



St Luke's Church Fontainebleau

The Fifth Sunday of Lent Service of the Word

22 March 2026

Service led by Nancy Austin, Congregational Worship Leader



WELCOME

Please stand as we sing our first hymn.

OPENING HYMN: LORD WE LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH (SoF 897)

*Lord, we lift your name on high.
Lord we love to sing your praises
I'm so glad you're in my life
I'm so glad you came to save us.*

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift your name on high*

ACCLAMATION

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,
according to your judgement give us life.

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.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Please be seated.

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled against him.
Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son 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

FIRST READING : EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said

to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE : PSALM 130

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

2 Lord, hear my voice!

**Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!**

*3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?*

**4 But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.**

5 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

**6 my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

7 O Israel, hope in the LORD!

*For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.*

**8 It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.**

GRADUAL HYMN: BREATHE ON ME BREATH OF GOD (SoF 51)

Please stand.

*1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.*

*2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.*

*3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.*

*4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.*

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:6-11

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

TIME FOR REFLECTION

*You have redeemed my soul from the pit of emptiness;
you have redeemed my soul from death (x2)*

*I was a hungry child; a burned out forest; I was a dried up river,
and no one could do anything for me.
But you put food in my belly; water in my dry bed;
and to my blackened branches you brought the springtime green of new life.
And nothing is impossible for you.*

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Please stand.

Let us declare our faith:

**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,
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

...

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ
Amen**

THE PEACE

Jesus says to his disciples,
'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled or afraid.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

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

THE OFFERTORY HYMN: IN CHRIST ALONE (SoF 1346)

*1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand*

*2. In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live*

*3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ*

*4. No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand*

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 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 forever. Amen.**

NOTICES

CLOSING HYMN: DAYS OF ELIJAH (SoF 1047)

*These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days of Your servant, Moses,
Righteousness being restored*

*And though these are days of great trial
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
"Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"*

***Behold, He comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee
And out of Zion's hill, salvation comes***

*And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of Your servant, David
Rebuilding a temple of praise*

*And these are the days of the harvest
Oh, the fields are as white in Your world
And we are the labourers in Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord*

***Behold, He comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee
And out of Zion's hill, salvation comes***

THE BLESSING

God, who from the death of sin raised us to new life in Christ,
keep us from falling and set us in the presence of his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and those we love.

Amen

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God



Church Notices

Annual Chaplaincy Meeting 2026

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

PCC Meeting

The next PCC meeting will take place on Saturday March 21st, 2026 at 09AM chez Claire Nabais, 8 rue de Recloses, 77760 Ury.

Confirmation

On Sunday morning Donald will be at St Mark's, Versailles, presenting William Kirby to Bishop Robert for his Confirmation. Please pray for William as he takes this important step in his faith journey. And if you would like to find out more about being Confirmation or baptism, for you or your children, please don't hesitate to be in touch with Donald (chaplain.stlukesfontainebleau@gmail.com).

Sunday School: dates of the next sessions

- March 8, 22
- April 19
- May 3, 17, 31
- June 14, 28.

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 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

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 at 7:30pm**: February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th 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!

Easter table top sale

The Easter table top sale organised by Les Amis will take place on March 29th, just after the service.



Les Amis 2026 Easter Table Top Sale



**After the 10:30 service
Palm Sunday 29th March**

***Proceeds supporting donations
to the Bishop's Lent Appeal
and La Sittelle Fontainebleau***

**Easter eggs, hot cross buns,
homemade cakes, jams,
soups and more !**

***Contributions of homemade
items for sale gratefully received!***

Grounds of
Lycée St Aspais
18 Blvd André Maginot
77300 Fontainebleau



Happy Easter !



2026 Bishop's Lent Appeal: Vale Silves Community Centre, Portugal

About Portugal

Portugal is a beautiful country and a popular tourist and retirement destination. Despite the many tourists, about 2.2 million people (about 20% of the population), are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. From 2011 through to 2015 Portugal endured a financial crisis and the pandemic has contributed to the difficulties in overcoming this. Great economic and social inequalities exist.



About the Vale Silves Community Centre

The Centre was founded in 1990 by Dra Maria Armanda Silva, originally as a Parents' Association seeking to improve the local primary school. That small initiative grew into a wider community project addressing the needs of families in the district. Over the years, through EU grants, donated building materials, and significant personal sacrifice—including Dra Armanda taking out a mortgage on her own home—the Centre has become a fully operational, independent, non-political, not-for-profit organisation serving the parish of Boliqueime, in the Algarve.

Our long-standing partnership

St Vincent's Chaplaincy Algarve has cooperated closely with the Centre for many years. Our partnership includes supporting the elderly outreach programme, providing annual Christmas gift bags for all elderly users and their carers, assisting with fundraising, and maintaining a regular pastoral presence. This long and trusted relationship means we have had the privilege of witnessing first-hand, the commitment, integrity, and compassion with which Dra Armanda and her team serve the most vulnerable in the community.

What the Vale Silves Community Centre does

The Centre provides essential support to vulnerable families, children, and the elderly in the region as a practical outworking of their vision to love God and neighbour:

- **Elderly Home-Care Programme** – 50 elderly people receive personalised daily care, including hygiene assistance, meals, house cleaning, and regular home visits from a team of 20 carers. Many are bedbound and entirely dependent on this service.
- **Food Support** – A large food bank operates three times a week, providing vital supplies to families living with significant hardship.
- **Children's Services** – Childcare for working parents, cooked meals for school children, and access to recreational and developmental activities.
- **Community Outreach** – Distribution of recycled clothing and furniture, laundry services, exercise classes, and case-by-case practical support when urgent needs arise.



Christmas present distribution



Bishop Robert with Dra Armanda

Why This Appeal Matters

Despite doing extraordinary work with whole families, from the youngest to the oldest, the Centre's finances are fragile. The Centre can offer home-care support for the elderly by charging only a small fee for the service. That fee is covered partly through government allowances and partly by the service users themselves. However, because many of them live on extremely low state pensions, they are often left with no more than €60 to cover all their remaining needs, including food and medication.

The care they receive from the Centre is invaluable — without it, they would never be able to afford any form of private home care. At the same time, the small contributions they make do not come close to covering the real cost of providing the service. This means the Centre must rely heavily on donations in order to continue offering this essential support to some of the most vulnerable people in the parish. Dra Amanda is a practising Catholic - a little lady with a big and infectious faith. I find their work inspiring, and there is no doubt that additional support received from this Lent Appeal would make a significant impact.

Use of Lent Appeal Funds

Contributions from the Lent Appeal would directly help to:

- Sustain the elderly home-care programme

- Ensure meals for children and continued food bank provision
- Strengthen outreach to isolated and housebound elderly people
- Provide flexibility to respond to urgent and unforeseen needs.

I encourage us all to give generously and prayerfully to this work. Details of how to do that can be found below.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

How you can donate to the Bishop in Europe's Lent Appeal 2026:

Via your Chaplaincy Treasurer to Nick Wraight in the Diocesan Office

By cheque made out to: Diocese in Europe

Diocese in Europe Board of Finance

14, Tufton St

London SW1P 3QZ

(Please add the words "Lent Appeal 2026" to any note you send with the cheque)

By bank transfer:

Account number: 40317039

Sort code: 20-06-13

IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39 Swift

/ BIC: BUKBGB22

On the Diocese in Europe Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope>

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						