



St Luke's Church Fontainebleau

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion Service

21 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



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,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
to share like her in your great work
of bringing to our world your love and healing.
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: Hark the glad sound (SoF 154)

1. **HARK THE GLAD SOUND!** The Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

2. He comes the prisoners to release,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3. He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

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.**

CONFESSION & 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

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We sit for our first reading.

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and

shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: Psalm 80.1–8, 18–20

Please say the words printed in bold:

1 *Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;*
2 **Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**
3 *Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation.*
4 **Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
5 *O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?*
6 **You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them abundance of tears to drink.**

7 *You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.*
8 **Turn us again, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
18 *Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.*
19 **And so will we not go back from you;
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.**
20 *Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

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: Gabriel's message ('The angel Gabriel from heaven came')

1. *The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes aflame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!*
2. *"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!*

3. *Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name":
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!*
4. *Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
"Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!*

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 1.18–end

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

*'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',*

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

.... 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: In the bleak midwinter (SoF 243)

1. *IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER,
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow;
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.*

2. *Our God, heaven cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.*

3. *Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air.
But His mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Belovèd
With a kiss.*

4. *What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him—
Give my heart.*

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: Tell out, my soul (SoF 520)

*1. TELL OUT, MY SOUL, the greatness of the
Lord!*

*Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.*

*2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has
done;*

*His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name—the Lord, the mighty One.*

*3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to
flight,*

The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

*4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure:
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more!*

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 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.





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

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 24th from 7PM.

Christmas Day service:

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

Sunday 28 December 2025: no service.

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 4th, 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 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 21st January 2026 at 8PM, Couvent des Carmes, Avon.

Pôle Moret / Nemours / Montereau:

Friday 23rd 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

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)						
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						