

joy



# Connect

Weekly News from St Leonard's and St Mary's  
3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy



Dear Friends,

This third week of Advent has the theme of Joy. Our joy however, is not about some form of cheery denial that we erect to keep us away from facing the realities of life around us. No, as Christians our joy comes from knowing that even through the darkest days Jesus is our Lord who has conquered the darkness of sin and death.

Many Psychologists recognise that joy is one of the primary universal emotions amongst humans and possibly many animals. We can however assume that being joyful is a spontaneous emotional reaction caused by some event, the meeting with people who love us or seeing wonderful sights may bring us to a time of Joy. Likewise, hearing amazing news can fill us with joy. All these can be spontaneous and bring the blessing of joy. Nevertheless as Christians we can also deliberately choose to recount the goodness of our Lord and even though we are in difficult places learn to praise God through the darkest of times.

In the Psalms, we find numerous recitation of genuine troubles, hardship, fear and persecution, even the sense that God is absent. These laments, however are usually then followed by verses of rejoicing in the God, to remember the Lord who will not abandon them, who in some way will make things right. The perspective shifts from the here and now to the eternal; the present troubles are now, but in the schemes of eternity, goodness and righteousness will flourish and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

This deliberate turning to rejoicing is not a shying away from the reality of sadness, pain and distress. Instead it is about drawing on a deep sense of joy at being known and loved by God. It links to thankfulness and hope. The medieval mystic Julian of Norwich wrote out of her own experience of suffering about the love and joy to be found in her faith. In God, she tells us in 'Revelations of Divine Love', "All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well." So let us count our blessings and name them one by one and rejoice in what the Lord has done for us and will do for us. with peace and love, Peter

## Welcome

The Lord be with you  
and also with you

## Magnificat

from Luke 1.46b-55

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,\*  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
  - 2 **for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;\***  
**from this day all generations will call me blessed.**
  - 3 The Almighty has done great things for me\*  
and holy is his name.
  - 4 **He has mercy on those who fear him\***  
**in every generation.**
  - 5 He has shown the strength of his arm;\*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
  - 6 **He has cast down the mighty from their thrones\***  
**and has lifted up the lowly.**
  - 7 He has filled the hungry with good things,\*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.
  - 8 **He has come to the help of his servant Israel,\***  
**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**
  - 9 the promise he made to our fathers,\*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.
- Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;\***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*The Second candle of Advent is lit for Joy*

**Hymn**      **JOY TO THE WORLD! the Lord has 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!

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;  
Your sweetest songs employ.  
While fields and streams and hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

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

### **A prayer of confession**

We call on you O Lord God of our salvation to have mercy on us, according to your unfailing love; by your Holy Spirit's power help us to confess our wrongdoing and restore in us the joy of our salvation.

**God our Father,  
we confess to you and to our fellow members in the body of Christ  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.**

**We are truly sorry.**

**Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil,  
for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ  
**Amen**

### **Reading of Scripture Isaiah 35.1-10**

The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;

they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;  
say to those with fearful hearts 'Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come, he will come to save you.'

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the  
deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the  
mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground  
bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and  
reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not  
journey on it, the wicked will not go about on it.  
No lion, nor any ravenous beast will be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,  
and those the Lord has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
    everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
    and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

**Hymn**      **GREAT IS THE LORD and most worthy of praise,**  
The city of our God, the holy place,  
The joy of the whole earth.  
Great is the Lord in whom we have the victory,  
He aids us against the enemy,  
We bow down on our knees.

And Lord, we want to lift Your name on high,  
And Lord, we want to thank You,  
For the works You've done in our lives;  
And Lord, we trust in Your unfailing love,  
For You alone are God eternal,  
Throughout earth and heaven above.

## The Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew 11.2-11

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah and sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'

Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

*Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.*

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## Sermon

## Prayers for Today

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you**

## Hymn

### **O LET THE SON OF GOD ENFOLD YOU**

With His Spirit and His love,  
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.  
O let Him have the things that hold you,  
And His Spirit like a dove  
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus,  
Come and fill Your lambs.  
Jesus, O Jesus,  
Come and fill Your lambs.

