

# Connect

St Leonard's and St Mary's  
Sunday 8th December 2024

*Advent Peace*



## Welcome

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

## The Second Candle - The Candle of Peace

Let us celebrate this second week of Advent seeking the ways of peace that bring reconciliation and wholeness to life through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour

**Amen, Come Lord Jesus**

*(The Advent candles are lit)*

We pray for peace in our world  
and peace 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 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 succour 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; His changeless name of Love.

## 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

**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, 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.**

## A Reading from Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
**and the government will be on his shoulders.**

And he will be called  
**Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.  
**He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it with peace, justice and righteousness.**

**Hymn HOW LOVELY ON THE MOUNTAINS are the feet of Him**

Who brings good news, good news,  
Proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness,  
Our God reigns, our God reigns.

Our God reigns, our God reigns,  
Our God reigns, our God reigns.

You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one,  
Shout for your King, your King.  
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:  
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Waste places of Jerusalem break forth with joy,  
We are redeemed, redeemed.  
The Lord has saved and comforted His people:  
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Ends of the earth, see the salvation of your God,  
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.  
Before the nations He has bared His holy arm:  
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

**Gospel Luke 2:8-14**

*Here the Gospel of our Lord according to Luke:*

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

# ADVENT 2 PEACE / SHALOM

The Hebrew word for Peace is Shalom which when translated into the Greek used in the new testament becomes the word "Eirene". The word peace can refer to the absence of conflict, but biblically it also points to the presence of something better than just a cessation of conflict. The most basic meaning of shalom is about being made complete or whole.

Augustine of Hippo in his writings about Jesus declared "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." He was acknowledging that within us there is a restlessness, a hole that needs to be filled. We often try and fill this hole with many different things. However, it is a God shaped hole! Until we come to trust in God and the gift of Christ his Son, the prince of peace we, then we will not be made whole and therefore will be restless until we find our rest in Jesus. For Jesus ultimately is our peace.

## Intercessions

**Peace** We meet in the name of Jesus, the prince of peace  
**Let us share his peace.**

**Hymn** **HERE IS LOVE vast as the ocean, loving kindness as the flood,**  
When the Prince of life, our ransom, shed for us His precious blood.  
Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise?  
He can never be forgotten throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion fountains opened deep and wide;  
Through the floodgates of God's mercy  
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers, poured incessant from above,  
And heaven's peace and perfect justice Kissed a guilty world in love.

Here is love for all the ages risen Lamb of Heaven He stands.  
Calling home His Father's children, holding forth his wounded hands.  
We are called to feast forever at the table of our Lord  
and work for peace and restoration until all has been restored.

## 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.**

**God for whom we wait, in the tender compassion of your love,  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
and guide our feet into the way of peace,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord 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** **GOD IS WORKING HIS PURPOSE OUT, as year succeeds to year;**  
God is working His purpose out, and the time is drawing near;  
Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,  
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.

From utmost East to utmost West, wherever souls have trod,  
by the mouth of many messengers goes forth the voice of God;  
Give ear to Me, ye continents, Ye isles, give ear to Me,  
That the earth may be filled with the glory of God,  
As the waters cover the sea.

What can we do to help God's work to prosper and increase  
The brotherhood of all mankind the reign of the prince of peace?  
What can we do to hasten the time, the time that shall surely be  
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth, unless God blesses the deed;  
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide till God gives life to the seed;  
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,  
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.

## **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.*



Thank you so much for your ongoing support of Storehouse. We continue to weekly send out parcels of support to a number of families and individuals in the local area. Although it is lovely to receive gifts of many different types of food many of our families struggle with basic cooking skills. Therefore, we encourage gifts of simple tinned goods or easy to cook packages along with biscuits or snacks.

If anyone would like to donate some items that we are always on the look out for ...

Tin spaghetti , Baked Beans

Hot dogs, Fray Bentos style pies, Macaroni, Pasta sauces

Tin fruit , Custard, Rice pudding

Biscuits plain or chocolate, Crisps or other snacks

Coffee, Tea, Hot chocolate (add water variety)

As we come to Christmas we also welcome donations of Selection Boxes. You can also make a financial donation to the work of Storehouse. If you wish to contribute please place your donation in an envelope marked Storehouse in your church collection plate or speak to Peter for details.

Thank You.

Please note the last day for Christmas Food Donations for Storehouse is Sunday 15th at church or goods can be dropped off at the Full Gospel Church in Dalkeith on Wednesday 18th Dec at 10am.



## Wednesday Morning Worship 10am

We meet at the Rectory 11 Peacock Parkway, Bonnyrigg for a time of worship in song, reflection and communion

We endeavour to live stream to our Church Facebook Page , so do feel free to join us online around 10am on a Wednesday



# 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



# Thank You

A **BIG THANK** you to everyone who helped with getting our churches ready to celebrate Christmas.

A special mention also to Santa and his elves who worked hard preparing and running our Christmas Fair.

Just a wee reminder for Next Sunday 15th December  
our Christmas Meal is at Kings Acre Golf Club  
we meet from 12.30pm with lunch served from 1pm  
Fiona and Peter look forward to seeing you there.



**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

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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  
St Leonard's

## Do you have a Smart Phone?

To make an online donation to the ongoing work and ministry of the church please scan our QRcode and tap the link to our SumUp page to make a donation - Thank You



Donations  
for  
St Mary's