

## Circuit Contact Welcome to our Circuit Worship for 16<sup>th</sup> November 2025 Prepared by Dr Lynne Bradbury

## Worship in the following locations:

Boundary Methodist Church - At 18:00pm - With Dr Lynne Bradbury
Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - At 10:30am - With Mr Mark Fallows
Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Rev Colin Cooper - Holy Communion
Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Dr Lynne Bradbury
Onecote Methodist Church - At 11:00am - Local Arrangement
Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Rev Joyce Smith - Holy Communion
St Andrews Methodist Church, Cheddleton - At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall
The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 16:00pm
Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - Local Arrangement
Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Rev Julie Hassall - Holy Communion
Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am- @ St Andrews



Let's still our hearts and minds as we listen to, or join in with, the hymn StF 134 Christ whose glory fills the skies Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies (Tune: Heathlands - 3vv) [with lyrics for congregations] - YouTube

For our opening prayer, we're going to use Psalm 98, a psalm of joyous jubilation where even the sea is to resound to God's glory, the mountains will sing, and the rivers will clap their hands – a fitting start to our focus on miraculous events! Psalm 98 NIV - A psalm. Sing to the LORD a new song, - Bible Gateway

## So, Let's say together:

Oh Lord, this Old Testament psalm urges us to rejoice that God's right hand and holy arm have brought about salvation, based upon faith in God and the promise of a future Messiah. May we reflect the joy and absolute assurance of the psalmist, as we confirm our faith in the New Testament knowledge of the coming of the risen Saviour, the Messiah for all humankind. Thank you that, in spite of our unworthiness, you offer us the knowledge of the new life of Heaven, right here on earth; and we ask you to forgive all those aspects of our lives which fall short of the example that Jesus has set before us. May your holy Spirit fill us anew and breathe through our daily lives. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

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.

Let's sing: StF 99 All creatures of our God and King <u>All Creatures of Our God and King (Tune: Lasst uns Erfreuen - 4vv)</u> [with lyrics for congregations] - YouTube

I wonder how many miracles from the Bible you can bring to mind? My favourite as a child was from Mark's Gospel chapter 5.

You might like to read the story, where a Synagogue leader named Jairus came, in great distress, to Jesus, and begged him to come to his daughter because she was dying. How frustrating it must have been for this desperate man when, on the way to his house, Jesus stopped because someone had touched him. Even among the massive throng of people who were crowding around Jesus, he knew that some healing had taken place and was determined to find out who it was. Jairus must have been close to despair, that Jesus appeared to have forgotten his desperate plight. You may remember that the woman in question had suffered haemorrhaging for twelve years. Her faith was so great that she knew that just touching the hem of Jesus' garment would bring her healing. The words that meant so much to me as a child, came when Jesus told her that her faith had made her whole.

So, poor Jairus in all of this must have been completely exasperated, particularly when people from his household arrived on the scene to tell him that he shouldn't bother Jesus anymore because his daughter was dead. I remember wondering why Jesus would continue his journey to the man's house. Was he, perhaps, feeling guilty that he had let the man down, and was going to console him? What a wonderful surprise, for me, when Jesus entered the house, looked at the child, and announced that the little girl was just sleeping. He gently told her to get up. And the girl woke up! I should think that her parents' hearts must have been ready to burst, having gone from total despair to utter elation in a matter of a few moments.

Take a moment to consider what your favourite miracle is in the Bible. Is it the miracle of creation? Or the crossing of the Red Sea? Is it (another childhood favourite of mine) when the friends of the crippled man carried him on his mattress, removed the roof of the building, and lowered their friend before Jesus? To go to all that planning, effort and possible trouble, they must have really believed in Jesus' power to heal – and, of course, he did!

In more recent years, the miracles of the raising of Lazarus, the crucifixion and resurrection, have overtaken my childhood favourites but, knowing that the disciples were given the power to heal (as in Acts 3: Peter healing the beggar), gives me a desperate desire to be able to channel God's healing grace to those who need it.

Perhaps my faith is just not yet sufficiently strong for me to believe that I could lay my hands on someone, call upon God's grace, and they would be healed. Of course, illness can take many forms, each requiring a different form of healing. We are all disciples of Jesus and so, like Peter, we must have the ability, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring about healing in some form. We hear of people who have this gift but, all followers of Jesus have the capacity in the power God gives us in his holy Spirit to bring some form of healing. Consider the people you meet who are lonely or weighed down by cares and worries for whom the opportunity for a quiet chat, or hearing the good news about our Saviour, a hug, or a phone call, a cup of tea together and a listening ear, might be the miraculous start of a healing process. Perhaps sharing a moment of wonder in the miracle of our precious and beautiful surroundings and the miracles of nature, we sometimes take for granted, could spark a healing of the soul.

Spend a moment thinking back across your life; what have you encountered which was so powerful that only a miracle from God could be responsible? I automatically think of the glory of nature and the power of the sea bringing miraculous healing to my soul. But I also thank God every day for the more tangible miracles in the life of my lovely Dad, and my Mum's care for him. An apprentice in the building trade, he fell off a house roof when he was nineteen. Doctors argued about whether his condition was a tumour or an abscess on his brain, but such surgery in the 1940s was possibly as dangerous as his condition. A hugely courageous surgeon led a team for this operation, following notes and instructions from a surgeon in Harley Street. My Dad (while having many difficult health problems) lived to see 70, and the surgeon who carried out the operation referred to him ever afterwards as 'my miracle,' and no one ever argued.

Let's take a few moments to bring to mind those we think may be struggling and in need of healing, and bring them, silently, or by name, before God. You may like to make the following prayer yours, by saying it out loud. (Or you may want to form your own prayer.)

Let's pray. Thank you loving Lord for healing that we have experienced whether in body, mind, or soul. Breath into me, once again, the power of your Holy Spirit to strengthen my determination to channel your peace and your love to those who are desperate for the joy and grace of healing. Make me more aware of those I encounter who are in need of hearing your word, and knowing your miraculous grace, and grant me sufficient confidence in your power within me, to reach out in confidence that we can share in miraculous healing.

Let's sing Hymn 748 Glorious things of thee are spoken (to the tune of Abbot's Leigh) Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken (Tune: Abbot's Leigh - 4vv) [with lyrics for congregations]

May the Grace, the peace and the blessing of God, who is Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, surround us with the knowledge of his love, and be with us all. Amen.