



# Connect News

Sunday 19th February 2023

The Scottish Episcopal Churches of

St Leonard's Lasswade and St Mary's Dalkeith



## Seeing things differently

Round the corner from Tyndrum the road heads off towards the Bridge of Orchy alongside the West Highland Way and the railway line as it winds its way towards the Kinglass Viaduct.

Here on the hillside if you are up for a scramble up a hill over a bog you will come to a small Cairn dedicated in memory of my Uncle John and my Grandparents John and Elizabeth Harris. On one occasion visiting the site we started our climb in the mist and rain of a dreich day and felt very downhearted as to why we didn't wait for a dryer day. However, as we climbed the cloud began to break and the sun began to shine totally changing our perception and view of the day and why we were there. Out of the gloom and darkness of grief and remembrance of loved ones no longer with us the sun shone in and reminded us of happier times. Picnics on the hill or playing in the stream of cold fresh water running down the mountain.

How we view someone or something can often change in a moment. Our focus this week in worship is a reminder of Jesus Transfiguration. A revelation, a revealing of who Jesus truly is took place on a mountain side while Peter, James and John looked on in wonder and amazement. I wonder what emotions and thoughts must have been going through their minds as their Rabbi, teacher and friend was transfigured before them. They glimpse a view of the reality of Jesus beyond our natural world. They see Jesus differently and in seeing him in a different way I wonder how that then changed them? For St Peter as we read in our readings today it is clear that he continued to be reminded of this occasion and reflect upon it as he declares firmly that he was an eye-witness to the event.

The transfiguration is not just hearsay, or folk lore but a real and actual event witnessed by the inner circle of disciples underlining to us the great mystery of faith that Christ lived amongst us and although fully man was also fully God. God from God, light from light. How we see Jesus is important. If he is just a story of old what difference does it make? However, if he is as St Peter records the beloved Son of God, filled with majesty, glory and power then how should we respond to his call on our lives?

*yours with love Peter*

## Welcome

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

Lord help us to see your glory  
**to know you in a new and living way**

God is here, God is present,  
**let us worship him in this place. Amen.**

**Hymn**     **JESUS IS KING and I will extol Him,**  
Give Him the glory, and honour His name.  
He reigns on high, enthroned in the heavens,  
Word of the Father, exalted for us.

We have a hope that is steadfast and certain,  
Gone through the curtain and touching the throne.  
We have a Priest who is there interceding,  
Pouring His grace on our lives day by day.

We come to Him, our Priest and Apostle,  
Clothed in His glory and bearing His name,  
Laying our lives with gladness before Him;  
Filled with His Spirit we worship the King.

O Holy One, our hearts do adore You;  
Thrilled with Your goodness we give You our praise.  
Angels in light with worship surround Him,  
Jesus, our Saviour, forever the same.

## Prayer of Confession

As we come into the presence of God  
whose light of transforming love  
chases away the darkness  
let us confess our sins  
knowing that God is loving and merciful.

**Father we acknowledge  
that we have not loved  
as you would have us love.  
We turn to you again  
and ask for your mercy,  
forgive us and renew us  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen**

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 our Lord. Amen.

## **Gloria**

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis deo  
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia

## **Collect**

**Almighty God,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross,  
give us faith to perceive his glory,  
that being strengthened by his grace  
we may be changed into his likeness,  
from glory to glory;  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen**

## Reading

2 Peter 1.16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty.

He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'

We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

## Hymn

### **I STAND AMAZED IN THE PRESENCE**

Of Jesus the Nazarene,  
And wonder how He could love me,  
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

How marvellous! How wonderful!  
And my song shall ever be:  
How marvellous! How wonderful!  
Is my Saviour's love for me!

For me it was in the garden He prayed,  
'Not My will, but Thine':  
He had no tears for His own griefs,  
But sweat drops of blood for mine.

In pity angels beheld Him,  
And came from the world of light  
To comfort Him in the sorrows  
He bore for my soul that night.

He took my sins and my sorrows,  
He made them His very own;  
He bore the burden of Calvary,  
And suffered and died alone.