O come and sing this song with gladness  
As your hearts are filled with joy,  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.  
O give Him all your tears and sadness,  
Give Him all your years of pain,  
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

**Offering:** Let us present our offerings to the Lord.  
**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 we give you.  
Amen**

## **Eucharistic Prayer II    Anticipation**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,

and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Dawn and evening celebrate your glory  
till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined,  
sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

**Taught by your Spirit,  
we who bear your threefold likeness  
look for the City of Peace  
in whose light we are transfigured  
and the earth transformed.**

As children of your redeeming purpose  
who await the coming of your Son,  
we offer you our praise,  
with angels and archangels  
and the whole company of heaven  
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**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.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father.  
In Jesus you showed us yourself.  
Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one.  
Obedient, even to accepting death,  
he opened the gate of glory  
and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,  
alight with the vision of a feast  
that heralded a kingdom yet to come,  
at supper with his disciples  
he took bread and offered you thanks.  
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:  
"Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup,  
he offered you thanks  
and gave it to them, saying:  
"Drink this, all of you.  
This is my Blood of the new covenant;  
it is poured out for you, and for all,  
that sins may be forgiven.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

**We now obey your Son's command.  
We recall his blessed passion and death,  
his glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.  
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts  
and with them ourselves,  
a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father,  
and send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon this bread and this wine,  
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,  
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,  
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love  
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised  
into the fellowship of Christ's Body  
to live and work to your praise and glory;  
may we grow together in unity and love  
until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage  
in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets,  
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be to you,  
Lord of all ages, world without end.  
**Amen.**

## Breaking of Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.  
**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

## Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us,  
we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Distribution of Communion

*All are welcome to come and receive communion or a blessing*

## Prayer after Communion

**Merciful God, may your love and mercy,  
fill us with unending joy, and prepare us  
for the birthday of our Saviour.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who is Lord for ever and ever.**

## The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you  
and scatter the darkness from before your path;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

## Hymn

### **TELL OUT, MY SOUL, the greatness of the Lord!**

Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of His word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name—the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure:  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and forever more!

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**in the name of Christ Amen**

*do join with us for refreshment and fellowship at the close of the service*



A wee reminder about our  
Churches Christmas Meal  
Wednesday 14th December

6.30 for 7pm Meal

Thank You.

## St Leonard's Organ Fund.

off to a good start — thank you

Our thanks and appreciation to Vicky and Bill Scott who on hearing of our new Organ Fund donated a lovely Dinner set which has now been sold along with some other items of crockery.

You too can help by donating any china tea sets you may not be wanting anymore. All will be gladly accepted, checked and photographed then placed on ebay to raise funds for the Organ Fund. China tea or dinner sets at the moment are a fairly popular item. So please have a rummage and pass them on so that others may use what we no longer need.

With Thanks. Judy Strong

*As well as raising funds by passing China goods onto Judy donations be placed in an envelope marked Organ Fund and left in the offering bowl. Thank You.*



Pet Food Bank  
Tuesday 20th December  
St Mary's 10-12



Please do let friends and neighbours who may be struggling with Pet Food bills know that they are welcome to come along and enjoy the warm space of St Mary's, have a cuppa and collect some free food for their pets.



## Beacon of Hope.

**St Leonard's Monday 10 –12,** come and spend time in the stillness of the church. A time for personal quiet and reflection or if you wish members of the Pastoral Care Team are on hand for a chat. Free refreshments are also available. All Welcome

### **St Mary's Tuesday 12-1pm Warm Space with Soup and Roll**

come and warm up with a cuppa, and soup and bread lunch. The church will be open for anyone wishing to pop in and all are welcome to also enjoy the gift of a free Soup and bread lunch.

**Warm Spaces** offering help and support across Midlothian: As well as the churches being open as above your local library (during opening hours) are also offering Warm Spaces for those in need along with a Cuppa and Soup. Come along, have a cuppa, read a book and enjoy some soup all provided free to those who come.



Working with the local churches the Storehouses work touches many families and with an increase in demand due to the cost of living crisis asks you to consider supporting them with a donation as they prepare to help families with food parcels this year.

Pot noodles or similar easy to make meals

UHT Milk (blue box), Diluting juice

Tubs of hot chocolate — hot water mix

Bags of multi pack crisps

Cans of macaroni cheese, Cans of ravioli

Cans of custard, Cans of rice pudding

Multi pack Kit Kats, and other snacks bars

Selection Boxes or Boxes of Chocolates

*Thank You for your generosity and love*



As an Eco Congregation we are all conscious about the cost of heating and the environmental impacts and desire to reduce our carbon footprint.

Over the last few years there has been an increasing concern about both churches and how we can continue to use them and heat them more effectively. Now with ever increasing energy bills and concern about the need to continue to reduce our carbon footprint we need to begin to seriously look at replacing our old heating systems.

