



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for
25th January 2026 Prepared by Dr Lynne Bradbury

Worship in the following locations:

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle- At 10:30am - Local Arrangement
Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Mr Roger Cutts
Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall - Covenant Service/Holy Communion
Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Mr Mark Fallows
The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 15:00pm
Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson
Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Rev Denise Williamson
Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am- With Mr Howard Monks



Welcome to worship. Our theme today is: Living out Christ's love.

Hymn: Let's sing (StF 73) Fill thou my life [Fill Thou My Life, O Lord My God \(Tune: Richmond - 6vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

Prayer:

God of joy and hope, of love and peace, once again I open my heart to the dawning of your grace. Thank you for the blessings in my life, and may I remember that when blessings seem far away, you are still very close and wanting me to share in the beauty and bounty of your presence. Hold me close in all aspects of my life and help me to radiate the love that you pour upon me in all situations, even when I don't recognise that you are close by.

God in our helplessness; God in our loneliness; God in our frailties, I seek the warmth and joy of your presence, and a renewed understanding that Jesus loved me so much that he came to live beside me, to die and rise again for me (even me!). Forgive me when I let you down and fail to live out my faith. Strengthen me to live for you, to speak for you, and to share your love in every aspect of my life, in the name of Jesus. Thank you that we have the assurance of your forgiveness. Amen.

Let's say The Lord's Prayer.

Hymn: (StF 242) A new Commandment I give unto you [A New Commandment I Give Unto You \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

Reading: John 3 v16 – 21 [John 3:16-21 NIV - For God so loved the world that he gave - Bible Gateway](#)

Have we considered recently how we might live out God's love in the world? Jesus set a high bar in his example, and his love in dying and rising again, ransomed us to free us from the bonds of being slaves to selfishness. When we are caught up in a world focused upon mortal tastes, and putting our own desires before all things, it's easy to forget that God sent his only son to show us how to radiate his love for all people, and to reach out in kindness and care.

If you know any of our current (or recent) students training to be Local Preachers or Worship Leaders, they may have shared with you some of the projects they have to explore. The set possibilities are deliberately based around some of today's most difficult issues. They ask the student to identify how these have been addressed in Bible passages, historically, and in our modern experience of Christ's love. Over the years working with the students, the issues they have chosen to explore have changed very little in terms of their basic challenges. The names and society's attitudes to them may have changed, in some cases, quite dramatically, but they all are rooted in traditional and contemporary attitudes. The issues include:

Stewardship of creation; Care for the marginalised; Wealth and poverty; Relationships, and many others.

A few years ago, one of my students (from another district) prepared an outstanding presentation exploring the attitudes towards asylum seekers. The PowerPoint she prepared, the commentary, and the compassion with which she developed the theme, delivered a well-balanced, fact-based, challenging focus for worship. It ranged from the early Windrush generation to the small boat's crisis of today's world.

You may remember some years ago that a government crackdown to identify those living in the UK without legal status, led to a great many people, legally settled here for many years (and now often elderly and frail) and making positive contributions to the country, being taken into detention or threatened with deportation. Many of these had received very limited education and had not understood the process or the need to apply for relevant documentation to prove their legitimacy.

The student set about putting her compassion into action. She offered practical help in identifying and organising documentation and standing up for those who were not able to help themselves. This started out as a piece of work for her Local Preacher course portfolio, but it became an excellent example of faith in action. (It also led to her receiving the British Empire Medal for her work, and a trip to Buckingham Palace). I felt really humbled to have been part of her training journey, and in seeing her passion to turn her portfolio work into such a powerful witness for God's love, for those experiencing being marginalised in society. This was one of the many pieces of work by students which have challenged me to action over recent years.

As I think about various members of our circuit, I identify so many who have turned the commitment to serving God into loving action for others, which has made positive changes in people's lives. These often brought a legacy of hope and joy spanning many decades and shared out across communities.

Let's sing: (STF 702) I will speak out [I Will Speak Out](#)

Our theme in this act of worship is: Living out God's love. That's a slightly different perspective from living in God's love. The emphasis here is living in a way which demands putting his love into action, often requiring the sacrifice of time or some of our own favourite activities. Have we searched our hearts, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to identify the challenges and difficulties people around us are experiencing, and what we may be able to bring to show that we live out God's love. Perhaps we could take a few moments in quiet

stillness to listen to what God may be urging us to do to live out his love. It's very tempting to tell ourselves that we are too old, too weak, too tired etc to take on this work for God's kingdom, but each of us can pick up a phone or send a message to someone struggling; we can pray – it's not hard in silence to listen for God to direct our attention; we can offer care and support to those around us who are lonely, who feel forgotten, or just need a little reassurance in life's challenges. I well remember visiting one of our early Local Preacher students in hospital in what became his final days and, in our prayers together, he prayed with great fervour (even in his weakened state) for us, and the coming of God's kingdom. A wonderful legacy.

Let's sing (StF 407) Hear the call of the Kingdom [Hear the call of the kingdom. Lyric video \(StF 407\) - YouTube](#)

Closing prayers: Loving Lord, direct me to those who need the skills you have given me, which I may not yet have recognised. Turn me to face those who need something which, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I can give, and make me bold in their need, and your service. I may not yet know, what I can bring; teach me and direct me. Don't let me turn my face away from things which may feel distasteful or not of my liking, and lead me, by your Holy Spirit to stand against injustice or discrimination; Help me to live out your love in whatever way you can find within me. In the name and grace of Jesus, Amen.

Let's close by singing (StF477) teach to me to dance to the beat of your heart. [Teach Me To Dance \(Singing the Faith 477 / StF 477\) by Graham Kendrick & Steve Thompson - YouTube](#)

And now may the peace and the blessing of God, Creator, Saviour, and Spirit fill our hearts and minds, and lead us to the joy of service, and everlasting life in your Kingdom. Amen.