How marvellous! How wonderful!  
And my song shall ever be:  
How marvellous! How wonderful!  
Is my Saviour's love for me!

When with the ransomed in glory  
His face I at last shall see,  
'Twill be my joy through the ages  
To sing of His love for me.

### **Gospel Reading** Matthew 17.1-9

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

Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!'

When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. 'Get up,' he said. 'Don't be afraid.' When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, 'Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

*Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.*  
**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## Transfiguration - Seeing Jesus differently

### Take a moment to reflect and ponder

Today as we consider the Transfiguration we encounter a small group of disciples having an amazing mountain top experience as they begin to see and view Jesus in a new light or way. This reveals to them that Jesus is so much more than just a man but is indeed the Son of God, and God is pleased with him.

So rather than having a sermon today we offer you the opportunity to view and consider Jesus in a new way through looking at a variety of artist interpretations of Christ and consider and discuss the following:

### Has anything amazing ever happened you?

Maybe a mountain top experience, or catching a sunrise or sunset, or finding a place where the stars seemed so close and bright. Maybe you have been fortunate enough to see the Northern Lights or even the glimpse of a rainbow that reminded you that you are loved.

*Take time to share this memory with a neighbour in the pew.*

### Jesus in Art is depicted in many different ways:

#### Using the images on the following pages consider:

Which picture reflects your childhood image of Christ? Why?

Has your image and understanding of Jesus changed since you were a child? How?

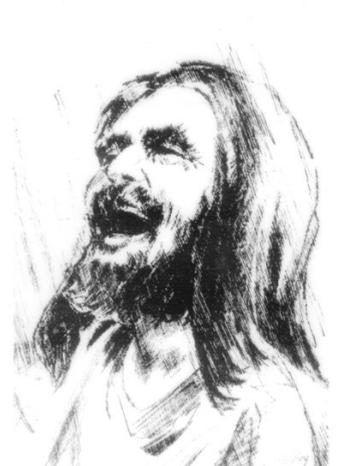
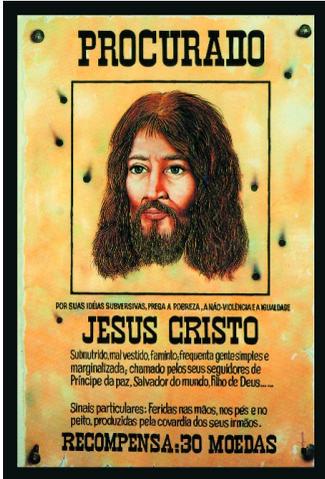
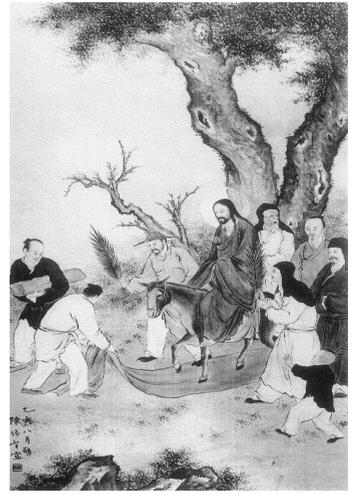
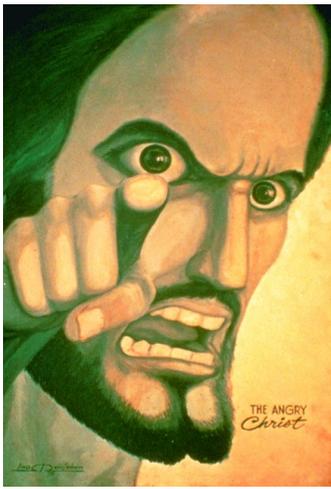
Which picture intrigues you and why?

We all have differing views of Jesus, in society, in our community, how do you think Jesus is pictured?

What picture (if any) might represent this view point?

How might people come to view Jesus in a new way in our community?





## Prayers of Intercessions

### The Peace

In the presence of the risen Lord, we meet in Christ name  
**Let us share his peace**

### Hymn

**LORD, I COME TO YOU,**

Let my heart be changed, renewed,

Flowing from the grace

That I found in You.

