



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Prepared by Ms Gill Meredith

**Worship in the following locations:**

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - At 10:30pm - With Rev Joyce Smith

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Rev Denise Williamson

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

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Ms Jo Powell

St Andrew's Methodist Church, Cheddleton - At 09:30am - With Rev Ashley Cooper

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

Trinity, Leek - At 10:30am - With Mr Roger Cutts

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Mr and Mrs Massey

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Dr Lynne Bradbury

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Worship at Wellspring Cheadle– At 10:30am – With  
Rev Ashley Cooper**



As we gather together in spirit to continue to celebrate our risen Lord this Easter season, we listen to

StF 310 Sing a song, sing a joyful song to celebrate [Sing a Joyful Song - YouTube](#)

Let us pray

Loving father God, we thank you for the joy of this Easter time, that we can celebrate that you rose from death and are still alive and at work in the world today.

We give thanks for all the ways that we experience your love for us every day, in the beauty of nature (*think for a moment about the spring flowers, the buds on the trees, maybe look out of your window or listen to the sounds of the birds*), in the love and kindness of family and friends (*do you have photographs of them that you can see, or imagine their faces*), in music, art and poetry, and in the support of our church family.

May we always be aware of your presence with us, every moment of our lives and help us to share your love with those that we come in contact with.

In Jesus' name, Amen

An account of what happened on the evening of that first Easter day, taken from John's gospel, chapter 20, verses 19-29. [John 20:19-29 MSG - To Believe - Later on that day, the - Bible Gateway](#)

Have you ever watched the State Opening of Parliament on the television? I love that bit where Black Rod is sent by the monarch, who is sitting on the throne in the House of Lords, to summon MPs to listen to his (or, nowadays, the Government's) program. And, as Black Rod approaches that enormous carved oak door, it's slammed shut, so that it has to be struck by the ebony rod and entry requested. That's the sort of door that would make you feel safe!

I'm guessing that as those 10 disciples sat in that upper room on that first Easter Sunday, they'd have felt much safer if they'd had a door like that. As they sat there trying to make sense of everything that had happened over the last 72 hours or so, I wonder if they'd pushed a table or a chest against whatever door they had, just in case the authorities came to get them - followers of this rebellious teacher that they thought they'd dealt with, only to learn now that his body had gone missing.

& Mary had told them that she'd seen Jesus, even spoken to him - they knew that the tomb had been sealed with a stone, that looked fairly impenetrable! How do you make sense of all that?

& then, as all these questions must have been whirling around their tired heads, there he was - Jesus. He'd not come up the stairs & through the door, because they were listening, very carefully, he'd not come through the walls, like a ghost - he was just there, greeting them as if everything was normal. You could tell it was him; he didn't look exactly like he had done before, but it most certainly was Jesus. & he chatted to them & then, just as suddenly as he was there, he wasn't.

If you hadn't seen it with your own eyes, you wouldn't believe it! No matter how well they described it to Thomas, who hadn't been there, he couldn't understand how it could have happened any more than the others could - we call him doubting, but I'm not sure that any of the other 10 would have been more able to just take the story on trust.

We live in an age of alternative facts, where it's unwise just to take what others say at face value, we are wise to do our own research, look at our own experiences. Is crypto currency the way to make a fortune, who do we believe, what experience do we have of "you can't go wrong" financial schemes? Is the only way to save the planet to become a vegetarian, or buy an electric car? Would doing Sudoku or crosswords reduce my chances of developing dementia?

So, did Jesus really appear to those disciples in that upper room on the first Easter day? What do you think? What's your experience?

For many people, just when they've been at their lowest point, they have been aware of Jesus being there, of a sudden sense of peace and calm. Or has somebody been there, just at the moment that you really needed them, on the phone or with a hug, or saying just the right thing. How often is a cup of tea, or someone putting their arm around you, or saying the words of a bible passage exactly what you need? How did they know to do that at that moment?

If we believe that Jesus is everywhere, all the time, all we need is to be prepared to leave the door open so that, like those disciples, when we most need it and least expect it, Jesus can make his presence known to us. Many of us seek him out regularly in prayer, to share our thanks and hopes and concerns with him and to listen for his voice, but there will always be times when he will amaze us in some totally unexpected way.

As we continue to celebrate the miracle of the risen Christ this Easter season, let's remember that the surprise isn't over yet, if our minds, and our lives are open to his challenge. Jesus is there for us. Are we there to accept the challenge and spread the message of his love to others?

Let's remember together the needs of others. Let us pray.

Father God, we think of those who are afraid.

We remember victims of domestic or sexual abuse, who are unseen behind closed doors

We remember victims of poverty, of war, of persecution, who see no hope of escape

We remember the sick & suffering, victims of physical or mental ill-health, and those who care for them, hoping to ease their pain

God, the source of all hope, we thank you that you know the needs of everyone, all the time.

We ask for your guidance, so that we might work with you to hasten the coming of your kingdom of love.  
Amen

Song 239 Stf Sent by the Lord am I [Sent by the Lord am I - YouTube](#)

Christ is risen, he is alive in the world today, thanks be to God!