



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

1st March 2026 Prepared by Rev Julie Hassall

Worship in the following locations:

Boundary Methodist Church - At 18:00pm - With Mr Howard Monks

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle- At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall

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

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - Mr Mark Fallows

Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - Local Arrangement

Onecote Methodist Church - At 11:00am - Mr and Mrs Massey

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

St Andrews Methodist Church, Cheddleton - At 10:30am - With Deacon Peter Ogle

The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 15:00pm

Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Dr Lynne Bradbury

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

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



As snowdrops push through from deep underground,
As sunshine breaks out to warm a wintery sky,
As gardens are prepared for the coming spring and the earth warms once more,
We come to worship the living God, in whose image we are made...

Hymn - [Faithful one - Robin Mark](#)

Prayer

God of life,

We praise you for the ways we encounter you day by day,

For the opportunities we have had this past week to offer your warmth and life to others,
and for the ways in which others have warmed us to new life.

We thank you for the moments when we can pause and reflect on who we are in you - a quiet time in a garden, an hour with a book and a cup of tea, an unexpected, life- changing conversation....

We worship you as we acknowledge the presence of your Son in our lives, who lived with integrity, who challenged hypocrisy,
As you receive our praise and thanks and worship - remind us of the call to be humble before you, and before one another....to live with grace...

(a moment of quiet)

The Lord hears our prayer

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Reading - [John 3:1-17 NIV - Jesus Teaches Nicodemus - Now there was - Bible Gateway](#)

Reflection

I remember when I was at school that there were certain children in my class who came from the families everyone else looked up to - or were slightly envious of (or maybe both!) They were the ones who had really top-notch school bags, whose parents drove swanky cars when they dropped the kids off in a morning, and if ever you were invited to play round at their houses it was amazing! I had one schoolfriend who lived in the posh bit of Worsley, whose dad was a JP, and they had a swimming pool in their massive garden!

There are times in life when coming from the right family, or living in the right place, or having a swimming pool in your garden seems to matter.

When Nicodemus comes to Jesus under cover of darkness, both of them are well aware that what matters most in their culture is the family you come from - being born into the right family, the family of Abraham. Everyone knew that!

It wasn't the only thing that mattered, but it was really important.

And Nicodemus, genuinely troubled by the question of what he needs to do to claim the inheritance of heaven, must have been fearful of Jesus' answer.

How Jesus responds is utterly shocking - he sketches out a new way to commit to being part of a family which will be life-giving, world-changing, and this way is to be born again (anew) by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is now a new line which anyone who dares to might claim for themselves. Even more shockingly, he reassures Nicodemus that anyone who is not open to the power of the Holy Spirit to come and breathe through them won't even be able to see the Kingdom of heaven, much less come in!

Jesus draws in the mind of Nicodemus the picture of a new family to which anyone and everyone might belong - if only they have the courage to be open to God's transforming Spirit.

He entrusts Nicodemus with this treasure - but for a man who has built his life around respect and status, I wonder if the call to openness came as a body blow. Perhaps he imagined there might be an easier way, a less demanding path to this inheritance. I wonder what soul-searching Nicodemus went through when he returned home in the darkness?

As we follow Jesus on his way to the place of self-giving and suffering, the same question comes to us time and time again. Are we too prepared to be open to the breath of God's Spirit in our lives - even if that blows through upturning some of our much-loved traditions along the way?

It can be much easier, can't it, to say what someone else should do - much harder to be genuinely prepared for the change of mind and heart Jesus asks of Nicodemus.

And yet it is at the same time the place of deepest joy and fulfilment - if only in small ways day by day we are ready to welcome God into our living and be genuine in our wondering before God's loving gaze.....

It is an invitation which is open to all...

Prayers

In your praying for others this morning you may want to light a candle as you remember Jesus, who is the Light of the world....

Speak your prayers aloud, or silently in your heart... picture before God the images you have seen this week...

In the quietness ask God how you can bring comfort, help, peace in your own community.. And as you pray, bind your prayers with the prayer Jesus first spoke...

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Song - [I Danced in the Morning \(Lord of the Dance - 5vv+refrain\) - Sydney Carter \[lyrics for congregations\]](#)

Blessing

May God be present with us as we journey toward the cross, grant us self-awareness, a generosity towards others which brings life, and the peace of knowing newness within. **Amen.**