

# Connect

*Your Weekly News from St Leonard's & St Mary's*

Sunday 3rd December

First Sunday of Advent

hope

"Therefore,  
the one  
who is to be born  
will be holy.  
He will be called  
God's Son."

Luke 1:35b



## Welcome

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the promised child and returning Lord

**With thanks and praise we gather to worship him**

Today is the First Sunday of Advent,  
in which we recall the eternal hope that we have in the promise of the  
Good News of Jesus Christ our Lord.

From the beginning of our sacred story the people of God have waited.  
waited with hope, hope in the promises of God.

*(The First Candle is lit)*

**As we begin the Advent journey,  
may Christ our living hope,  
renew us in our walk of faith,  
as we seek to know him as our Emmanuel.**

**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.

## Confession & Absolution

God is love and we are his children. There is no room for fear in love.  
We love because he loved us first.  
Therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence*

**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 our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Collect

**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

## Reading Genesis 3 1– 15 The Fall

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it along with her husband, who was with her.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And the Lord said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

**Hymn**

**HOLY WORDS LONG PRESERVED**

for our walk in this world,  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.  
Words of Life, words of Hope  
Give us strength, help us cope  
In this world, where e'er we roam  
Ancient words will guide us Home.

Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our Faith  
Handed down to this age.  
Came to us through sacrifice  
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.  
Holy words long preserved  
for our walk in this world,  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.

**The Gospel      Matthew 24.36-44**

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

"But about that final day or hour no one knows,  
not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.

That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

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

## An Advent Reflection

*During this years Advent in place of a sermon we will take time to reflect on a short meditation exploring the theme of each week in Advent. This will be followed by some time to sit quietly or consider the questions below. The questions are for personal reflection and no answers will be ask for.*

### Adam and Eve – A Glimmer of Hope

**Advent is known as a time of preparation and waiting.**

What are you waiting for? What are you longing for?

What preparations do these things require?

In a short moment of prayer offer these things to the Lord.

*Lord you know me and all that I long for and wait for. Help me to be patient in my waiting and help me where I can to be prepared. Amen*

**Advent as well as preparing for Christmas,  
we are future orientated waiting the return of the King.**

One day all of heaven and earth will stand before the King,  
Today though through faith we meet with the King who is with us.  
As we meet the King of Kings what regrets do you come before God with?

Take time to confess these before the Lord.

*Lord as I wait on your coming again this Advent help me to confess my wrongdoings. Help me to know your forgiveness and mercy, that when you come again in glory, I may be ready through loving and serving you,  
through loving and serving those around me. Amen*

**Advent is a time of Hope. Hope in the darkness and harshness of life.**

Throughout the Old Testament we are given glimpses of this golden thread of Hope. Even as the paradise of Eden was lost there was a glimmer of Hope. How can you help kindle the glimmer and fire of hope in yourself and in the life of others?

Ask the Lord to renew the flame of love and hope within you.

*Come Holy Spirit and kindle in us the fire of your love.*

*Come and guide us to know your promises afresh*

*And to place our hope and trust in Christ, our living hope. Amen*

## Prayers of Intercession

### The Peace

In hope we meet in the name of Jesus,  
the Prince of Peace.

Let us share in his peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

### Hymn      **HARK, THE GLAD SOUND! THE SAVIOUR COMES,**

the Saviour promised long!

Let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before Him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the riches of His grace,  
to enrich the humbled poor.

Our glad Hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring,  
with Thy beloved 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.

## 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 the Bread**

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

### **Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we 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  
Do not bring to the time of trial  
but deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Distribution of Communion**

All are invite to come and receive the bread and wine of communion  
or a blessing at this time.

### **Thanksgiving and sending out**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious.  
**And his mercy endures for ever.**

**God for whom we wait, keep us ever watchful,  
that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man.  
We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord.**

### **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**      **YE SERVANTS OF GOD,** Your Master proclaim,  
And publish abroad His wonderful name;  
The name all-victorious of Jesus extol;  
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, Almighty to save;  
And still He is nigh, His presence we have;  
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,  
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son;  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right,  
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,  
All honour and blessing, with angels above,  
And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.

### **Dismissal**

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

# Christmas Celebrations

## Carols at the Crib

6pm Sunday 17th Dec at St Leonard's

## Christmas Eve

Sunday Morning 10am Joint Service at St Leonard's

Christingle Family Service 4pm at St Mary's

Watchnight Service 11.30pm at St Mary's

## Christmas Day

10am at St Leonard's

## New Years Eve Sunday 31st Dec

10am St Mary's



**St Leonard's 10am**

[stleonardsllasswade.org.uk](http://stleonardsllasswade.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 Meeting ID: 656 157 5203

### 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

