

Christmas Eve

2023



O come let us adore him



*The Clergy Team and Vestry
of the churches of
St Leonard's and St Mary's
Pray that you and yours
will have a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
filled with
Hope,
Peace,
Joy,
& Love*

The Welcome

The Lord be with you
and also with you

We gather this night to worship the Lord,
and to recall the wonderful story
of His incarnation and birth.

**We gather to give thanks for God's
faithfulness and the gift of his son.**

Carol: ONCE, IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall:
With the poor and meek and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood
day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless;
tears and smiles like us He knew:
And He feeleth for our sadness,
and He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him
through His own redeeming love;
For that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
to the place where He is gone.

Prayer of Confession

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

The minister declares God's forgiveness

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.

Christmas Collect:

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, so bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

A Reading from Isaiah 9: 2-7

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 to 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. He
will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and
upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for
ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Carol: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

'Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King!'

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King.'

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings,
Mild, He lays His glory by;
Born that men no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King.'

Gospel Reading from John 1: v1-14

When it is announced we say:
Glory to Christ our Saviour.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

At end: Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon

Carol: SILENT NIGHT, holy night! Sleeps the world; hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare Watch o'er the Child beloved and fair,
Sleeping in heavenly rest, Sleeping in heavenly rest.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds first saw the light,
Heard resounding clear and long, Far and near, the angel-song:
'Christ the Redeemer is here, Christ the Redeemer is here.'

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, O how bright
Love is smiling from Thy face! Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Saviour, since Thou art born, Saviour, since Thou art born.

The lighting of the Christmas Candle

Prayers

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given
and he shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

Carol: **WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED** their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around.

'Fear not' said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign.

'The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas

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 into being,

and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Day and night celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your Word became flesh, born of the Virgin Mary.

He emptied himself, taking on our human form,

that through his incarnation and passion

we might come to share in his divine nature.

Filled with the Spirit, who at the first Creation

moved over the face of the waters, and overshadowed the blessed

Virgin, we await the fulfilment of your new Creation.

As children of your redeeming purpose who celebrate the birth 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 the Messiah you have come to us,

and lived for a time among us, that we might for ever live with you.

Obedient to your calling, he accepted death on the cross.

When you exalted him on the third day,

and bestowed on him the name above all names,

he opened the gate of glory that we might be your children,

and share in his kingdom of Peace.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
desiring to complete the work for which he came into the world,
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.

The Lord's Prayer

As our saviour 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.
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.**

The Distribution of Communion

*Everyone is welcomed to receive the gift of bread and wine this evening
When receiving communion please come forward and Sanitise your hands
before, receiving the elements of bread and wine*

Prayer after communion

**God our Father,
you have made known to us again the birth of our Lord Jesus:
strengthen our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory for ever and ever.
Amen**

The Christmas Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be with you this day
and with those you gather with this Christmastide
Amen

Carol: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

God of God, Light of light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created:

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing:

The Dismissal

Merry Christmas
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
in the name Christ Amen

*On behalf of the Congregations of
St Leonard's and St Mary's
we wish you a Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

*We warmly invite you to join with us throughout the year
as we learn more about this new born King.
Weekly Sunday Services are held at 10am*

*Christmas Day Service
a joint service at 10am in St Leonard's*

*Sunday 31st December
a joint service at 10am in St Mary's*

*Sunday Worship at 10am for both churches
resumes from Sunday 7th January with the celebration of Epiphany*



St Mary's
stmarysdalkeith.org.uk

St Leonard's
stleonardslasswade.org.uk

Find us on  **@StLandM**

Church Office & Rectory 11 Peacock Parkway Bonnyrigg EH193RQ



0131 663 7000 or email  office.stlandm@gmail.com

Both Churches are registered Charities

St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151

St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677