



St Luke's Church Fontainebleau
The Baptism of Christ
The Third Sunday of Epiphany - Conversion of Paul
(Last Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)
Holy Communion Service
25 January 2026
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 we sing our first Hymn:

Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say (SoF 215)

1. I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY:
'Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'Behold I freely give
The living water, thirsty one,
Stoop down and drink and live.'

I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'I am this dark world's light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk,
Till travelling days are done.

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 :*

Because God was merciful,
he saved us through the water of rebirth
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.
But through sin we have fallen away from our baptism.
Let us return to the Lord and renew our faith in his promises
by confessing our sins in penitence.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in
thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole
heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as
ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are, and direct
what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

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.

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

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We sit for our first reading.

Acts 9.1-22

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered,

"Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

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

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: Psalm 67

Please say the words printed in bold:

1 **May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us**
2 **that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.**
3 **Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**
4 **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity**

and guide the nations upon earth.
5 **Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**
6 **The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.**
7 **May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.**

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: Amazing Grace (SoF 19)

1. AMAZING GRACE! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

5. Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace.

6. When we've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

THE GOSPEL READING

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 19:23-30

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, "Then who can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

Then Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my name's sake will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

.... 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

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.
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: Here is bread (SoF 762)

*HERE IS BREAD, here is wine,
Christ is with us – He is with us;
Break the bread, drink the wine –
Christ is with us here.*

*Here is grace, here is peace,
Christ is with us – He is with us;
Know His grace, find His peace –
Feast on Jesus here.*

Ref:

*In this bread there is healing,
In this cup there's life forever;
In this moment, by the Spirit
Christ is with us here.*

*Here we are, joined in one,
Christ is with us – He is with us;
We'll proclaim, till He comes –
Jesus crucified.*

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.*

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God, 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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Hymn during communion: You are my hiding place (SoF 625)

*YOU ARE MY HIDING PLACE,
You always fill my heart with songs of
deliverance,
Whenever I am afraid*

*I will trust in You.
I will trust in You;
Let the weak say 'I am strong
In the strength of my God.'*

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: There is a higher throne (SoF 1541)

1. THERE IS A HIGHER THRONE
*Than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from every tongue
Will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand,
Made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace:
Salvation comes.*

Ref:
*Hear heaven's voices sing,
Their thunderous anthem rings
Through emerald courts and sapphire skies,
Their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, power,
Strength, thanks and honour are
To God, our King who reigns on high
Forever more.*

2. *And there we'll find our home,
Our life before the throne;
We'll honour Him in perfect song
Where we belong.*

*He'll wipe each tear-stained eye,
As thirst and hunger die;
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King:
We'll reign with Him.*

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE BLESSING

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;
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.



Celebrating
THE LIFE OF



AVRIL BATEMAN

THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 2026

SERVICE TO BE HELD AT 10:00

EGLISE SAINT-LOUIS
2 RUE DE LA PAROISSE
77300 FONTAINEBLEAU

FOLLOWED BY RECEPTION
THEATRE DE FONTAINEBLEAU
9 RUE DENECOURT
77300 FONTAINEBLEAU

ALL WELCOME

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.

Praise & Prayer

You are warmly invited to our next Praise & Prayer evening, a special time to meet together in an informal setting, to praise God in song and to pray for his church and world. It will be held on **Friday January 30th at 07:30pm** at the home of Christopher and Marie-Céline: 31 rue Madame Muller, 77210 Avon.

Leading Intercessions

Our prayers on a Sunday morning are an important and integral part of our worship. We have a rota for our Intercessions which is separate from the other sign-up rota. If you would be interested in joining our merry band of intercessors, please drop Netta a line at mcfadyens@hotmail.com or send an SMS to Netta at +33 (0) 6 81 87 62 57.

Do ask if you are unsure or if you have any queries. Thank you.

Lent is coming...

I once heard a bishop say to a congregation, "I wish you a gruelling Lent!" What he meant, of course, was that he hoped people would take the opportunity given by Lenten disciplines to deepen their Christian faith. This year the Council has decided that we should likewise focus on Lent to as a time to deepen our faith as a church, by denying ourselves and deepening our lives of prayer. This is not easy, but doing it together is much easier than trying to do it alone. There will be four 'inputs' to help us: Ash Wednesday, Sunday preaching, Lent lunches, and a Lent Course.

i) **Ash Wednesday Service** which will be on the evening of February 18th (venue to be confirmed).

ii) **Sundays** during Lent will include teaching about the ancient practice of fasting, from food most obviously, but also from aspects of modern life too, like 'screen time'.

iii) **Lent Lunches**

This year's Lent Lunches will take a slightly different format.

We will meet each time at Netta and Donald's apartment:

2 Rue Des Bois, 77300, Fontainebleau. 3rd floor (there is a lift!) between 12:30h & 14:00h on the following five Thursdays in Lent: February 26th, March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th.

We will have our usual soup and bread, followed by fruit and coffee or tea. The idea is to have a frugal meal and to donate what we might have spent on lunch to the Lent Lunch

'collection pot' with a suggested donation of 10 euros each. We can discuss at our first lunch where we would like our donation to go and we can then put that to the Council at their next meeting for approval. (Last year we put the money aside to pay for a new altar cloth and lectern fall, which is an on-going project.)

Netta will provide the venue and coffee and tea; others are invited to provide soup or bread or fruit. Please do so either in pairs or as a solo effort. Please confirm your attendance to Netta with 48hrs notice for catering purposes.

In order to mark Lent and to keep our focus on the opportunity this gives us to pray together and to think a little 'outside the box', Netta has offered to lead a little 'Thought for the Day' during the meal. Nothing heavy, just a thought and a prayer to keep us focussed on our response to Lent and to keep us mindful of the purpose of this time in the church year.

If you would like to bring a friend who may be new to St Luke's or who may have no history with us at all, this is an ideal opportunity.

Contact details to indicate attendance: Netta +33 (0) 6 81 87 62 57 (SMS, please) or mcfadyens@hotmail.com

iv) **Lent Course** which will take a close look at the way we draw close to God in worship - where did our type of Anglican prayer come from? What's going on in a Communion service? How might we develop our ways of worshipping God? The sessions will be on five Tuesday evenings: February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th (venue to be confirmed).

Let us set ourselves the goal of being prepared by the 40 days of Lent to celebrate Easter on April 5th with renewed faith and joy!

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.

 RELEVE D'IDENTITE BANCAIRE					
Identifiant national de compte bancaire - RIB					
Banque 30087	Guichet 33862	N° compte 00013539701	Clé 36	Devise EUR	 AGENCE DE FONTAINEBLEAU
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IBAN (International Bank Account Number)					
FR76	3008	7338	6200	0135	3970 136
BIC (Bank Identifier Code)					
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