

# Connect

St Leonard's and St Mary's  
Sunday 15th December 2024

## Advent Joy



## Welcome

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## The Third Candle - The Candle for Joy

Let us celebrate this third week of Advent rejoicing with great Joy that our God is a faithful God who has kept his promises of old.

**Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth!**

**Break out in singing, O mountains!**

**For the Lord has comforted His people**

**Amen, Come Lord Jesus**

*(The Advent candles are lit)*

We pray for the Joy of our salvation to be renewed in our hearts that Christ's light of Hope, Peace, Joy and love may dispel the darkness from our hearts and minds as we await his return

**Amen, Come Lord Jesus**

## **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!

## Confession and Absolution

God is love and we are his children. There is no room for fear in love.  
We love because he loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and 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 our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Collect

**God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate with joy  
the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder us from  
following your ways, that when Christ comes in his glory he may find  
us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

## A Reading from Isaiah 49 v8-13

This is what the Lord says: 'In the time of my favour I will answer you, and  
in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to  
be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its  
desolate inheritances, to say to the captives, "Come out," and to those in  
darkness, "Be free!"

They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill.  
They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat  
down on them. I will have compassion on them and guide them and lead  
them beside springs of water. I will turn all my mountains into roads, and  
my highways will be raised up.

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth, burst into song, you  
mountains! For the Lord comforts his people

**Hymn I WILL ENTER HIS GATES**

with thanksgiving in my heart,  
I will enter His courts with praise;  
I will say this is the day  
that the Lord has made, I will rejoice  
for He has made me glad.

He has made me glad,  
He has made me glad, I will rejoice  
for He has made me glad.

He has made me glad,  
He has made me glad, I will rejoice  
for He has made me glad.

**Gospel Luke 1 v46-55 the Magnificat**

*Here the Gospel of our Lord according to 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 servants  
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.**

# ADVENT 3 JOY

I hope we all know what it feels like to be joyful. It is an experience of being happy, cheerful, or more importantly having a positive outlook on life.

A spiritual joy is not about doing things or having things that make you happy for a short time. Our emotions can rise and fall throughout the day and cannot fully be trusted. A spiritual joy however, is about having an understanding and acceptance of what God has done for us, is doing for us and will do for us. In fact it was often in times of trouble and darkness when God's people were feeling lost and concerned that God's prophets encouraged the people to rejoice in the Lord, to trust in his promises and know the joy of His salvation. So although we may face uncertain days we can face the future knowing that God is faithful. The promised Messiah arrived in the babe of Bethlehem and just as this promise was fulfilled so to are the promises that in our Father's house there is a place for us and one day Christ will return. We can take joy in this mystery of faith that Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

## Intercessions

**Peace** Rejoice in the Lord always,  
and again I say rejoice  
**Let us share his joy and peace.**

**Hymn** **FILL YOUR HEARTS WITH JOY and gladness,**  
Sing and praise your God and mine!  
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,  
Might and majesty divine!  
He who framed the starry heavens  
Knows and names them as they shine.  
Fill your hearts with joy and gladness  
Sing and praise your God and mine!

Praise the Lord, His people, praise Him!  
Wounded souls His comfort know;  
Those who fear Him find His mercies,  
Peace for pain and joy for woe;  
Humble hearts are highly exalted,  
Human pride and power laid low.  
Praise the Lord, His people, praise Him!  
Wounded souls His comfort know;

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
Peace and plenty crown your days;  
Love His laws, declare His judgements,  
Walk in all His words and ways;  
He the Lord and we His children –  
Praise the Lord, all people, praise!  
Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
Peace and plenty crown your days;

## Offering

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

**Lord of Lords, yours 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.**

## **The Sharing of the Bread and the Wine**

The living bread is broken for the peace of all creation  
**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 us 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**

*Everyone is invited and welcome to come and receive*



## THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

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

**Merciful God, your love and redemption free us from our sins, 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.**

### 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 **YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY**

And be led forth with peace,  
And the mountains and the hills  
Shall break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy,  
And the trees of the field  
Shall clap, shall clap their hands.  
And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
And you'll go out with joy.

### Dismissal

Go in peace, go in hope, go in love to serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Please do join with us for fellowship and refreshments  
at the close of the service.*



# Wednesday Morning Worship

resumes in the new year  
on Wednesday 15th January  
10am at the Rectory



## Advent Word Study

We hope and pray that you have gained something from our Advent Word Study as we looked at the biblical and spiritual meaning behind the words of

HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE

Sadly at times the video presentations have been delivered at a pace resulting in us missing some of the key points that were being made.

So if you would like to watch the videos again then please visit

**[bibleproject.com](http://bibleproject.com)**

and select "Explore the Advent Series"



# Christmas Celebrations

## Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December

### Christingle Family Service

4pm at St Mary's

### Watchnight Services

11.pm at St Leonard's and at St Mary's

## Christmas Day

Christmas Morning worship  
10am at St Mary's joint service

**Sunday 29th Dec**  
**10am at St Leonard's**  
a joint Celebration for both church families

**Sunday 5th Jan**  
**10am at St Mary's**  
a joint Celebration for both church families



# Christmas Lunch

Just a wee reminder

for those who have booked in for our Christmas Lunch  
we meet today from 12.30pm with lunch served from 1pm  
at Kings Acre Golf Club off the Lasswade Road  
We look forward to seeing you there.



**St Leonard's 10am**  
stleonardslasswade.org.uk

**St Mary's 10am**  
stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

Find us on  @StLandM

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Both Churches are registered Charities  
St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151  
St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677



Donations  
for  
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and ministry of the church please scan our  
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