

Sermons at All Saints Anglican Church, Luxembourg

Preached by Rev Canon Geoff Read on Sunday 1st March 2026

Bible texts: Romans 12:1, 1 Peter 1:1-2

Reading 1: Romans 12:1 (The Message)

As you came in, I hope you had the opportunity to put a red pin in the place where you spend most of your week

Here's what the maps look like

Where are some of the places and what you are doing there? - *quick interview*

Re-read Romans 12:1 (The Message)

I wonder, have you ever thought of doing this? And if you did, what might happen?

An offering is like a gift, something we give another with love, believing it can be used well

If we start to think about all we do Monday to Saturday in this way, what might happen?

What might happen to the places and the people and the systems and the relationships we are a part of?

And what might happen to us?

Another NT writer, Peter, gives us an answer

Reading 2: 1 Peter 1:1-2

That sounds a bit more complex, but don't worry.

Peter, a Jewish Christian, is using some OT ideas in his answer as he writes to people in small churches back in CI in what is now modern-day Turkey

There is one key word and two key phrase to focus on

And they are all used to describe who Peter is writing to

The word: To the "exiles"

Exiles describes the time when the OT people of God found themselves in Babylon, away from Jerusalem and the Temple where they believed was the only place you could meet God

The good news was, they discovered that God was there in exile just as much as He was in Jerusalem, but in a new way

And Peter is using this image of Exiles to say to people scattered in different places that wherever you are, God is there

Why?

This is the next bit.

The phrases to focus on are: To you who are "chosen and destined by God" and "sanctified/made holy" by the Spirit" (v2)

You are there because God has “chosen and destined you” - these are words of love and purpose

Chosen is not about “you but not you”, “chosen” here is about the depth of love God has for each one - as if I were the only one. We have two daughters three years apart. and when they were small, I would say “you are my favourite six year old”, “you are my favourite three year old”

and “destined” is about God calling people with purpose into jobs and places

And while you are there, in that role and in that place, God does something in you and to you: you are being “sanctified” by the Spirit, a word that simply means being made holy, attractively different, reflecting more and more the truth and love of God, the likeness of Jesus

From the original Greek work for sanctified, holy we get the word saints - those who are being made holy

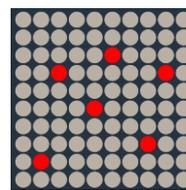
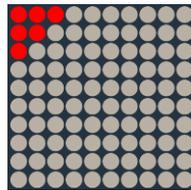
So this is about us, All Saints

Peter ends his greeting to these churches with these words: May grace and peace be yours in abundance

He is saying: all that you need to be exiles and live well for God wherever He has placed you, God will give you - in abundance!

And what was true then, is true now

If we will simply offer our everyday lives to Him in the places where we live them, this is what He will do with them!



Today, in Luxembourg 6% of the population are doing what we are doing - gathering to worship.

We are like these red dots in a sea of grey - All Saints gathered

Another way to think about this 6% is like this - All Saints scattered

Scattered to places and roles and tasks God has destined you to be - had you ever thought that the role you do and the place you do it might be because God has a purpose

... that He wants to do something good there through you, simply by how you do what you are already doing?

Indeed, that He is already there and doing things and is inviting you to join in

As a carer, in a paid role, the waiting of being between jobs, school or studies, in retirement

... being that red dot in a sea of grey - something attractive, reflecting God’s Kingdom, making all the difference in the world

As we awaken to this, we begin to see situations differently, people differently, through God’s eyes

As we awaken to this, we see new ways forward by drawing on the grace and peace that He promises to give in abundance so that we leave traces of that grace where we are and in what we do:

- maybe to gradually transform toxic relationships in a team
- challenge systemic injustice in how others are treated
- make business decisions about much more than just the bottom line
- to offer kindness, forgiveness in a way that starts to change the culture of a workplace or a Bridge group

In the conversations I have had when we gather on Sunday or in Lyfe group people often say how good this perspective is, but how hard it is to maintain

Which is why we need both and

If we are to not “grey out” when scattered, gathering regularly to remind one another of God’s Big Red Dot story is vital, loading up on the abundant grace and peace Peter mentions

All Saints gathered on Sunday equips us to be All Saints scattered through the week on our frontlines, it helps us to be alert to God’s presence there as much as here, and to draw daily on that grace

It’s like breathing - we breath in in order to breathe out. We can only breathe out from what we have breathed in. We need to do both

Space

What has struck you from this sermon

Maybe God is inviting you to see your Mondays to Fridays in a new way, All Saints scattered

Or maybe the importance of All Saints gathered?

Silence

The Prayer on screen

Thank you, Father God,

that we are your church, the body of Christ in the world.

We’re grateful for our Sunday life

and the worship that equips us for the days when we’re apart.

Help us see afresh the possibilities of our everyday lives.

May we know your presence with us

in the pressures and the potential of the week.

Help us to leave traces of grace wherever we are and whatever we do.

Amen.