

# Christmas Eve

2024



*Gloria to God  
in the highest.....*





*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,  
to recall the wonderful story  
of His incarnation and birth.

**We gather to give thanks and to celebrate  
the gift of Jesus, our Emmanuel**

**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.

## Collect for Purity

let us pray together

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Prayer of Confession

So as God draws near to us  
in the birth of Christ our Lord,  
let us draw near to God  
and confess our sin  
with penitence and faith.

**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**

*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.  
**Amen**

## Christmas Collect:

We pray together:

**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.**

## 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.

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.

## A Reading from prophecy of Micah chapter 5

“But you, Bethlehem though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace

### 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.’

## Gospel Reading from Luke 2 v1-20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to Luke:

### **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the Roman world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marvelled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

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.

## **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:**

**IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR,**

That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, goodwill to men  
From heaven's all gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessèd angels sing.

Yet with woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long,  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.

**Offertory** 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 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 be 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**

## Blessing of the Crib

God our Father,  
on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary  
for us and for our salvation; bless this crib which we have prepared to  
celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith,  
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring;  
who is alive and reigns for ever.  
**Amen.**

**Carol**      **AWAY IN A MANGER, NO CRIB FOR A BED,**  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay;  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes:  
I love You, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask You to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with You there.

## Lighting of the Christmas Candle

On this Christmas Night we light our last candle  
to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
As the prophets promised so long ago,  
you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds,  
we are filled with wonder and amazement.

**Christ the Light of the world is come.**

Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby;  
yet we know that you are God and you are with us.  
May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the  
world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness,  
but will have the true light of life.

**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 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 Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Be with you this Christmastide and in the year to come  
**Amen**

### **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 pray you have a Merry Christmas*

*We also warmly invite you to join with us throughout the year  
as we learn more about this new born King.*

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

**Sunday 29th December  
a joint service at 10am in St Leonard's**

**Sunday 5th January  
joint Epiphany Service at St Mary's**

*Weekly Sunday Services at 10am at both churches resume  
from Sunday 12th January*





Our Monthly Messy Church  
takes place on the last Saturday of each Month

4pm to 6pm - Everybody's Welcome

January 25th, February 22nd, March 29th,  
April 26th, May 31st, June 28th with BBQ



**St Leonard's 10am**  
[stleonardslasswade.org.uk](http://stleonardslasswade.org.uk)

**St Mary's 10am**  
[stmarysdalkeith.org.uk](http://stmarysdalkeith.org.uk)

Find us on  @StLandM

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Both Churches are registered Charities  
St Leonard's Episcopal Church: Lasswade SC014151  
St Mary's Episcopal Church: Dalkeith SC001677



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