

Circuit Contact Welcome to our Circuit Worship for 26th October 2025 Prepared by Ms Beryl Stew

Worship in the following locations:

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - At 10:30am - With Dr Lynne Bradbury
Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Mr Roger Cutts
Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall
Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Ms Gillian Meredith
St Andrews Methodist Church, Cheddleton - At St Edwards at 18:30am - With
Rev Julie Hassall

The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 16:00pm
Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson
Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Mr and Mrs Massey
Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am - Local Arrangement



Keep a few of moments of stillness as you come before God in worship.

Hymn StF 82 O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder O Lord My God, When I in Awesome Wonder (How Great Thou Art) (Singing the Faith 82 / StF 82)

Prayers

Eternal Father, whose love echoes throughout history, we adore your holy name.
Risen Son, who never leaves or forsakes us, we adore you in your perfect presence.
Holy Spirit, who comforts and counsels us,
We adore your spirit of enlightenment and encouragement.
Amen.

O Lord, we praise you for your presence in our lives, especially at times when we feel forsaken.

We thank you for the feeling of not being alone, of being uplifted by an unseen power who causes us to rise up in faith and face life again. Thank you, Lord, for sustaining us in all situations, and encouraging us to fight the good fight in your name and for your sake.

Bible Readings.

Psalm 149. St John 14 v 1 – 6, & v 27 https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014:1-14 148. St John 14 v 1 – 6, & v 27 https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014:1-14

<u>Hymn</u> StF 746 For all the saints who showed your love https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikP_etXyFP8&list=RDikP_etXyFP8&start_radio=1

Reflection

As we turn our clocks back this weekend our thoughts go to the reality of long dark nights and the onset of Winter. For some people it is an opportunity to shut the world out of their lives but for others it means long lonely nights in isolation. For both groups it will probably mean their thoughts will be going to times past and the memories that flood into their minds.

Within the Church Calendar it marks the beginning of a time of Remembrance, with All Saints Day, All Souls Day and concluding with Remembrance Sunday in November. I know that All Saints Day and All Souls Day are not marked very much within the Methodist Church, but they are in other denominations.

Two of the Saints who are credited with bringing Christianity to Scotland & Northern England, are St Columba and St Aidan. They were both Irish and St Columba, an Irish Abbot came to Scotland in the 6th century A.D. and founded Iona Abbey. St Aidan was born in Ireland and became a monk on Iona and converted the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity in the 7th century A.D. and established a monastery on Lindisfarne. These are both still places of pilgrimage today.

Another Saint of our own time is Sister Teresa of Calcutta. Sister Teresa's was a different type of work, working with the poorest of the poor in Calcutta. She founded the Order 'Missionaries of Charity' who as well as taking the vows of chastity, poverty & obedience profess a vow to give 'wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor.'

These are just some of the many Saints down the centuries. I am sure that we all know of people in our lives who have lived 'saintly lives,' whose names will never become widely known or honoured. But they are known and revered by people whose lives they have influenced, and we give thanks for their influence on our lives.

All Souls Day is a time when we pause and remember loved ones who are no longer physically with us but are still in our hearts. We may spend time in reflection with our memories, light a candle, or say a prayer. In recent years I have attended a Service of 'Light & Hope' held on Advent Sunday. This is candlelit and there is an opportunity to light a candle in memory of your loved one. Someone shares a message of how bereavement has affected them, showing how their faith has given them strength. As the title states, as Christians, we have the promise of eternity spent with Christ and death is not the end.

Finally in November, as a Nation we mark Remembrance Sunday, when we remember and give thanks for all who gave their lives in past conflicts for our freedom today. This year has seen the 80th Anniversary of both the end of the Second World War in Europe and Japan. As we remember those who gave their lives in conflicts over the years, before and since, we must not forget those for whom the fight has not ended, they live every day with physical or mental injuries as a result of their service.

Prayers of Intercession.

In quietness we remember all for whom life is difficult at this time – the sick, those mourning the loss of a loved one, those awaiting diagnosis or medical procedures – may they know your presence with them. We pray for families struggling to make ends meet – feeling desperate, particularly now the colder weather will be coming. May all in positions of authority be mindful, when making decisions, of the people those decisions will affect. As we near the time of remembrance we pray for peace throughout the world.

Lord's Prayer.

Hymn StF 735 How blest are they who trust in Christ <u>HYMN 365: How Blessed are they who trust in Christ v.1-3 (MARYTON) by H Percy Smith</u>

Benediction.

© Roots for Churches Ltd (<u>www.rootsforchurches.com</u>) 2002-2024. Reproduced with permission.