

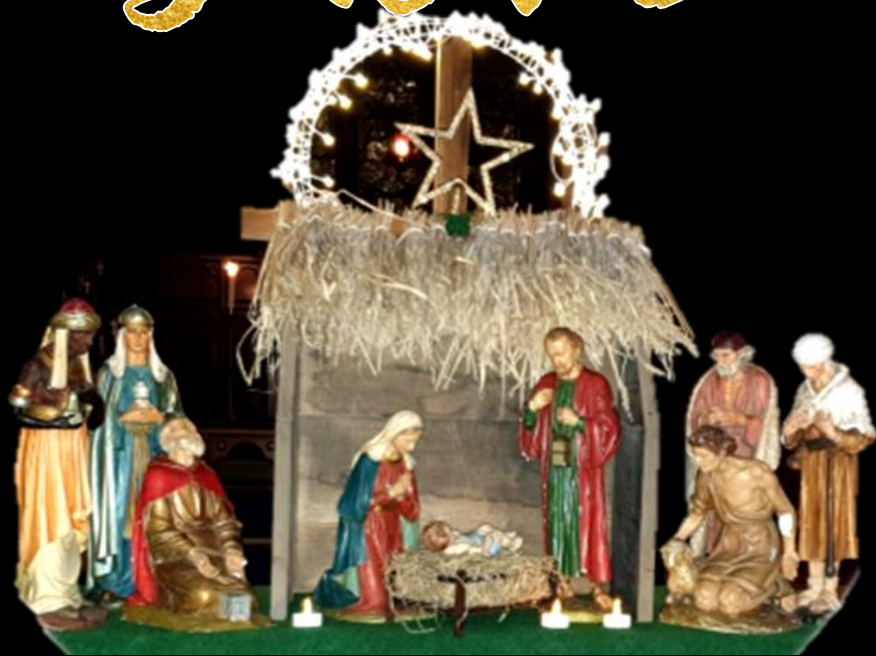
Connect

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

Sunday 24th December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Love





*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*

Welcome

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ, the promised child,
the Lord, the prince of peace, the Joy of our salvation
the gift of God's love to us.

Thanks be to God for his love endures forever.

This morning on this fourth Sunday of Advent we remember
that God is love and we are his children,
that God so loved the world, you and me and everyone else,
that he gave us the gift of His son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Love, the greatest gift that we can all receive and give.

(The Advent candles for Hope, Peace, Joy and love are lit)

**As we journey onward into the celebration of Christmas
may Christ our living hope, our prince of peace,
the joy of our salvation remind us that we are loved
as we worship him, the gift of love, our Immanuel.**

Hymn

WHO IS HE IN YONDER STALL,

At whose feet the shepherds fall?

'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!

'Tis the Lord, the King of glory!

At His feet we humbly fall.

Crown Him! Crown Him, Lord of all!

Who is He to whom they bring
gifts of gold, myrrh, frankincense

Who is He who gives his life
on a tree for you and me

Who is He who from the grave
Comes to rescue, help, and save?

Who is He who from His throne
Sends the Spirit to His own?

Who is He who comes again,
Lord of all and King of love

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

**God of amazing love, you call us once again to celebrate the coming
of your Son. When he returns in glory may he find us fulfilling his
commandment to love as we are loved. Amen**

Reading: 1st John 4 v7-12

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Hymn FATHER GOD, I WONDER how I managed to exist
Without the knowledge of Your parenthood
and Your loving care.
But now I am Your son,
I am adopted in Your family,
And I can never be alone,
'Cause Father God, You're there beside me.

I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises,
Forever more.

I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises,
Forever more.

The Gospel John 3:16-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to Saint 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 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

An Advent Reflection

During this years Advent in place of a sermon we have taken time to reflect on the four themes of Advent, Hope, Peace, Joy and today Love.

*This final reflection is written as a letter from God to us.
be still and listen to the words of God
sewn into a beautiful letter of love to you.*

Advent 4

“A Father’s letter of Love”

be still in the presence of God, our Immanuel
and know that you are loved.

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace

For God so loved the world
that he gave us the gift of Jesus Christ, his Son
We meet in Christ’s name
let us share his Peace.

Hymn

I CANNOT TELL WHY HE, WHOM ANGELS WORSHIP,

Should set His love upon the sons of men,
Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,
To bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that He was born of Mary,
When Bethlehem's manger was His only home,
And that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,
And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently He suffered,
As with His peace He graced this place of tears,
Or how His heart upon the cross was broken,
The crown of pain to three-and-thirty years.
But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted,
And stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,
And lifts the burden from the heavy-laden,
For yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell how He will win the nations,
How He will claim His earthly heritage,
How satisfy the needs and aspirations
Of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,
And He shall reap the harvest He has sown,
And some glad day His sun shall shine in splendour,
When He the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
When, at his bidding, every storm is stilled,
Or who can say how great the jubilation
When all the hearts of men with love are filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
And myriad, myriad human voices sing,
And earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:
'At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

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.

**Merciful God, fill us with unending joy,
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour
and look forward to his glorious return.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
who is Lord for ever and ever.
Amen**

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 **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
what shall be our sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and neighbour,
love for prayer and gift and sign.

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

