



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

4th May 2025 Prepared by Rev Joyce Smith

Worship in the following locations:

Boundary Methodist Church - At 18:00pm - With Rev Julie Hassall
Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - At 10:30pm - With Rev Ashley Cooper
Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Rev Julie Hassall
Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Mr and Mrs Massey
Onecote Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Deacon Peter Ogle
Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Mr Roger Cutts
The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 16:00pm
Trinity, Leek - At 10:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson - Holy Communion
Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Ms Heather Hayward
Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Ms Beryl Stew

**Sunday 11th May 2025 – Worship at Wellspring Cheadle– At 10:30am – With
Rev Lloyd Cooke**



Ananias said, 'Here I am, Lord.'

Peter said, 'Lord you know that I love you.'

Paul said, 'Who are you, Lord?'

What are the words in our hearts this morning?

We sing: 293 All heaven declares <https://www.veed.io/view/ae91d9a7-08c6-4197-91f7-1c31642aba05?panel=>

We pray:

Light of light, Lord of Lords, God of this world and the next,
We give you thanks for the promise of this day,
We give you thanks for the challenge of this day,
We give you thanks for the blessings of this day.

Light of light, Lord of Lords, God of this world and the next,
We give you thanks.

For the love you have shown us as sometimes reluctant disciples,
your patience in being with us when we decide to go our way,
your hand that is there for us as we stumble or are anxious,
your gentle whisper reminding us that you will never let us go,
for all of this and more besides what can we do but offer you
the worship of our hearts and lives. Amenⁱ

Lord Jesus, you interrupted Peter's fishing and Paul's journey and brought better things.
Forgive us when we interrupt others with our self-importance.
Forgive our impatience when others interrupt us with their needs.

May we be open to your prompting and adaptable towards those around us, that your kingdom
may come and your purposes flourish.

Amen.

We read: [John 21:1-19 NIV - Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish - Bible Gateway](#)

Reflection

When life gets difficult, when we become lost, confused, and afraid, when the changes of life are not what we wanted or think we deserve we tend to run away. We go back to something safe, something familiar. Peter and six others have returned to the sea. They have left Jerusalem, they have come home to the Sea of Tiberias, the place where it all began. Discipleship, the upper room, the cross, the empty tomb, the house with its locked doors are some 80 miles to the South. Peter decides to go fishing, he knows how to do that, it is familiar and comfortable.

My hunch, however, is that Peter is not really trying to catch fish as much as he is fishing for answers. We can leave the places and even the people of our life, but we can never escape ourselves. Wherever you go, there you are. Peter may have left Jerusalem, but he cannot get away from three years of discipleship, the last supper, the arrest, 3 denials, a crowing rooster. He cannot leave behind the cross, the empty tomb, the house with its doors locked tight, the echoes of "Peace be with you." So - he fishes.

Peter fishes for answers. What have I done? What were those three years about? Who was Jesus? Where is he? Who am I? What will I do now? Where will I go? What will happen to me? Peter is searching for meaning, a way forward, a place in life. We have all spent time asking the same questions as Peter, looking for our place in life, seeking peace, and some sense of understanding and meaning. More often than not it happens in the context of the failures, losses, and sorrows of our lives. It happens when we come face to face with the things we have done and left undone. We have all been there, fishing for answers.

“Children, you have no fish, have you,” Jesus says. This is more a statement of fact than a question. He is commenting on the reality and emptiness of Peter’s and the other disciples’ lives. Peter is living in the pain and the past of Good Friday. He is fishing on the Good Friday side of the boat, and the net is empty. There are no fish, no answers, no way forward. The nets contain nothing to feed or nourish life.

Do you ever wonder if we have been fishing on the wrong side of the boat? Jesus seems to think so. “Cast your net to the right side of the boat,” Jesus says, the resurrection side of the boat. This movement of the net from one side of the boat to the other symbolises the disciples’ resurrection. Jesus calls us to move out of error into truth, out of death into life. In so doing we see and proclaim, “It is the Lord,” and emptiness gives way to the abundance of a net full of fish. The net rips, God’s abundance cannot be contained, an abundance of grace, reconciliation and sending out.

A new day dawns with new light; new possibilities. A new charcoal fire kindles hospitality in place of the cold ashes of rejection; radical hospitality that doesn’t hold the disciples and us to account for hiding behind closed doors but instead offers a new beginning. Confessions of love overcome denials of fear. Peter’s 3 declarations that he loves Jesus cancel out his 3 denials on the night of Jesus’ trial. The last supper has become the first breakfast; just like the Emmaus Road story, they don’t recognise Jesus until the moment of abundant grace. Where do we see Jesus? Do we recognise him when we do meet him?

“Follow me,” Jesus says, “and live as resurrected people. Follow me and fish in a different place. Follow me.” “Follow me” is the invitation to examine where we have been fishing. On which side of the boat do we fish? On which side of the cross do we live? Good Friday or Easter resurrection? May we always share God’s abundance with all those we meet and rejoice in his extravagant grace; however, he comes to meet us.

We pray:

For the leaders of nations, that they may know and show abundant love for all those they lead.

For our churches that we may be open to new possibilities and be prepared to fish on the other side of the boat.

For all those who are in need of your comforting, healing presence.

For ourselves, that we may truly be willing to follow and be Christ’s hands and feet in this place. For all our loved ones departed from us, that they may rejoice in the fullness of life eternal.

We offer our prayers in the name of our Risen Saviour as we say:

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

We sing: 674 Would I have answered when you called:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqxQVzqODAU&list=RDdqxQVzqODAU&start_radio=1

May the Holy Spirit empower you to proclaim Jesus as the Son of God,
and may you meet the risen Christ as you work, as you journey, in one another, and in the world,
he came to save. **Amen.**