And Lord, I've come to know

The weaknesses I see in me

Will be stripped away

By the power of Your love.

Hold me close, Let Your love surround me.

Bring me near, draw me to Your side.

And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle,

And I will soar with You,

Your Spirit leads me on in the power of Your love.

Lord, unveil my eyes,

Let me see You face to face,

The knowledge of Your love

As You live in me.

Lord, renew my mind

As Your will unfolds in my life,

In living every day

By the power of Your love.

### Offering

Generous God, our creator and redeemer,  
you have given to us all that we have  
and here at your table we present to you  
the offerings of our love with grateful hearts.

**For all things come from you  
and of your own we give to you.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right to praise you, Father,

Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself.

**When we turned away you did not reject us,**

**but came to meet us in your Son.**

**You embraced us as your children**

**and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

**Your son opened his arms of love**

**upon the cross and made for all**

**the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

Therefore with your whole Church scattered throughout the world

we offer you this sacrifice of praise

and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**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**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends

he took bread, and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to them,

saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

**Father,**

**we do this in remembrance of him:**

**his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father,  
we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we remember the transfiguration of our Lord  
and proclaim our Lord's death and rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit upon us;  
to continue the work of your transforming love  
changing us from glory into glory;  
and be on this bread and this wine  
that they may be to us  
the body and blood of Christ  
our Saviour and Lord

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.  
Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us now pray as our Lord taught us how to 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 for ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **Distribution of Communion**

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

## **Prayer after Communion**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious  
**and his mercy endures for ever**

**Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
May we who are partakers of his table reflect his life in our lives,  
by our words and deeds may Christ be known,  
that all the world may know his power to change and save.  
We ask this in his name.  
Amen.**

## ***The Blessing***

May Christ our king make you faithful and strong to do his will,  
that you may be transformed and reign with him in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy  
Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen**

## **HYMN**

**LOVE DIVINE, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.**

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee!  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place;  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

## The Dismissal

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

*please do join us for refreshments  
served at the close of the service*

# LENT

A SEASON OF REFLECTION,  
RENEWAL, AND PREPARATION

Mark the beginning of Lent by joining us for our

## Ash Wednesday Services

on Wednesday 22nd February

Morning Service 10am St Leonard's

Evening Service 7.30pm St Mary's

## LENT STUDY 2023

Journey with us through Lent as we explore the Rhythm of Life over five weeks leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Our Homegroups on Monday and Tuesday evening invite you to come and join in the journey with them. Contact the Church Office for more information.



## What's God Like?

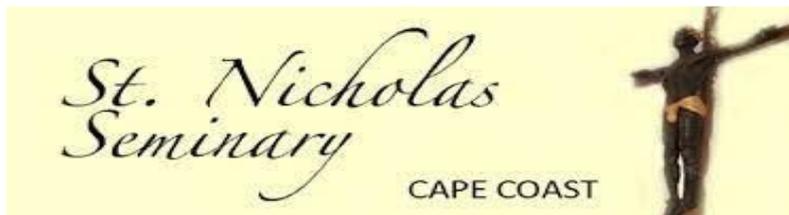
**Saturday 25th February**

Join us for Messy Church  
Last Saturday of the Month 4-6pm  
crafts, story, songs and a meal.



Throughout this year we are exploring the theme "What's God Like?" This month we consider that God is Love and like a Good Shepherd who loves his sheep, he loves and cares for us.

# Bishop's Lent Appeal 2023



St Nicholas Seminary has been training clergy since 1975. It is the only active seminary in the Province of West Africa (which includes Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, the Gambia, and Cameroon). Alongside our own ordinands, we have also trained ministers and lay pastors for the Methodist and Pentecostal Churches in Ghana and Ivory Coast.

To assist them to continue this work they are seeking to install a water filtration plant at the College to give clean water not only to the seminary but also to other community buildings like the schools, university and the general public. Your donations this year will help them realise this dream and ambition.

Pick up a info leaflet at the welcome desk to find out more.



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

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

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

Our Rector's Day off is usually a Monday

Both Churches are registered Charities

St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151

St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677