

Lent.

A SEASON OF RENEWAL



The time has come,
The kingdom of God has come near.
Repent and believe the good news.

Sunday 5th March 2023

The Second Sunday of Lent



A journey to and beyond the Cross

'The time has come,' said Jesus.
'The kingdom of God has come near.
Repent and believe the good news!'

Mark 1 v15

The season of Lent calls us to examine ourselves and turn away from sin. Often we might consider that we are ok after all we are good people, we are not thieves or murders. But sin like a disease can begin small and somewhat undetectable but as it take root it begins to eat away at our values and beliefs about ourselves. As it multiplies it sows seeds of doubt and uncertainty about our faith and the truth that we are children of God, loved and redeemed by Christ. It also influences our views and attitude towards those around us and the wider issues or the world. This can lead to a sense of apathy and lack of love and care for our neighbours and the world.

Beware the 'why bother?' disease of sin.

As we consider once more what we can do when faced with major global issues (resulting from human activities) such as climate change and polluted land and sea – it is easy to become overwhelmed and to think why bother.

We might throw our hands in the air and say: 'Well, it is not my fault. There is nothing I can do to prevent it. Leave it to the politicians.' We might think: 'Who cares if I use plastic bags, throw litter out of the car window etc? I am only one person – what difference will it make?' My contribution is so insignificant compared to what governments and business should be doing. In doing so we become complacent and apathetic towards the problem.

Beware of the highly contagious 'Why bother?' disease! How we respond to the needs around us has a moral, ethical and spiritual dimension. We have a mandate from God the creator to care for ourselves and the creation. What we do in our daily life does matter. The immediate consequences of our actions might not be felt by us, but they will most certainly affect someone else if not today then tomorrow. There is now un-refutable evidence that links our human activities with the affects of climate change with many poor or undeveloped countries bearing the brunt of these disasters which they did not contribute to. Do not be complacent for God sees and honours the efforts we make, even if they seem small to us compared to the enormity of the problem. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ our creator.

yours with love Peter

Welcome

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

Hymn **FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH,**

for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Lord of all to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise

For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light:

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

For each perfect gift of Thine, to our race so freely given,
Graces, human and divine, flowers of earth, and buds of heaven:

Prayer of Confession

Sovereign Creator,
whose rhythm of life calls us back to confess
that we are out of step with you and your creation,
hear us as we confess our sins and seek to walk afresh with you.

**God our Creator,
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

Lord of life,
Open our hearts and minds
to the great mystery of the cross
that redeems all of creation
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Reading Colossians 1:15-23

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your sin. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

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.

Gospel Reading Matthew 3:16-21

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

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon

Prayers of Intercessions

The Peace

In the presence of the risen Lord, we meet in Christ name
Let us share his peace

Hymn

BEHOLD THE LAMB WHO BEARS OUR SINS AWAY,

Slain for us, - and we remember the promise made
that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the king

The body of our saviour Jesus Christ,
torn for you, - eat and remember; the wounds that heal,
the death that brings us life paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the king

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
shed for you — drink and remember, He drained death's cup
that all may enter in to receive the life of God.
So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the king

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise, to respond
and to remember, our call to follow in the steps of Christ
as His body here on earth
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim Christ will come again
And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King

Offering

Let us present our offerings to the Lord:

**Generous God, accept the offering of your people
for the work of your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Maker of light and darkness.
Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos,
brings a harvest out of sorrow
and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled,
debts forgiven and strangers made welcome.

Your spirit frees us to live as sons and daughters
in our Father's house.

We, who by Christ's power
follow the way of the Cross,
sharing the joy of his obedience,
now 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,
for Christ in whom the world is reconciled.
Lifted on the cross, his suffering and forgiveness
spanned the gulf our sins had made.
Through the dark struggle, death was swallowed up in victory
that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
recalling the night of Israel's release,
the night in which the sons of Egypt died,
your Chosen One, himself the Firstborn, freely offered up his life.

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.

Let us pray together as our Lord taught us to 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

*All are welcome
to come and receive as we gather at our Lord's table*

Prayer after communion

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

**Creator of heaven and earth,
we thank you for the gift of your creation
help us to stay in step with you
and within the rhythm of the life that you created
through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, to take up your cross, and to follow him;
and the blessing of God Almighty
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always **Amen**

HYMN **ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING,**

Lift up your voice and with us sing:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise Him, O praise Him,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him, hallelujah!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light:

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, hallelujah!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:

The Dismissal

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

Pet Food Bank

Tuesday 7th March 10am at St Mary's

Do let friends and neighbours know that help with pet food is available to those in need as well as advice around animal care and wellbeing.



World Day of Prayer

Our thanks and appreciation to all those who took part in organising or helping in this years World Day of Prayer Services at St Leonard's and at St John's Kings Park. Thank You

St Leonard's Organ Fund - more than china

On behalf of St Leonard's Organ Fund Judy Strong has been actively selling China Tea and Coffee sets. However, her latest endeavour has moved her over to selling small furniture items after successfully selling a Sheet Music Cabinet donated to us by Mary Johnstone. Kerry the buyer is delighted with it as a gift to her son who is studying piano with the Glasgow Conservatoire. So china sets and now small items of furniture can help us keep the organ tuned and serviced for playing. Thank You



Lent Study Groups

Our Study Groups meet on Monday and Tuesday Evenings please note the Tuesday night group will now meet every week starting at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church for the course of the study.

CHURCHES SPRING CLEANING

St Leonard's Spring Clean

Friday 17th March 2-4pm

and Saturday 18th March 10—12noon

St Mary's Spring Clean

Friday 24th March 10-2pm



Bishop's Lent Appeal 2023



St Nicholas Seminary has been training clergy since 1975. It is the only active seminary in the Province of West Africa (which includes Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, the Gambia, and Cameroon). Alongside our own ordinands, we have also trained ministers and lay pastors for the Methodist and Pentecostal Churches in Ghana and Ivory Coast.

To assist them to continue this work they are seeking to install a water filtration plant at the College to give clean water not only to the seminary but also to other community buildings like the schools, university and the general public. Your donations this year will help them realise this dream and ambition.

Pick up a info leaflet at the welcome desk to find out more.



St Mary's
stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

St Leonard's
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