



**St Luke's Church Fontainebleau**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**Holy Communion Service**  
**18 February 2026**  
***Service led by Rev'd Dr Donald McFadyen***



Welcome to our service this evening.

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.*

### THE WELCOME

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

### INTRODUCTION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

## THE COLLECT

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Holy God,  
our lives are laid open before you:  
rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*We sit for our first reading.*

### Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains,  
a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
nor will be again after them  
in ages to come.*

*Yet even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the Lord your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,  
and relenting from punishment.  
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent*

*and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the Lord your God?  
Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.  
Consecrate the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room  
and the bride her canopy.  
Between the vestibule and the altar,  
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.  
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"*

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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 6:1-6,16-21

*Jesus said, "Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.*

*"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But*

*when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

*"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

*"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

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

THE SERMON *Please be seated.*

#### SELF-EXAMINATION AND CONFESSION

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the Son,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy on us.**

Trinity of love,  
**have mercy on us.**

**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, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord ...

all our past unfaithfulness: the pride,  
hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than  
ourselves.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and  
comforts

**Accept our repentance, Lord ...**

for the wrongs we have done,  
for our blindness to human need and  
suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and  
cruelty.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements,  
for uncharitable thoughts towards our  
neighbours  
and for our prejudice and contempt  
towards those who differ from us.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your  
creation

and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship  
and our failure to commend the faith that is  
in us.

**Lord, have mercy.**

and our lack of concern for those who come  
after us.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger  
depart from us.

**Favourably hear us, for your mercy is  
great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our  
Lord,

**bring us with all your saints to the joy of  
his resurrection.**

*Silence is kept.*

**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.**

#### THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Dear friends in Christ,  
I invite you to receive these ashes  
as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,  
you create us from the dust of the earth:  
grant that these ashes may be for us  
a sign of our penitence  
and a symbol of our mortality;  
for it is by your grace alone  
that we receive eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

*The president and people receive the imposition of ashes, the president first receiving the imposition from another minister. At the imposition the minister says to each person:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

God our Father,  
the strength of all who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers;  
and because, in our weakness,  
we can do nothing good without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in keeping your commandments  
we may please you, both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### THE GREETING OF PEACE

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.  
The peace of the triune God be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

*After the collection:*

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

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Merciful Father,  
turn us from sin to faithfulness  
and from disobedience to love,  
and prepare us to celebrate  
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
**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.**

#### 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.**

#### 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.**

#### 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.**

*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.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
you have given your only Son to be for us  
both a sacrifice for sin  
and also an example of godly life:  
give us grace  
that we may always most thankfully receive  
these his inestimable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour  
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**God of our pilgrimage,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## RESPONSORY

This is love, not that we loved God,  
**but that he loved us and sent his Son.**

He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
**that we might live through him.**

If God loves us so much  
**we ought to love one another.**

If we love one another  
**God lives in us.**

## OUR NOTICES

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

## THE BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
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.**



## Church Notices

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### Annual Chaplaincy Meeting 2026

Please note that our ACM 2026 meeting will take place on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 2026.

### 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](mailto: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 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 February 18th at 7pm at our Chapel, 57 Rue de Fleury, 77300 Fontainebleau.

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](mailto:mcfadyens@hotmail.com)

