



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

17th August 2025 Prepared by Deacon Peter Ogle

Worship in the following locations:

Boundary Methodist Church - At 18:00pm - With Rev Denise Williamson

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

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - Local Arrangement

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

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

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

St Andrews Methodist Church, Cheddleton - At 10:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson -
Holy Communion

Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Mr Robert Mountford

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Rev Julie Hassall

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



Written by Deacon Peter Ogle

"Who's running with you"?

(Title from the Roots magazine)

Call to worship

To be in your presence, to sit at your feet. Where Your love surrounds me and makes me complete. This is my desire, O Lord, this is my desire. This is my desire, O Lord, this is my desire. Noel Richards Copyright 1991 Thank you music.

Hymn 51 Great is thy faithfulness

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErwiBz1QA4o&list=RDErwiBz1QA4o&start_radio=1

Prayer

Gracious God, we come into your presence with a sense of expectation today. For you have promised to be where two or three are gathered together. I might be alone or with my family, but I know that I share this service with the whole of the Staffordshire Moorlands Circuit and all the faithful servants who have gone

before us. Thank you for the opportunity to bring my sins to you through the death and resurrection of Jesus, **and in the quietness of the next few moments I bring them to you**, in the knowledge that you will forgive and forget them. Thank you for the guidance and encouragement of the Holy Spirit, trusting that together we might be a blessing to you. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn 466 Have faith in God, my heart

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBbrwRIImEBk&list=RDuBbrwRIImEBk&start_radio=1

Reading: Hebrews 11 verses 29 – 12 verse 2

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2011:29-12:2&version=NIV>

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— 38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Chapter 12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Reflection

I wonder whether you have ever taken up running? I tried it many years ago when I lived in Gloucestershire, and much younger. Now I don't know whether you've been to any part in Gloucestershire, if you have you will have noticed there aren't many flat areas that you can run along, a bit like Leek really. I looked the part including the head and wrist sweatbands. However, the running action didn't, it was very laboured. Because of my work pattern in the Children's Home, I could never arrange to run with anyone else, so I ran alone, after a while, I gave up and did something sensible, like playing squash. I'll never know

whether I would have been a better and more dedicated runner, if I had been accompanied by someone else. Perhaps I could have won a medal or cup or something. Though I guess it would be like hoping Sheffield Wednesday, (my home football team) might win promotion to the Premier league and win the F.A. cup in the same year.

Had we read the first part of chapter 11 we would have found a list of what we might call biblical heroes. The writer of Hebrews begins with **“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see”**. Listing Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses, all of whom put their trust in God, often facing very difficult situations. Noah, asked to build an ark quite a distance from any sea. Moses was asked to go to see Pharaoh and demand that he frees the Israelites from slavery. Abraham was told that he and his wife Sarah would have a son, even though they were old, we could go on. Our reading opens with Israelites having crossed the Red Sea having been pursued by the Egyptian army. The list goes on further. Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and many that we might like to add.

While all these were considered to be faithful for what they went through and achieved. The writer goes on in Chapter 12 to speak of a great act of faith, namely Jesus, who is deemed to be **“the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of God”**.

I was reminded of the hymn O soul; are you weary and troubled written by **Helen Lemmell (1864- 1961)** which has the following chorus. **“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace”**.

To conclude:

Spend a few moments giving thanks for those people who have encouraged and nurtured you on your ‘spiritual’ journey. Amen.

Let’s pray:

Generous God, thank you for calling us and equipping us to be witnesses for you in the Staffordshire Moorlands Circuit. The epistles highlight the numerous spiritual gifts that you have made available through the Holy Spirit to build up the body of Christ, the Church. Enable us to recognise and use the gift(s) you have given each one of us.

Encourage us to hold fast to our faith in you, particularly when we face difficult situations.

Spend a few moments bringing those people and situations that God has placed upon your heart. Amen.

Hymn 351 In Christ alone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2auMlipoLg>

Let’s bless one another as we share the Grace together:

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever.

Amen