

FILL US ALL WITH

*Love*

# Connect

Weekly News from St Leonard's and St Mary's  
4th Sunday of Advent - Love



Dear Friends,

On our fourth and final week of the advent season we light our candle for the theme of Love, for God is love.

Over the last four weeks we have looked at the Hope of Advent as we heard again the promises of old and how this hope of salvation came true in the birth, life and death of Jesus, our Lord.

We then noted in the second week the Peace of Advent, that in the gift of the promised messiah we can come to a place of being at peace with God and each other through repenting of our sins and turning back to God. On the third week we lit the candle for Joy. A time of rejoicing in God's marvellous plans as we remembered Mary's song the Magnificat as she proclaimed the greatness of God and was filled with joy that He is the God who keeps his promises. In this fourth week of Advent we remind ourselves of the fundamental truth at the heart of our faith, that God is love. It is out of love for us that God's salvation plan is born. In love, our Emmanuel comes to live among us, to be one with us, to share in our lives, the joys and the sorrows, that we might in the mystery of faith share in the life of Christ. Saint Paul when writing about God's great love then poses the question If God is for us who can be against us? He then goes on to declare in Romans 8

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39)

God is for us and God is with us, and God is working his purposes out as we continue to give thanks for the birth of Christ and await his return, to take us home.

## Welcome

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you**

God is love  
**and we are his children**

let us love one another,  
**for love comes from God**

This is how God showed his love among us:  
**he sent his one and only Son into the world  
that we might live through him.**

This is love: not that we loved God,  
**but that he loved us and sent his promised Son,  
our Emmanuel, as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

*The fourth candle for love is lit*

**Hymn**      **O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL,**  
and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel,  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

### **A prayer of confession**

For God so loved the world that he gave us the gift of His Son, so that whoever repents and believes in him will be forgiven. So let us confess our sins in penitence and with faith.

**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**

### **Collect**

Heavenly Father, who chose Mary and Joseph, to be the mother and father of our Lord and Saviour: fill us with your grace, that we in all things may know you are our loving saving Emmanuel through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Reading of Scripture Isaiah 7.11-16**

'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?'

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

**Hymn      LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS,**

Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus:  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

**The Gospel Reading**

Hear the Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew 1.18-25  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about:

His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel', which means 'God with us'.

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until after she gave birth to a son. And they gave him the name Jesus.

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

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## Sermon

## Prayers for Today

## The Peace

May mercy, peace and love be yours  
**And also with you**

*let us share a sign of love and peace*

**Hymn      HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED,**  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever;  
that name to us is 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*

## **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

### **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM,**

How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in;  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

## Dismissal

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



## St Leonard's Organ Fund.

We raised over a £100 for the organ fund with the raffle of a beautiful painting by Judy's sister Sylvia. The raffle was won by Alison Bruce and our thanks go to Sylvia for donating one of her paintings to the Organ Fund

With the raffle and sale of various goods over the last month or so we now have enough donations to cover the annual tuning cost for the organ to keep her in good tune. We are still looking for an Organist to come and play for us at least once month.

You can still help with the ongoing fundraising for the organ 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

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

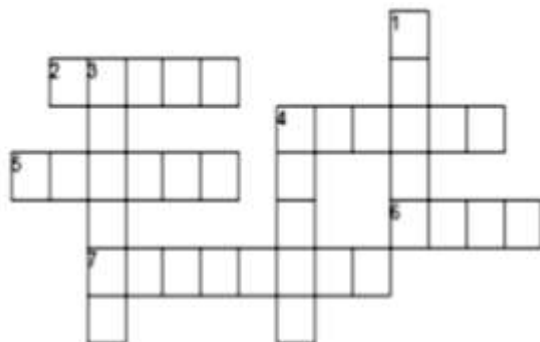
ANGEL  
NAME  
MARY

IMMANUEL  
SON  
JESUS

AFRAID  
CHRIST  
JOSEPH

DREAM  
CHILD  
VIRGIN

MARRY  
BIRTH  
HUSBAND



### ACROSS

2. To become husband and wife
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. A pure, unmarried girl or woman
6. The mother of Jesus
7. A name that means "God is with us"

### DOWN

1. Images and emotions that occur while you are sleeping
3. To be filled with fear
4. The Son of God



## 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.