



GUIDE US ON THE
PATH OF PEACE

~ Luke 1:79

Connect

Weekly News from St Leonard's and St Mary's
2nd Sunday of Advent - Peace



Dear Friends,

During this season of Advent and preparation for Christmas we will no doubt hear many different song or Carols. You may have a favourite or two. During Advent I especially like O come O come Emmanuel but there are two other wonderful songs that we encounter as we journey towards Christmas.

The first of these two songs we encounter at the start of this weeks Sunday worship as we recite the words of the Benedictus or song of Zechariah from Luke 1:68-79 and then next week we will hear Mary's song known as the Magnificat.

Zechariah's song reminds us of God's faithfulness and his purposes and promises. Zechariah is the Father of John the Baptist who comes proclaiming the way of the Lord. Zechariah and Elizabeth were in their golden years when God blessed them with a son, whom they were to name John. The meaning of John's name reminds us that God is good and gracious.

Zechariah initially could not believe God's messenger and so he questioned the idea of his wife in her old age becoming pregnant. In response the Angel struck him dumb and unable to speak he was reduced to writing on a tablet until the day came when he wrote the word's "His name is John!" Then his mouth was unbounded and he was able to speak again and outflowed this song of praise that we know today as the Benedictus, coming from the Latin for "Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel" which we translate as "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel"

Zechariah, praises God because he knows that his son is the promised forerunner to the Messiah, the one who will come and prepare the way of the Lord. A new day is dawning, the old promises are coming true. The dawn from on high is breaking upon us, shining on us who have dwelt in sin and darkness for too long and calls us out from the ways of death and destruction into the ways of peace. John's call to repent is calling us to a fresh new start, and prepares us to walk in the way of peace.

with peace and love, Peter

Welcome

The Lord be with you
and also with you

Benedictus (Luke 1.68-79)

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
for he has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 **He has raised up for us a mighty saviour,*
born of the house of his servant David.**
- 3 Through his holy prophets he promised of old*
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us.
- 4 **He promised to show mercy to our fathers,*
and to remember his holy covenant.**
- 5 This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:*
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 **free to worship him without fear,*
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**
- 7 You my child shall be called the prophet of the Most High,*
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 **to give his people knowledge of salvation*
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God*
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 **to shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,*
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

The Second candle of Advent is lit for Peace

Hymn **LONGING FOR LIGHT, WE WAIT IN DARKNESS.**
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

A prayer of confession

Lord as we hear the cry of John the Baptist, to repent and return to your ways of love, mercy and peace, we confess our sin.

**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 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him –
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord –
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash round his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.
The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand
as a banner for the peoples;
the nations will rally to him,
and his resting-place will be peaceful and glorious .

Hymn

ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY

announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

The Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew 3: 1-12

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea saying,
'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

'A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt
round his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out
to him from Jerusalem and all Judea. Confessing their sins, they were
baptised by him in the River Jordan.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptising, he said to them: 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.'

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 **HERE IS LOVE** vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of life, our ransom
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

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

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

HOW LOVELY ON THE MOUNTAINS are the feet of Him

Who brings good news, good news,
Proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness,
Our God reigns, our God reigns.

*Our God reigns, our God reigns,
Our God reigns, our God reigns.*

You watchmen lift your voices joyfully asone,
Shout for your King, your King.
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Waste places of Jerusalem break forth with joy,
We are redeemed, redeemed.
The Lord has saved and comforted His people:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God,
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.
Before the nations He has bared His holy arm:
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

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



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

Edinburgh



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.

Izzy — An apology

Dear John, I want to apologies for the messy that I made in church. I will try harder to be a good dog as I do not want the church to stop opening its doors to all creatures great and small. I want to thank John too for all that he quietly does behind the scenes. I know he will says he is only doing his job but he has been very helpful to Margaret, helping open up and close the church for the various groups now using the church during the week. On top of that he has to work alongside my Dad and often ends up having to listen to the same wedding talk or jokes far too often. For that and the mess I am sorry.



your four legged friend Izzy



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 12-2pm 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



COVID

No longer a Pandemic but still a concern

Mike Jones as a member of the SIM Mission Agency recently made a presentation to their Health Advisory Committee outlining the current situation regarding COVID and encouraging people to be vaccinated and have the Vaccination boosters. Here is a summary of his main points:

1. **In Scotland the epidemic continues to decline.** ICU admissions and deaths from Covid for the last year are all falling. The amount of virus isolated in sewage has also fallen and is at the lowest level since scientists started monitoring sewage.
2. **The COVID virus continues to evolve.** New variants are more transmissible and only somewhat less dangerous than the original virus. At the moment Omicron BA.5 predominates in the UK, but it is likely being replaced by a Omicron BQ.1
3. **COVID in unvaccinated older people can still cause severe disease and death.** Deaths were 18x more likely in Hong Kong where fewer older people had been vaccinated than in New Zealand which had vaccinated most of the population and total cases were similar.
4. **Vaccines are very, very safe** and far, far less dangerous than repeated significant bouts of infection which may and can damage your health for up to 6 months after each bout.
5. **Newer vaccines provide better protection than the original ones.**
6. **Long Covid can occur after repeated bouts of milder infection** and vaccine reduces the risk of getting Long Covid.
7. **Vaccine boosters give much better immune protection than repeated bouts of COVID infection**

Warm regards, Mike

As a Church

Taking on board Mike's advice we encourage all our members to be vaccinated and to receive their boosters.

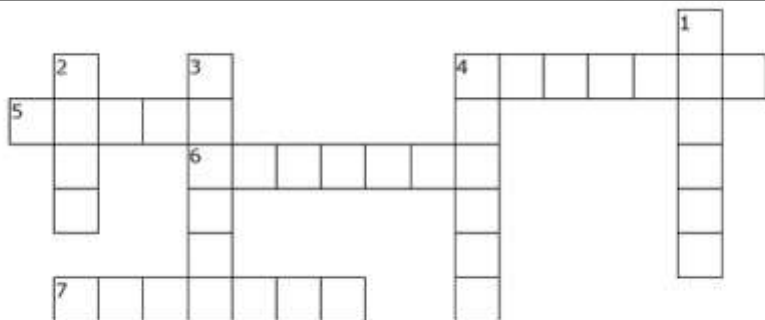
Over the winter months alcohol based hand sanitisers will still available at the entrance way to the churches and for those receiving and distributing communion. Alcohol wipes will also be used on our Chalice during distribution of wine as an added precautionary measure.

Remember if you are not feeling well, then it is better to refrain from attending until you feel better but do let us know, as we can offer to help where we can.

Gospel Puzzles

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

LORD	PREPARE	KINGDOM	JOHN	HAIR
BAPTIZE	STRAIGHT	PATHS	PREACHING	WILD
REPENT	LOCUSTS	HONEY	CAMEL	BELT



ACROSS

4. One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
5. The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
6. To get ready for something that is going to happen
7. What John did to people in the Jordan River

DOWN

1. An area where there is little rain and not many plants
2. The man who preached that Jesus was coming
3. To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
4. To deliver a sermon



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

St Mary's 10am
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



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.