

# Connect

St Leonard's and St Mary's  
Sunday 22nd December 2024



*Advent Love*

## Welcome

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

## The Fourth Candle - The Candle for Love

We celebrate this fourth week of Advent with love.  
Jesus said the greatest commandment is this  
"Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart and with all your soul  
and with all your mind.'  
And the second is like it:  
'Love your neighbour as yourself."  
**Amen, Come Lord Jesus**

*(The Advent candles are lit)*

May God who first loved us encourage us to be people of love until the  
earth is filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.  
**Amen, Come Lord Jesus**

## **HYMN GOD IS LOVE, LET HEAV'N ADORE HIM;**

God is Love, let earth rejoice;  
Let creation sing before him  
And exalt him with one voice.  
He who laid the earth's foundation,  
He who spread the heav'ns above,  
He who breathes through all creation:  
He is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love; and love enfolds us,  
All the world in one embrace:  
With unfailing grasp He hold us,  
Ev'ry child of ev'ry race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
Under sorrow's iron rod,  
all the sorrow, all the aching  
wings within the heart of God

God is Love; and though with blindness  
Sin afflicts the souls of men  
God's eternal loving kindness  
holds and guides them even then.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
O'er us final triumph gain;  
God is Love, so Love for ever  
O'er the universe must reign.

## **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**

**Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her 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.**

## A Reading from Micah 5 v2-5a

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace

## Hymn **LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS,**

Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus:  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

## Gospel **Luke1 v26-38**

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

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## **ADVENT 4 - Love / Agape**

Love it is said makes the world go round! We hear the word love so often used that its familiarity can breed contempt and we become numb to its deeper more profound meaning and purpose in our lives.

It is out of love that you and I and all creation came into existence. It is out of love that you and I and all creation still exist. In love the promise was given that a Messiah would come, a girl would bear a child whom one day would become the saviour of the world through his sacrificial love for each one of us.

Love in a biblical sense is more than just a feeling it is a verb, a doing, active word filled with good actions seeking the best in and for each other. It is in this active love that we are to love God, to seek God and commit to his ways which includes loving ourselves and loving our neighbours. Not just at Christmas time but throughout all the seasons as the world goes round.

## Intercessions

**Peace** Let there be love shared among us, let there be love  
**Let us share his peace and love.**

**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.

## 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.**

**Faithful God, we have received the promise of your salvation.  
May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus 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    AMAZING GRACE HOW SWEET THE SOUND**

That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love  
Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

**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.*



*May the God of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love  
be with you and your family  
this Christmastide*



**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

**Church Office & Rectory**

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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  
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Donations  
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# 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