



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

30th November 2025 Prepared by Mr Mark Fallows

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 Mr Mark Fallows - Toy Service

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - Messy Church at 15:30pm

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - Mr Dennis Johnson

Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Mr Eva and Arthur Massey

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

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Rev Denise Williamson

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 - With Rev Colin Cooper

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Ms Heather Hayward

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Joyce Smith - Holy Communion



Hello and welcome to this bulletin for the first week of Advent. A time when we look to ourselves to be active people in the season of spiritual preparation (let's not be passive bystanders) we must be focused on being transformed by God's grace so that we can become those offering his gifts of hope, peace, joy and love throughout the world.

Opening prayer

Gift-giving God, **may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving**

Lord God of this Advent season, of every season, every day, minute and second, give us, we pray, the gift of peace in this season of Advent.

Bring peace to the world but also bring peace within each of us.

Gift-giving God, **may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving**

Lord God, we give ourselves afresh to you as we step into Advent.
Let us iron the crumples and the creases from our lives so that we may be the best gift that we can be.
Gift-giving God, **may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving**

May we start today and not wait to become, and to be, the person/people you want us to be, so that we can give the best that we can of you and ourselves, to those around us.
Gift-giving God **may Advent be for us a time of giving and receiving.**

STF 166 – Christmas is coming [StF 166 Christmas is Coming](#)

Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 [Isaiah 64:1-9 NRSVUE - O that you would tear open the heavens - Bible Gateway](#)

This reading provides us with a raw, honest scriptural foundation for the Advent season, linking our need for preparation and repentance with a powerful, hope-filled longing for God's transforming presence. Whilst this first Sunday in Advent provides us with the opportunity to both look backward (remembering the first coming of Jesus) and forward (anticipating his second coming) Isaiah's words remind us that we can trust God's faithfulness, he has a secure track record of showing up in powerful ways when we need him most.

Isaiah's heartfelt plea in Chapter 64 underscores that the greatest gift of all is not something we earn, but the very presence of God himself. The passage moves from a recognition of our own inadequacy ("all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth") to an affirmation of God's identity as the potter and us as the clay (v. 8). This powerful dynamic reframes the Advent season as the unpacking of God's generosity: the divine gift-giver chooses to bridge the chasm caused by human failure ("tear open the heavens and come down") not because we deserve it, but because of his faithful nature. This act of "showing up in powerful ways" is the ultimate act of giving God offering his transformative presence as the essential gift that refines us, reshapes us, and empowers us, in turn, to become gifts of peace, justice, and love to a waiting world.

STF 172 – Hills of the north [Hills of the North, Rejoice \(Tune: Little Cornard - 5vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Reading Matthew 24:36-44 [Matthew 24:36-44 NIV - The Day and Hour Unknown - "But about - Bible Gateway](#)

Reflection

When I was at primary school we used to have games in the playground like tag, statues and sometimes rounders and mostly we would have two people who would pick teams. I don't think that I was very popular at school, in fact I don't think that I have ever been popular because I was invariably left to the last to be picked. I guess I was a kind of charity case. I do remember once being the petulant child that I was, and because nobody wanted me in their team, I just stood there with my arms folded, on this occasion one of the best players hit the ball and it kind of wedged under my armpit. I was heralded a hero for the catch that wasn't really a catch which meant that one of the best players was now 'out'. I am not a very good catch at all, I am sure that my wife will tell you, however, I have definitely made one good catch in my life! In Matthew 24:40 it says, "two men will be in the field, one will be taken, and one will be left!" This reminded me of those school days, of being chosen or not, but the thing that is different here is that God is choosing both teams, he is choosing the earthly team, which I guess would be left, and the heavenly that would be taken. As I pondered, I tried to work out which one was the real chosen one.

What I do think that we can grasp from this is that for as long as we are alert to being in one of God's teams, we will always be a winner! When we were at school, whilst the games were always played at

lunch time or playtime the teams could be planned through scheming to try and make the superior team which would give a foregone conclusion of victory. But if we look at the words from Matthew 24:42 it says, “for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming” but what we do know is that if we want to be part of it, we need to be ready, and alert to whatever form it may come in.

As we come into this season of Advent there is a lot of talk about being awake, alert and ready for the Lord’s second coming. We wait in anticipation, we wait to feel and know and embrace the spirit of the Lord, there could be no greater gift. Afterall Advent leading to Christmas is the time for giving and receiving gifts. It is when we acknowledge the birth of Jesus and aren’t we lucky because we receive gifts in memory of his birthday. We also acknowledge God’s son, Jesus’ entry to earth. God had a big challenge when he wanted to give the world its greatest gift, his love in the form of Jesus. The bible says that Jesus was wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger. What a beautiful gift and how carefully and wonderfully wrapped. But even more so at Advent we reflect on how the second coming of Christ may be revealed. We don’t know how or when, this is why we need to be ready every day in every way, whether it be on a school playing field or in a prison cell – we wait in anticipation.

Friends, if you are lighting a real first candle in your Advent wreath or a virtual one in your mind please remember to keep awake and be ready for the Son of Man is coming, but about that day and hour no one knows.

Prayer

Lord, we’ve been meaning to say though we have treated this world as if it were our own, in this Advent moment, we are preparing to watch you step into a world which is yours and which your love has created, though we have treated it as if it were our own.

Once more, you will remind us that you are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. You who had the first word will most certainly have the last. This is your promise, and this is our hope.

By the Holy Spirit – hold our hand, guide us through the darkness to your glorious, overwhelming light and into the peace that only you can give.

In Christ’s name. Amen.

STF 180 - Oh come, oh come Emmanuel | O Come O Come Emmanuel | Advent | Choir with Lyrics | Traditional Christian Hymn | Sunday 7pm Choir

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.

