

Blessed is the one ...  
whose delight is in  
the Lord,  
and who meditates on his law  
day and night.  
That person is like a tree  
planted by streams of water.

Psalm 1

# Connect News

Sunday 12th February 2023

The Scottish Episcopal Churches of

St Leonard's Lasswade and St Mary's Dalkeith



## Who are the Blessed?

The rich appear to be getting richer with news of record breaking profits being made by energy companies while the poor are getting poorer.

It is disturbing to hear of billions being raised by some while the growing number of people seeking help from foodbanks at the same time is ever increasing. There is a great divide between the haves and have nots.

But are the rich, famous and powerful people of the world really blessed?

In our readings today from Psalm 1 and Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount we read that Jesus declares that a number of unlikely people are in fact the blessed ones. He turns the notion of who is blessed and who is not upside down compared to the prominent world viewpoint.

Psalm 1 reveals that Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked but delights in God's law, the way of the Kingdom of God. We are to be discouraged from walking in the way of our earthly world that seeks fame and riches for selfish greed and gluttonous gain.

In contrast although it is never acceptable for people to be in abject poverty we are to remember that we are blessed when we know we are poor and in need of God, rather than relying solely on our own selfish efforts. We are blessed when we hunger, hunger for righteousness, truth and justice for it reminds us that we are to seek and know God's way.

In knowing our need for God and seeking God we will find that we are indeed the blessed ones. It may not be easy and there will be many challenges. Jesus never says it will be an easy life to be a follower of Jesus. He does however, encourage us to rejoice, to celebrate, when we face rejection and difficulty because we are living for Christ and not for ourselves. For in the fullness of time we will know the many blessings of a heavenly home.

So blessed are you when you turn to God, acknowledge your need of God, and walk in the ways of his Kingdom, learning from his word and putting his law of love into action.

*yours with love Peter*

## Welcome

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

Blessed are you who delight in the Lord  
**We lift up our voice to praise our God**

Blessed are you who meditate on his word  
**For we will be nurtured and grow in our faith**

God is here, God is present,  
**let us worship him in this place. Amen.**

## Hymn

**IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, God only wise,**  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

## **Prayer of Confession**

As we come into the presence of God  
whose light of love chases away the darkness  
let us confess our sins  
knowing that God is loving and merciful.

**Father we acknowledge  
that we have not loved  
as you would have us love.  
We turn to you again  
and ask for your mercy,  
forgive us and renew us  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen**

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.

## **Gloria**

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis deo  
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia

## **Collect**

**Almighty and ever-loving God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and restored them to  
wholeness of life, look with compassion on the anguish of the  
world, and by your power make whole all peoples and nations;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen**

## Reading

## Psalm 1

Blessed is the one  
who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,  
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.  
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither –  
whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff that the wind blows away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

## Hymn

### **BLESSÈD ASSURANCE, Jesus is mine:**

O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Saviour all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture burst on my sight;  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

## **Gospel Reading** Luke 6: 17-26

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

Jesus went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples were there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Turning to his disciples, he said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,  
when they exclude you and insult you  
and reject your name as evil,  
because of the Son of Man.

'Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have already received your comfort.

Woe to you who are well fed now,  
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,  
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

*Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.*

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

# Sermon

## An Affirmation of Faith

As people blessed by God we affirm our faith together

We believe in God the Father.

**Creator of all things,  
sustainer of all life.**

We believe in God the Son

**Our companion and friend,  
redeemer of all that is broken  
and marred by sin**

We believe in Holy Spirit ,

**Our advocate and guide,  
who lives with us  
in the ever day of life.**

We believe Christ redeeming work

**in the forgiveness of sin,  
the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come  
Amen**

## Prayers of Intercessions

### The Peace

Blessed are they who walk in the way of the Lord  
for they will find peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

let us share the His Peace

**Hymn**      **BE STILL, for the presence of the Lord,**  
the Holy One is here;  
Come bow before Him now  
with reverence and fear.  
In Him no sin is found,  
we stand on holy ground;  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire,  
with splendour He is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight,  
our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place;  
He comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister His grace.  
No work too hard for Him,  
in faith receive from Him;  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

## **Offering**

Generous God, our creator and redeemer,  
you have given to us all that we have  
and here at your table we present to you  
the offerings of our love with grateful hearts.

**For all things come from you  
and of your own we give to you.**



## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father,

Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself.

