

# Connect

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

Sunday 17th December

Third Sunday of Advent



joy

## Welcome

On this third Sunday of Advent,  
we meet in the name of Jesus Christ  
The promised child,  
the Lord the prince of peace,  
the Joy of our salvation

**We meet to magnify the Lord and praise his name forever**

Today we remember Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus  
and the Joy of the Lord that surrounded her  
as she began to realise that the promises of her forefathers  
were to come true through the life of the child that she bore.

Let us with Mary proclaim the greatness of the Lord  
as we celebrate with joy the goodness of God.

*(The Advent candles for Hope, Peace and Joy are lit)*

**As we continue the Advent journey, may Christ our living hope,  
our prince of peace, the joy of our salvation  
renew us in our walk of faith, as we seek to meet him,  
and know him as our Immanuel.**

**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.

## **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**

**Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,  
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour:  
fill us now with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your  
will for us and with Mary rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen**

## Reading: Isaiah 12 1-6

'I will praise you, Lord.

Although you were angry with me,  
your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.

The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my shield  
he has become my salvation.' With joy I will draw water from the wells  
of salvation.

'Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things;  
let this be known to all the world.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,  
for great is the Lord and most worthy of praise

## 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!

## The Gospel      Luke 1 46-55

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

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
**for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;**  
**from this day all generations will call me blessed.**

The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.  
**He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.**

He has shown the strength of his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones**  
**and has lifted up the lowly.**

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
**He has come to the help of his servant Israel,**  
**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**  
**the promise he made to our fathers,**  
**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

*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 asked for.*

## Advent 3

### "A Mothers wonder and joy!"

*We sit and listen to the reflection based on Mary's song of Joy*

#### Some thoughts and questions to ponder?

Christmas can be a time of mixed emotions. Joy and sadness can sit side by side as we gather with family and friends and remember loved ones who are no longer with us around our festive table.

Joy, past, present and future can be shared. As we look back we can give thanks for past blessing but we are not to remain in the past, we are to be future focussed looking forward to the life that is to come.

Mary's joy as she looked to the past was to see the promises of old, promises made thousands of years before her, unfulfilled promises being fulfilled through her faithfulness and trust in the Lord.

She also looked forward to all that was to come and pondered on all that was said about her child, Jesus the Emmanuel, Jesus the one who would save his people. What did this all mean?

Filled with a mix of emotions she meets with Elizabeth her cousin and as they come close to each other John in Elizabeth's womb moves joyfully as he sense the Christ child conceived within Mary. Together the pregnant mothers rejoice and proclaimed the joy of the Lord as the promises of God were birthed through them.

What brings you Joy?

What joys and individuals of the past will you remember this Season?

What joy will you look out for as we come to celebrate the birth of Christ in this present year?

What Joy are you longing for, waiting for, as we look into the future and all that is to come?

## Prayers of Intercession

### The Peace

Jesus said: My peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give you.

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**      **AS THE DEER pants for the water,**  
So my soul longs after You.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You.

You alone are my strength, my shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You.

I want You more than gold or silver,  
Only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
And the apple of my eye.

You're my Friend and You are my Brother,  
Even though You are a King.  
I love You more than any other,  
So much more than anything.

### 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.**

**Merciful God, fill us with unending joy,  
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour  
and look forward to his glorious return.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who is Lord for ever and ever.**

**Amen**

## 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 **AS WITH GLADNESS men of old**

did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious God, may we  
evermore be led by Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee whom heaven and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
ever seek Thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at Thy cradle rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

In the heavenly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
Thou its sun, which goes not down.  
There forever may we sing  
Hallelujahs to our King.

## 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**  
[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 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