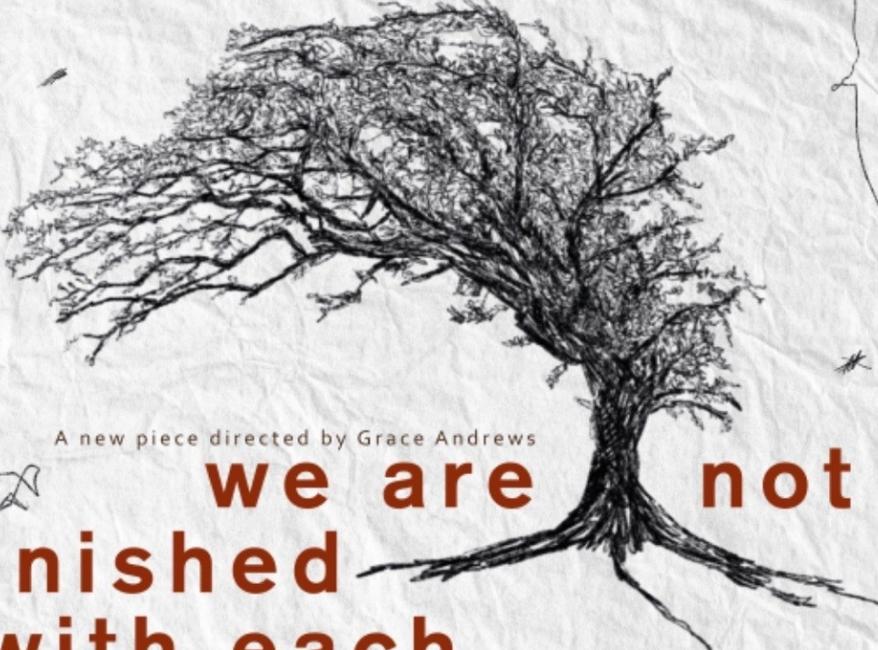
iv) **Lent Course** which will take a close look at the way we draw close to God in worship - where did our type of Anglican prayer come from? What's going on in a Communion service? How might we develop our ways of worshipping God? The sessions will be on five Tuesday evenings: February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24<sup>th</sup> at the home of Leigh and Stefan, 34 ave. Charles de Gaulle, 77630 Barbizon.

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!

## Fontainebleau School of Acting – “we are not finished with each other”

Two of the new members of our congregation are students at the Fontainebleau School of Acting and hope that we can come and support them. Michal wrote:

*“I would like to invite you all to come and see our new production “we are not finished with each other” at the Théâtre Municipal de Fontainebleau, February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm. A little overview: Fonacts 2<sup>nd</sup> year ensemble creates a new piece together with director Grace Andrews with scenes from Irish plays by Brian Friel and Conor McPherson. Expect an Irish evening and all the chaotic family relationships across multiple generations. I would love to see you all there.”*



**Assistant Director**  
Anya Anderson Birch

**Movement**  
Michal Zoller  
Danny McGrath

**Voice**  
Marta Horyza

**Lighting**  
Woody

**Costume**  
Ekaterina Kazakova

**Sound**  
Charlotte Taylor

**Cast**  
Danika Scott  
Ece Tunca  
Emma Clerkin  
Louna Evrard  
Lucie Firnhaber  
Malachy Tennant  
Marci Urban  
Michal Zoller  
Mina Latham  
Robert den Dekker  
Selena Bouri  
Svea von der Lieth  
Viktorie Bechnä

A new piece directed by Grace Andrews

**we are not  
finished with each  
other**

from the Fonact Y2 Ensemble  
with scenes from Brian Friel  
& Conor McPherson

Saturday February 28th  
Sunday March 1st  
19:30

Théâtre Municipal de Fontainebleau

FONTAINEBLEAU  
SCHOOL  
OF ACTING

**tmf** THÉÂTRE  
MUNICIPAL  
FONTAINEBLEAU

## 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.

				
<b>RELEVÉ D'IDENTITÉ BANCAIRE</b>				
<b>Identifiant national de compte bancaire - RIB</b>				
<b>Banque</b>	<b>Guichet</b>	<b>N° compte</b>	<b>Clé</b>	<b>Devise</b>
30087	33862	00013539701	36	EUR
<b>Identifiant international de compte bancaire</b>				
<b>IBAN (International Bank Account Number)</b>				
FR76	3008	7338	6200	0135 3970 136
<b>AGENCE DE FONTAINEBLEAU</b>				
<b>BIC (Bank Identifier Code)</b>				
<b>CMCIFRPP</b>				
<b>Domiciliation</b>				
AGENCE DE FONTAINEBLEAU				
8 PLACE DE LA REPUBLIQUE				
77300 FONTAINEBLEAU				
Tél : 08-20-07-91-34				