

Connect

Your Weekly News from St Leonard's & St Mary's

Sunday 10th December

Second Sunday of Advent



Peace

"Guide us
on the path
of peace"

Luke 1:79

Welcome

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Saviour

The promised child and the Prince of peace

Today on this Second Sunday of Advent,
We remember the promise of peace that is given to us
Within the promise of the good news of the Gospel,
Jesus promised he would not leave us as orphans
but send us the gift of the Holy Spirit,
Through our faith and trust in the Holy Spirit as our companion
we are led to walk in the ways of peace.

We light the candles for Hope and Peace

**As we continue the Advent journey,
may Christ our living hope, our prince of peace
renew us in our walk of faith,
as we seek to meet him,
and to know him as our Immanuel.**

Hymn LONG AGO, PROPHETS KNEW

Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
bear his People's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Mary, hail! Though afraid;
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;
Till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

Confession & Absolution

God is love and we are his children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because he loved us first.
Therefore, let us confess our sins
in penitence and faith.

Silence

**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.

The Collect

Almighty God, who sent your prophets to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading: The Prophecy of Isaiah 9 v2- 7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
**they rejoice before you, as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.**

For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.
**Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.**

For unto us a child is born, to 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.**

Hymn **COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS**

Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

The Gospel Matthew 3.1-4

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

In those days John the Baptist came,
preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying,
'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:
'A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt
round his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole
region of the Jordan. Repenting of their sins, they were baptised by
him in the River Jordan.

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

An Advent Reflection

*During this years Advent in place of a sermon we will take time to reflect on a
short meditation exploring the theme of each week in Advent. This will be
followed by some time to sit quietly or consider the questions below.*

The questions are for personal reflection and no answers will be ask for.

Advent 2

“A Prophet’s Longing for Peace”

We sit and listen to the reflection from the prophet Isaiah.

Some thoughts and questions to ponder?

At this time many of our Advent Carols reflect the words of the prophets of old. We sing “Come thou Long expected Jesus”, and “O come, O come Emmanuel.”

But do we mean it?

Do we long for Jesus Christ to come?
To come to our door and knock?

I wonder in the longing do we believe that one day the waiting will be over and there will be peace on earth?

The season of Advent challenges us with these questions. They cry out like a voice in the wilderness, in the midst of destruction. in the midst of sorrow and anger in the darkest of times there is a cry for peace.

There is a longing for everlasting peace yet even in the now of today we can begin to be people of peace while we wait with expectation, waiting with purpose for the day of the Lord.

In a few days’ time we will gather and celebrate the birth of our Lord. For many years God’s people had waited and looked forward to the promises of old coming true. Yet when it finally happened many failed to recognise that God was with them, the prince of peace, a man willing not to lift the sword but to lay down his life for us.

It is with that sobering truth in mind that we ask ourselves today:
What do we expect from Christ return?

And how should we live as we wait his return?

*God of surprises,
help us to know you as we wait and long for peace to come.
Encourage us to know that your gift of peace is always with us.
And by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit at work in us,
guide us in the ways of peace, hope and love. Amen*

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace

Jesus said: My peace I leave with you;
my peace I give you.

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

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you

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!

Offering

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

Yours, Lord, 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.

Breaking of the Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world
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 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

All are invite to come and receive the bread and wine of communion
or a blessing at this time.

Thanksgiving and sending out

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

Faithful God, help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; 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 **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,

How can we do the work of God to prosper and increase
Harmony in the human race the reign of the prince of peace?
What can we do to hasten the time, the time that will surely be

March we forth in the strength of God
With the banner of Christ unfurled,
That the light of the glorious gospel of truth
May shine throughout the world:
Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin, to set the captives free,
That the earth may be filled with the glory of God,
As the waters cover the sea.

Dismissal

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

Christmas Celebrations

Carols at the Crib

6pm Sunday 17th Dec at St Leonard's

Christmas Eve

Sunday Morning 10am Joint Service at St Leonard's

Christingle Family Service 4pm at St Mary's

Watchnight Service 11.30pm at St Mary's

Christmas Day

10am at St Leonard's

New Years Eve Sunday 31st Dec

10am St Mary's



St Leonard's 10am

stleonardslasswade.org.uk

St Mary's 10am

stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

Find us on  @StLandM

Wednesday Morning On-line Worship 10am

on Zoom & Facebook Live Meeting ID: 656 157 5203

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

