



## Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 Prepared by Deacon Peter Ogle

### **Worship in the following locations:**

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - At 10:30pm - With Mr Glenn Parkes

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Joyce Smith

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

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - Local Arrangement

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

Trinity, Leek - At 10:30am - With Mr and Mrs Massey

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Rev Julie Hassall - Holy Communion

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson - Holy Communion

**Sunday 29th June 2025 – Worship at Wellspring Team – At 10:30am – With Rev Julie Hassall – Holy Communion / Membership**



### Call to Worship

Christ, from whom all blessings flow, perfecting the saints below,  
hear us, who Thy nature share, who Thy mystic body are.

Join us, in one spirit join, let us still receive of Thine;

still for more on Thee we call, Thou who fillest all in all. Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Hymn Through all the changing scenes of life (STF 638) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBkorDtz1nU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBkorDtz1nU)

### Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for the opportunity to come to worship you today. You don't ask us to wear special clothes, have a PhD, or have read the bible from cover to cover. You invite us to come as we are, with our success and failings, with our hopes and fears.

You have provided us with an opportunity to bring our sins to you through the death and resurrection of Jesus. In the quietness of this next few moments, we bring them to you in the knowledge that you will forgive and forget them. Thank you. Amen

### The Lord's Prayer

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.

Reading Luke chapter 8 verses 26-39 [Luke 8:26-39 TLB - So they arrived at the other side, in - Bible Gateway](#)

26 So they arrived at the other side, in the Gerasene country across the lake from Galilee. 27 As he was climbing out of the boat a man from the city of Gadara came to meet him, a man who had been demon-possessed for a long time. Homeless and naked, he lived in a cemetery among the tombs. 28 As soon as he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell to the ground before him, screaming, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of God Most High? Please, I beg you, oh, don't torment me!" 29 For Jesus was already commanding the demon to leave him. This demon had often taken control of the man so that even when shackled with chains he simply broke them and rushed out into the desert, completely under the demon's power. 30 "What is your name?" Jesus asked the demon. "Legion," they replied—for the man was filled with thousands of them! 31 They kept begging Jesus not to order them into the Bottomless Pit.

32 A herd of pigs was feeding on the mountainside nearby, and the demons pled with him to let them enter into the pigs. And Jesus said they could. 33 So they left the man and went into the pigs, and immediately the whole herd rushed down the mountainside and fell over a cliff into the lake below, where they drowned. 34 The herdsman rushed away to the nearby city, spreading the news as they ran. 35 Soon a crowd came out to see for themselves what had happened and saw the man who had been demon-possessed sitting quietly at Jesus' feet, clothed and sane! And the whole crowd was badly frightened. 36 Then those who had seen it happen told how the demon-possessed man had been healed. 37 And everyone begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone (for a deep wave of fear had swept over them). So, he returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake. 38 The man who had been demon-possessed begged to go too, but Jesus said no. 39 "Go back to your family," he told him, "And tell them what a wonderful thing God has done for you."

Hymn For the healing of the nations. (STF 696)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dc-2tiAfSyY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dc-2tiAfSyY)

## Reflection

In Roots (A resource for Churches), the heading for this week's lectionary readings come under the banner **Change for the Better** and challenge us to look at ways in which can individually and collectively work towards a better world.

I'm not what you might call a political animal, are you? But I do have a passion for what can we do for others rather than ourselves. This can be demonstrated in many different ways. The way we use our time, our God given gifts, our money etc.

To my knowledge, I have only ever been on one protest march, that was while I was a student deacon doing my training in Sheffield. This was in support of the miners whose colliery was going to close, and another community would experience hardship. It was a good-natured affair, no one was violent and while the police were there, they weren't called into serious action. No riot shields or tear gas, or water cannons were needed. Those present just wanted to remind the government of the consequences their policies were having on communities particularly in the north. History tells us that we failed to make things better, but we tried.

Our reading is, at first glance an unusual one, it is set in the region to the east of the Sea of Galilee and would have been predominately occupied by Gentiles, hence the reference to pigs. These pigs were probably being reared for the Roman army.

You will remember that the pig was one of several animals that were considered to be unclean under Jewish law and were not to be eaten at all.

The passage opens with Jesus who had, along with the disciples, been teaching on the Galilean side of the Sea of Galilee, when it was decided to sail across it. During the course of the journey, the sea became rough. Following fearful pleas from the disciples, Jesus calms the storm and questions the disciples' faith. On reaching the other side Jesus is met with a demon possessed man from the town. Matthew and Mark also record this story, though we note that Matthew tells of 2 demon possessed men approaching Jesus. This man has lived in a cave for many years, and such was his behaviour that he was kept chained hand and foot, kept under guard, under the influence of 'Legion' kept breaking free.

At this point 'Legion' acknowledges who Jesus is, Son of the Most-High God. They (the demons) knowing that Jesus is going to drive them out of the man, pleads with him not to be sent to the Abyss. In Revelation chapter 9 the Abyss is a place where evil spirits and Satan are confined to.

Instead, they ask that he let them go into a group of pigs. The reading goes on to tell us that this happened with terrible consequences for the pigs who hurtle straight down a cliff and drowned.

I wonder what the owners of the pigs thought? I wonder what the Roman authorities thought, when they realised there would be a shortage of food?

The contributor to the Roots magazine sees Jesus' action 'as rebellious as anything in his mission so far'. The townspeople are so afraid, they forget about the miracle that had just taken place, in which a man's life had changed for the better. They just wanted Jesus to leave, their livelihood, their way of life had significantly changed for the worst. Much like the mining community when the pits closed.

To conclude

How do we know when to move from that passive action, like my attendance at the protest march to more direct action to change situations for the better, locally, county wide and nationally? Jesus asked the man, who had wanted to go with him to 'return home and tell how much God had done for him' **Could that be the answer?**

Amen.

Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for changing our lives when you called us to follow Jesus. Show us how we can work for you, to enable our family, friends and local community to know you more.

Pause for a moment, to hold those people and situations that God has placed on your heart and place them into the palm of God's hands. Use us Lord, no matter how inadequate we might feel, to further your kingdom in the Staffordshire Moorlands Circuit. Amen

Hymn An army of ordinary people (Songs of Fellowship Combined Edition No.20)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8Fox1kh\\_a8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8Fox1kh_a8)

Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us now and always. Amen