**When we turned away you did not reject us,**

**but came to meet us in your Son.**

**You embraced us as your children**

**and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

**Your son opened his arms of love**

**upon the cross and made for all**

**the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

Therefore with your whole Church scattered throughout the world

we offer you this sacrifice of praise

and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**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**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends

he took bread, and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to them,

saying: Take, eat;

this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:**

**his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you  
for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of  
him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim our Lord's death  
and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and be on this bread and this wine  
that they may be to us  
the body and blood of Christ  
symbols of his sacrificial love

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.  
Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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.  
Lead us not into temptation but  
deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

## **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **Distribution of Communion**

*All are welcome to come and receive communion or a blessing at this time*

## **Prayer after Communion**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious  
and his mercy endures for ever

**God of tender care, we celebrate your love for us and for all people.  
May we show your love in our lives and know its fulfilment in your  
presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.  
Amen.**

## ***The Blessing***

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts  
and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son  
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen**

## **HYMN**

### **WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME**

If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let My love be shown,  
Will you let My name be known,  
Will you let My life be grown in you,  
And you in Me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let Me answer prayer  
In you and you in Me?

Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in Me?

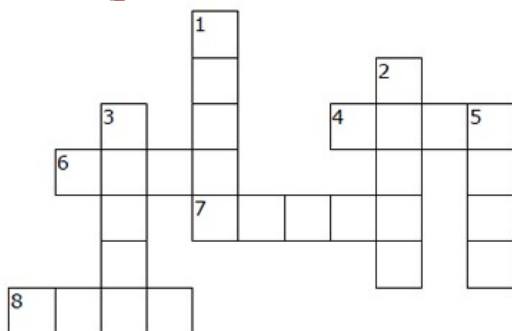
Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through My sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in Me?

Lord, Your summons echoes true  
When You but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow You  
And never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go  
Where Your love and footsteps show;  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In You and You in me.

## **The Dismissal**

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

# Gospel Puzzles



## ACROSS

4. A dish that is used for holding fruit or liquids or for serving food
6. An elevated area of land smaller than a mountain
7. The performance of good acts
8. A large urban area where many people live

## DOWN

1. All of the living human inhabitants of the earth
2. A place where families live
3. Any device serving as a source of illumination
5. A piece of furniture holding one or more electric light bulbs

X V F O K U L Y B D S M M O I  
 M J M B Y D T G Y Q E S X Z A  
 M Z V M L I E O S L R E L Z R  
 L P A R C S N O L H L P D I O  
 I Z V K I C Y D F W I H B S I  
 G L D A A V S F L Y P N B R F  
 H B R D K N A W O R L D E Z B  
 T P I O O H I D D E N E R H L  
 B C V B O W L T M B S K V C A  
 O N H P U L A M P U O S X U C  
 T Y F I J T X R O F P L C V J  
 P R J D L J I H A Y B C F W R  
 E I Q L X L E F A T H E R E V  
 C F M E N S N M U V Z W O B A  
 X I L R M D R J L I S T A N D

LAMP  
WORLD  
PRAISE

LIGHT  
CITY  
HOUSE

BOWL  
MEN  
FATHER

GOOD  
HIDDEN  
HILL

DEEDS  
SHINE  
STAND

# LENT

A SEASON OF REFLECTION,  
RENEWAL, AND PREPARATION

Mark the beginning of Lent by joining us for our

## Ash Wednesday Services

on Wednesday 22nd February

Morning Service 10am St Leonard's

Evening Service 7.30pm St Mary's

## LENT STUDY 2023



Journey with us through Lent as we explore the Rhythm of Life over five weeks leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Our Homegroups on Monday and Tuesday evening invite you to come and join in the journey with them.



## World Day of Prayer

Friday 3rd March

St Leonard's Lasswade 7pm

or

St John's Kings Park 7pm



## **Mondays - Beacon of Hope**

A warm welcome awaits you at St Leonard's on a Monday morning from 10 – 12Noon. Pop in for a coffee and chat with friends, at the back of church. Or take time to come up into the sanctuary to reflect and pray.

All Welcome.

## **Warm Space Soup and Roll**

St Mary's is open on a Tuesday from 12-2pm  
for a free Soup and Roll Lunch.  
come along and enjoy the warmth and fellowship.  
All are welcome



## **Knitting Group**

Thursday 16th February  
10.30am at Newbyers Nursing Home

Come along and join in with the knitting and nattering as we engage in befriending some of the residents at Newbyers and continue on with our knitting projects.

All are welcome, Knitters and Nutters, no experience necessary



# Fairtrade Fortnight

27 February – 12 March

This Fairtrade Fortnight, please join us in spreading a simple message: choose Fairtrade now and help save our favourite foods.

**Did you know cocoa, bananas and coffee could soon be much more difficult to find on our shelves?**

Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

As a Fairtrade and Eco Congregation we are encouraged to consider Fairtrade purchasing when looking to buy groceries, clothes, and even flowers from the Fairtrade approved suppliers to help those in need. As a church we endeavour to use Fairtrade Tea, Coffee, sugar and even Fairtrade wine. So please help and do your share for Fairtrade.

Thank You



**St Mary's**  
[stmarysdalkeith.org.uk](http://stmarysdalkeith.org.uk)

**St Leonard's**  
[stleonardslasswade.org.uk](http://stleonardslasswade.org.uk)

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Our Rector's Day off is usually a Monday

Both Churches are registered Charities

St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151

St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677