Circuit Contact
Welcome to our Circuit Worship for
15th March 2026 Prepared by Deacon Peter Ogle

**Worship in the following locations:**

Boundary Methodist Church – At 18:00pm – With Rev Julie Hassall – Holy Communion
Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle- At 10:30am – With Rev Denise Williamson – Holy Communion
Endon Methodist Church – At 10:00am – With Rev Joyce Smith – Holy Communion
Ipstones Methodist Church – At 10:30am – With Mr Dennis Johnson
Onecote Methodist Church – At 11:00am – Local Arrangement
Rudyard Methodist Church – At 11:00am – With Ms Gill Meredith
St Andrews Methodist Church, Cheddleton – At 10:30am – With Rev Julie Hassall – Holy Communion
The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 15:00pm
Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am – Local Arrangement
Waterhouses Methodist Church – At 18:30pm – With Rev Denise Williamson – Holy Communion
Wetley Rocks Methodist Church – At 10:30am– With Dr Lynne Bradbury

Call to Worship
Come, now is the time to worship, come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship, come just as you are before our God, come.
Singing the Faith 24. Brian Doerksen (b. 1965)

Hymn 88 Praise to the Lord, the almighty the king of creation
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vegvb1u5s4&list=RD_vegvb1u5s4&start_radio=1

**Prayer**
Gracious God, whose goodness never fades, whose mercy is without end, whose love is all embracing, we come before you once again. Not because we are forced to do, but because we want to be in your presence. You have promised to be where two or three are gathered together. We might live alone, but we

join with sisters and brothers who make up the Staffordshire Moorlands Circuit, to learn from your word, to listen to/or sing hymns and pray together.
We bring our sins to you in the name of Jesus who willingly went to the cross for the sin of the world, in the knowledge that you will forgive and forget them. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon each one of us, so that we might serve you in whatever way we can. Be blessed, as you bless us. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer**
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Hymn 481 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upRoR7ej9Ns&list=RDupRoR7ej9Ns&start_radio=1

Reading: Psalm 23 BibleGateway- New International Version

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
3 He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

# Reflection

I wonder, if like me, you like watching farming programmes? I have really enjoyed, over the last little while, TV programmes such as Fletcher's Farm, the Yorkshire farm and its spin offs Our farm next-door. Reuben Owen: Life in the Dales, and Jeremy Clarkeson's Diddly Squat Farm. While TV money is and has been available, that is not available to non-celebrity farmers, the programmes have given me an insight of what life can be like for those women and men who provide food for our tables, holiday accommodation and other services. Battling against the weather, foot and mouth, TB, many other diseases and unexpected events like machinery breaking down at critical times. I'm sure the farmers reading this reflection will say "You don't know the half" and that will be very true. You see I was brought up in inner-city Sheffield, though I did have an Aunty and Uncle who owned a farm in one of the villages around. I remember visiting on several occasions, on one occasion I was taken into the stables where 2 shire horses were stabled. I have to say, when I saw how big they were, I was really scared. I'm still wary when approaching a horse now. The best of all though, were the sheep. I love to see the children of the Fletcher and Owen families being encouraged to be involved at a very young age, some helping more than others, but nonetheless being involved. The enjoyment they share, the fun they have, maybe they will become the next generation of farmers, let's pray so, because we need them.

Our reading is perhaps one of the best-known Scripture passages, often used at funerals.
The psalm attributed to King David provides several word-pictures.

In verse 1, the word shepherd was widely used in the ancient Near East and Israel, for the king. Later in the gospels, Jesus is described as the Good Shepherd, who knows every individual sheep, a metaphor for every believer. Because God is King, David lacks nothing

In verse 2, I'm sure you will have seen flocks of sheep lying down, munching the grass appearing not to have a care in the world, with a river to drink from. David's picture is of a contentment, secured through having a relationship with God.

In verse 3, David pictures God leading the way, guiding him as a shepherd guides the sheep along the right path, away from danger.

In verse 4, David knows from personal experience, and I guess that we might too, that life is not always a bunch of beautiful roses, it's sometimes like being overwhelmed with sadness. As I write this, I have learned that a very dear friend has died following a battle against cancer. While David acknowledges these difficult times, he is confident that God journeys with him and by implication us.

In verse 5, the picture here is of David, being received like a special guest at a banquet. Head anointed on arrival and given a special place at the table. This picture is not just for David but for every believer.

In verse 6, the picture is a promise that God's goodness and love will be with the believer as they journey along their earthly and spiritual journey, and ultimately forever.

To conclude, I know I can take reasonable photographs, but there are times when I wish I could draw or paint, but alas, while my drawing might be like matchstick men and women, I'm not Lowry. I pray that you are enjoying this pilgrimage through Lent, following the footsteps of Jesus to Jerusalem. A journey that was to lead to the ultimate fulfilment of Jesus's ministry here on earth. **To be the Saviour of the World**.

Prayers of intercession:
Spend a few moments reflecting on and giving thanks for:
Your journey with God.
Farmers you know.
Mothers on this Mother's Day.
Those who are walking through their darkest valley's.
Our Circuit staff, stewards, Church congregations and the contributions made in local communities.
Those women and men elected to serve us at local and national level.
Those elected to be leaders of the world's nations.
**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.**

Hymn 465 Guide me O thou great Jehovah
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT4n1hGjDDg&list=RDwT4n1hGjDDg&start_radio=1

Grace:
May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all now and forever. Amen