



St Luke's Church Fontainebleau

Second Sunday of Christmas Service of the Word

4 January, 2026

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



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

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

Come let us worship.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

O praise the name of the Lord!

OPENING HYMN: Joy to the World (SoF 314)

1. *Joy to the world! The Lord is 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
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy*

3. *No more let sins and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as, far as, the curse is found*

4. *He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders, of His love!*

CONFESSON

Please be seated.

As we come to the Lord at the start of this New Year,
let us seek his grace to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh
and splendour of the Father:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose years never fail
and whose mercies are new each returning day:
let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives,
warming our hearts and giving light to our minds;
that we may pass the coming year
in joyful obedience and firm faith;
through him who is the beginning and the end,
your Son, Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We sit for our first reading:

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be

to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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

CANTICLE: PSALM 147: 13-20

Please say the words in bold:

13 **For he strengthens the bars of your gates;**
he blesses your children within you.

14 **He grants peace within your borders;**
He fills you with the finest of wheat.

15 **He sends out his command to the earth;**
his word runs swiftly.

16 **He gives snow like wool;**
He scatters frost like ashes.

17 **He hurls down hail like crumbs—**
Who can stand before his cold?

18 **He sends out his word and melts them;**
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

19 **He declares his word to Jacob,**
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

20 **He has not dealt thus with any other nation;**
they do not know his ordinances.

Praise the LORD!

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: Let all mortal flesh keep silent (SoF 1413)

1. *Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.*

2. *King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.*

3. *Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'r of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.*

4. *At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last,
the beginning and the end.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: John 1:10-18

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 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. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Athanasian Creed *Please stand.*

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;
**fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.
**Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;
**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.
**The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please sit or kneel.

...

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

THE PEACE

Please stand.

Blessed are the peacemakers:
they shall be called children of God.
We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.
The peace of the Incarnate Son of God be with you.
And also with you

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

THE OFFERTORY HYMN: Lord of the dance (SoF 1310)

During which an offering is collected

*1. I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he*

*2. I danced for the scribe And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John
They came with me And the Dance went on.*

*3. I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there on a Cross to die.*

*4. I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance, and I still go on.*

*5. They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.*

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 stand and sing our Final Hymn:

FINAL HYMN: See Him lying on a bed of straw (SoF 491)

1 See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore
the prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the prince of glory when he came.*

2 Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;

shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the saviour of the world!

3 Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
Sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be the saviour of us all.

4 Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

THE BLESSING

A thousand years in God's sight are like a single day.

Like an evening that has already gone.

Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end.

Jesus stands at the door and knocks.
Lord Jesus, enter our homes and our lives.

You hold the key to God's way of justice.
Open to us your kingdom of peace.

May God the Father keep you in all your days.
May God the Son shield you in all your ways.
May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
and pour upon you blessing and light.

Amen.

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.



Church Notices

Return to Saint-Aspais

Our last service at Saint-Eloi (Arbonne-La-Forêt) will take place on Sunday January 4th, 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 11th, 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) 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 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).

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.

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.

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