and let your anger cease from us:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Amen.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear  
you,  
that glory may dwell in our land:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

#### THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
Judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.  
**Amen.**

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*We sit for our first reading:*

ISAIAH 11:1-10

*A shoot shall come out from the stump of  
Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*

*2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the  
Lord.*

*3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,*

*4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the  
poor*

*and decide with equity for the oppressed of  
the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his  
mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill  
the wicked.*

*5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his  
waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.*

*6 The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed[b] together,  
and a little child shall lead them.*

*7 The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

*8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of  
the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on  
the adder's den.*

*9 They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of  
the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.*

*10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand  
as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall  
inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be  
glorious.*

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

CANTICLE: PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

*Please say the words in bold:*

*1 Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.*

*2 May he judge your people with  
righteousness  
and your poor with justice.*

*3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the  
people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.*

*4 May he defend the cause of the poor of  
the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.*

*5 May he live while the sun endures*

*and as long as the moon, throughout all  
generations.*

*6 May he be like rain that falls on the  
mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.*

*7 In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no  
more.*

*18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.*

*19 Blessed be his glorious name forever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth.  
Amen and Amen.*

*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: SPEAK O LORD (SOF 2032)

*1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy Word  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory*

*2. Teach us, Lord, full obedience  
Holy reverence, true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of pow'r that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief*

3. *Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity*

*And by grace, we'll stand on Your promises  
And by faith, we'll walk as You walk with us  
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory*

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

#### GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 3:1-12

*In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,*

*"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:*

*'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.' "*

*4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.*

*7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 9 and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.*

*11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."*

*This is the Gospel*

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### THE SERMON

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Please stand.*

**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 and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is  
worshipped and glorified.  
He 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.**

## HYMN AFTER THE PRAYERS: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

*Christ, be our light  
Shine in our hearts  
Shine through the darkness  
Christ, be our light  
Shine in Your church gathered today.*

## THE PEACE

*Please stand.*

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.

May the peace of Christ be with all of you.  
**And also with you.**

Let's offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

## THE OFFERTORY HYMN: HERE IS LOVE, VAST AS THE OCEAN (SOF 168)

*During which an offering is collected:*

1. *Here is love, vast as the ocean,  
Loving-kindness as the flood;  
When the Prince of Life, my ransom,  
Shed for me his precious blood.  
Who his love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing his praise?  
He shall never be forgotten,  
Through Heav'n's everlasting days*

2. *On the mount of crucifixion,  
Fountains opened deep and wide,  
Through the flood-gates of God's mercy,  
Flowed the vast and gracious tide;  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers  
Poured incessant from above,  
And God's peace and perfect justice  
Kissed a guilty world in love.*

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

*We say together:*

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER: ECHO OUR FATHER

*As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:*

**Our Father (echo)  
Who art in heaven, (echo)  
hallowed be your name, (echo)  
  
your kingdom come, (echo)  
your will be done, (echo)  
on earth as it is in heaven. (echo)  
  
Give us this day (echo)  
our daily bread. (echo)  
And forgive us all our sins (echo)  
  
as we forgive (echo)**

**those who harm us. (echo)  
And lead us not from you (echo)  
  
For yours is (echo)  
the kingdom, (echo)  
the power, (echo)  
and the glory (echo)  
  
for ever (echo)  
And ever (echo)  
Alleluia (echo)  
Amen. (echo)**

## OUR NOTICES

## THE SENDING OUT

*We sing our Final Hymn:*

### FINAL HYMN: COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

*1 Come, Thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.*

*2 Joy to those who long to see Thee  
Day-spring from on high, appear.  
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
Of Thy birth, we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
News, glad tidings of a birth;  
"Go to Him your praises bringing  
Christ the Lord has come to earth!"*

*3 Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end.  
By His life He brings us gladness,  
Our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
Born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.*

*4 Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

## THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be with you and those whom you love, now and for 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](mailto:chaplain.stlukesfontainebleau@gmail.com).*





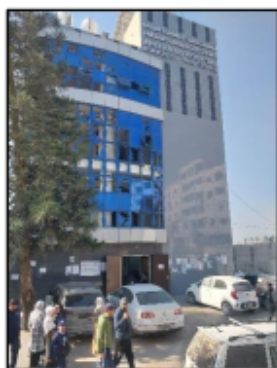
### Bishop's Advent Appeal

### 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

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

#### **Carols Service:**

Our traditional service of Christmas Carols and Readings will take place on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. Venue : Eglise Protestant de Fontainebleau, 3 Rue Béranger, 77300 Fontainebleau.

#### **Nativity Play:**

The Nativity Play service organised by our Sunday School will take place on Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM. Venue: Eglise Saint-Eloi, Arbonne-La-Forêt.

#### **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.**

### **Men's Breakfast**

The final Men's Breakfast of the year will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (to be confirmed).

### **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.

**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).

## 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.

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