The Heathack organisation is coming alongside Community Organisations like churches and is offering us the opportunity over Four group sessions to better understand our buildings usage, heating system and how to strategically think about the future.

It is hoped that these sessions working in partnership with a Volunteer Engineer will help us better understand the needs and usages of the buildings while gaining a greater knowledge about heating, ventilation, and energy efficiency. Alongside this we will also look at what is practical and possible before making recommendations to the Vestry of each church. In time we hope this will give us the knowledge and capacity to make good decisions about what we can do for the future to enhance the use of our buildings and keep them comfortably warm and usable.

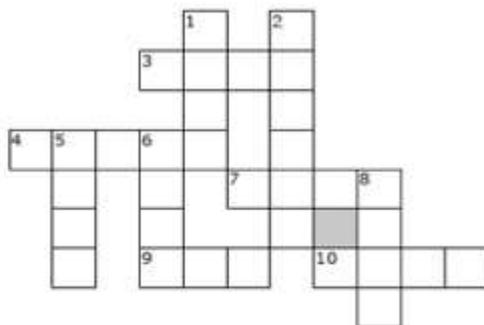
At St Mary's, Val Cameron and Pauline Jones will be looking not only for a few members from the Vestry to be involved but are also looking for members of the congregation to join the Heathack Group and help us begin to take the next step towards understanding and developing a new way forward. If you are interested please do speak to Pauline, Val or Peter.

**More information about the Heathack program can be found here  
[www.heathack.org.uk](http://www.heathack.org.uk)**

## Gospel Puzzles

P	F	R	A	I	S	E	D	X	P	X	G	W	O	B
R	K	P	R	I	S	O	N	T	T	U	P	O	X	O
E	S	J	E	F	N	I	B	S	U	Q	D	O	O	A
A	D	O	F	K	O	I	I	S	B	C	N	E	O	D
C	U	H	N	G	I	R	H	E	Y	U	L	U	A	R
H	W	N	S	R	H	M	E	F	D	R	Z	N	F	D
E	A	M	F	C	C	C	A	D	L	E	Z	E	T	N
D	L	M	K	R	C	E	X	L	M	D	E	W	C	I
V	K	J	A	S	D	F	L	L	C	S	W	S	Q	S
H	B	E	S	B	B	I	E	E	D	H	E	A	R	T
E	H	L	U	I	L	A	M	E	P	H	O	N	N	I
A	Y	Z	I	P	G	W	H	I	P	R	B	P	X	N
R	O	N	C	N	H	H	M	I	M	G	O	Q	A	E
D	Y	D	X	Q	D	I	T	A	H	I	Y	S	M	J
A	O	Y	K	B	B	P	H	F	L	F	E	H	Y	E

BLIND	LAME	HEARD	DEAF	HEAR
GOOD	PREACHED	POOR	CHRIST	DEAD
RAISED	SEE	LEPROSY	PRISON	JOHN
NEWS	CURED	SIGHT	WALK	HEAR



### ACROSS

3. To receive sound using your ears
4. Unable to see
7. Something that is pleasant or enjoyable
9. To be aware of what is around you by using your eyes
10. To move along by putting one foot in front of the other

### DOWN

1. Not living
2. A place where criminals are forced to live as a punishment
5. Unable to walk correctly because of injury to or weakness in the legs or feet
6. Information or reports about recent events
8. Unable to hear



## Christmas Activities

**Celebrating Christmas together as a Church Family**

**Christmas Eve 4pm Messy Christingle at St Mary's**

**8pm Carols and Readings at St Leonard's**

**11.30 Christmas Eve Watchnight at St Mary's**

**Christmas Day 10am Christmas Morning Together at St Mary's**

**New Years Day 10am Morning Worship Together at St Leonard's**

*Sunday 8th January Services return to 10am at both churches*



**St Leonard's 10am**  
[stleonardslasswade.org.uk](http://stleonardslasswade.org.uk)

**St Mary's 10am**  
[stmarysdalkeith.org.uk](http://stmarysdalkeith.org.uk)

Find us on  **@StLandM**

**Wednesday Morning On-line Worship**  
10am on Zoom & Facebook Live

**Church Office & Rectory**

11 Peacock Parkway Bonnyrigg EH193RQ



0131 663 7000 or email  [office.stlandm@gmail.com](mailto:office.stlandm@gmail.com)



Both Churches are registered Charities  
St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151  
St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677

**Do let us know if any need arises at this time  
and we will try and help.**