



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for
12th April 2026 Prepared by Rev Joyce Smith

Worship in the following locations:

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - At 10:30am - With Ms Jo Powell

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Mr Howard Monks

Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Mr Dennis Johnson

The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 16:00pm

Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Mr Mark Fallows

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Rev Joyce Smith

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 14:30pm- With Rev Julie Hassall



Worship for Easter 2A, 12th April 2026

We gather:

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."

Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;
you make my lot secure.

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,

You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 16, selected versesⁱ

We sing: 297 Christ is alive! [Bing Videos](#)

We pray:

Here we come Lord God, gathering in your name. As we gather, as we pray and worship and learn together, Jesus is in our midst.

The Christ who is God-made-human and the human is holding all of creation together in his divinity, we welcome you, by your Spirit, into our presence.

Come Lord Jesus, Come Lord of Light, Come Prince of Peace, Come Creator God and Creative Spirit. Come.

Amongst all our doubting and uncertainty, we bring our whole selves to worship this day, and in the stillness, we just take a moment to still our minds, quieten the distractions, to focus on you, Lord God.

Amongst all the distractions of this day, Holy God, show us how to focus on you. We bring our whole selves to worship and today we bring thankfulness - we bring all that we are grateful for, the blessings and gifts we have received, even if we failed to acknowledge them at the time.ⁱⁱ

Creator God,
we confess that at times we are sceptics.
At times we doubt that You exist
because of the evil we have seen in the world.
Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world,
and it is hard to see Your love and light.
Sometimes, even those who bear Your name
do not walk in Your ways.

Help us to see Your goodness in this world.
Help us to know Your love.
Fill us with Your love and goodness,
so that we might love one another,
and lift up one another in faith. Amen.ⁱⁱⁱ

We read:^{iv} [John 20: 19-31](#) [oremus Bible Browser : John 20: 19-31](#)

Reflection

Poor old Thomas has had a tough time over the centuries, labelled as "Doubting Thomas" by the Gospel writer - although not, please note, by Jesus. Often, we are told that doubt is a bad thing when it comes to faith; but to doubt and question is to enter more deeply into exploring what faith is for each of us and how it shapes us in our relationships with others and with God.

I think Thomas displays what's referred to as FOMO- fear of missing out. We see it every day when people are glued to their phones, constantly checking social media in case they miss out. Perhaps you do it yourself? There's a nagging feeling that others are living better lives or having more enriching experiences and we don't want to be left out. Of course, what we see on social media isn't real life, but that FOMO can be all too real. From that perspective, it makes Thomas' reaction understandable.

None of the disciples were shining examples, Peter denies knowing Jesus, Judas betrays him; yet Jesus loves them for the people they are. Thomas isn't afraid to ask questions; when Jesus says in John 14 "you know the way to the place where I am going", it's Thomas who says, "we don't know, where you're going, how can we know the way"? He doesn't pretend to understand, he asks Jesus to enlighten him. How often have you sat in church and nodded at something the preacher has said while

not having a clue what they mean? And how often have you asked them to explain after the service? Perhaps we should all be more like Thomas.

Thomas is honest, authentic and prepared to follow Jesus without hesitation. When Jesus goes to raise Lazarus, Thomas says to the disciples, "Let us also go that we might die with him". Thomas is so devoted to Jesus that he is prepared to follow him to death if necessary. That doesn't speak to me of doubt, but of deep, loving commitment and faith.

Perhaps Thomas should be known as Confessing Thomas, because he is the first to acknowledge Jesus as "My Lord and my God". So, why isn't he known for that? Tradition has it that Thomas took the gospel to India and that he died a martyr, killed with 5 spears. That doesn't speak of doubt to me. I think what this encounter teaches us is that Jesus knows our needs and meets us where we are and gives us the strength to get where we need to be. Jesus knows who Thomas truly is and gives him what he needs.

May God give us the strength and grace to be the kind of people and the kind of fellowship where lives are transformed, and where broken spirits find the strength to hope again!

We sing: 293 All heaven declares [All Heaven Declares \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

We pray:

For all those who are isolated and alone,

For all those who live in fear,

For all those who are ill in body, mind or spirit,

For all those who struggle to get through the day,

For those who feel unwanted, unwelcome or invisible.

May they know the presence of the Risen Christ in their lives and may His presence bring the joy of the resurrection and assurance of God's unconditional love. Amen.

We sing the Lord's Prayer: [The Lord's Prayer \(Singing the Faith 762 / StF 762\) \(Joseph Lees\)](#)

We sing: 303 I know that my Redeemer lives

- [I Know That My Redeemer Lives \(Tune: Duke Street - 3vv \) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

May the Risen Christ walk beside you, filling your hearts with hope and peace. May your words and actions proclaim the love of Jesus to all you meet. May you know that you are blessed. Amen

ⁱ www.biblegateway.com

www.leedsnandemethodist.org

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

^{iv} [oremus Bible Browser : John 20: 19-31](#)