



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for
18th January 2026 Prepared by Mr Mark Fallows

Worship in the following locations:

Boundary Methodist Church - At 18:00pm - With Rev Denise Williamson -
Covenant Service/Holy Communion

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle- At 10:30am - With Rev Colin Cooper

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Rev Denise Williamson -
Covenant Service/Holy Communion

Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Ms Gill Meredith

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

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Ms Heather Hayward

At Andrews Methodist Church, Cheddleton with St Edwards - At 11:00am* - With
Rev Julie Hassall - Covenant Service/Holy Communion **Please note time change

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

Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - Local Arrangement

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Dr Lynne Bradbury

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am- With Deacon Peter Ogle



Welcome to Worship

It feels like the Christian calendar has moved swiftly from the birth of Jesus to the baptising by John the Baptist and then on to the reality of Jesus as the Messiah whilst our lived experience today seems somewhat subdued after the Festive season. Maybe then at this time it is about refocusing and remembering to keep Jesus deep in our hearts, our sights aimed high and the continuation of sharing with others the greatness of our God.

Come, now is the time to worship (STF 24)

[Come, Now Is The Time To Worship | Official Lyric Video | Brian Doerksen](#)

[Reading – John 1:29-42 John 1:29-42 NIV - John Testifies About Jesus - The next - Bible Gateway](#)

[Reflection on John 1:29-42](#)

Jesus said to the disciples that followed him on that day "what are you looking for?" When we come to the Bible or to church or into the presence of God's listening ear, what are we looking for? I think that I may be coming to God looking for reassurance, the reassurance of life today, tomorrow and the comfort of knowing of his welcome into the next life.

"What are you looking for?" is also a phrase sometimes used in our house, probably not, it is more like me saying "have you seen?" then the response from others in our household saying, "why don't you look with your eyes and not your mouth".

I guess the question, "what are you looking for?" is so great, and we know that often Jesus' disciples didn't actually know what they were looking for. The two disciples who had heard John the Baptist on this day declare Jesus as the Lamb of God, the chosen one of God, were intrigued. In turn through the result of John's teaching felt encouraged to follow Jesus. They were probably expecting to see something miraculous and probably hopeful of becoming familiar with the Holy Spirit. Then Jesus offers them that accommodating moment, "come and see", and as they take up that invitation, they remain with him for the rest of the day, eventually becoming disciples of Jesus. Many thought that John the Baptist was the Messiah and God gave him the privilege of baptising with water but this was in preparation for what was to come, which was when Jesus baptised it was with the Holy Spirit and this was permanent. This was clarified by the dove remaining on Jesus as confirmation of the spirit.

This was a massive event and was obviously really significant to John when he recorded it in his gospel for, he refers specifically to the time as being "the tenth hour" (v. 39), or "4:00pm" depending on the version you are reading. The fact that the exact hour is recorded suggests how life-changing that single afternoon was, a moment so pivotal that they never forgot the time of day it began.

Towards the end of the passage, we read that as soon as Andrew "sees" and "remains," his first instinct is to find his brother, Simon. He tells him, "We have found the Messiah" (v. 41). This suggests that once we respond to "come and see," we naturally move toward "go and tell."

So, what are we looking for? Do we come in search of peace and light, of hope and love, and how do we come? Do we come with open arms? Or do we come with open hearts? How do we respond to the 'come and see'? For this offer of 'come and see' is not just a little peak, this come and see for those first disciples was to remain and stay. Are we ready for this?

We often choose God on our terms, yet he shows us grace with the opportunity for forgiveness and new beginnings. I believe that God remains and stays in our lives hoping that one day we will come to understand that his only hope for us is to remain and stay in his love, to be his forever disciples and to truly know him as our one true God.

When Jesus says, 'come and see', he is not really saying come and see where I am going or where I am staying or what I am doing he is saying, 'come and join me, Jesus, for the great adventure of Christian life'. Isn't that the invitation to us all and even then, we will still have questions, so very many questions. Faith doesn't take away the mystery of life, it opens our eyes to the mystery of life, the great mystery and wonder of this world created by God, come and see.

Following Jesus begins us on a journey, a journey of having our eyes opened to the grace, mercy and love, that is always right here, right now, in front of us, hiding in plain sight. Come and see...

As C.S. Lewis famously put it, "I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." It is by our faith that we see everything else. In considering faith as the light by which we see everything else, then "looking with our eyes and not our mouth" (where this commentary began), becomes a spiritual discipline. It is about quieting our own demands and questions long enough to perceive the "grace, mercy, and love" that is, as we know, hiding in plain sight.

STF 462 – Come with me, come wander [**StF 462 Come with me, come wander, come welcome the world - YouTube**](#)

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Come and see and join in prayer for the people of the world waiting to hear good news.

Loving God, we pray for the areas of the world where confrontation and war seem to be a big part of daily living. We pray that people with influence may have the courage to be open to your guidance.

Lord hear our prayer and draw us closer to you.

We pray for others around the world affected by the actions of nature, tornadoes, earthquakes and bush fires and there ongoing issues. We also especially pray for those who lost their lives and were affected by the New Years eve fire in Switzerland that was the result of human negligence.

Lord hear our prayer and draw us closer to you.

We pray for students and teachers as they settle back after the Christmas break, and for doctors, nurses, refuse collectors and others as they continue through the challenges of the winter weather. We pray for all who show commitment to serve through your name and share the grace of God through their work, rest and play.

Lord hear our prayer and draw us closer to you.

We pray for those affected by illness, and where possible for them to return to their general health and wellbeing. For others, may they find peace as they journey closer to you and your ever faithfulness. Loving God we pray for each other and give thanks for the opportunity to come to you and to be able to see the love which you have for us. Encourage us to go out and share this with others and to tell of your greatness.

Lord hear our prayer and draw us closer to you.

We pray for ourselves God, you know each one of us by name. Make us into the people that you want us to be, and when that hurts, reassure us how much you love us. God, we bring ourselves and our prayers, in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (STF 762)

This is a sung version by Charlotte Church from Jerusalem.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzTHDZh35Vs&list=RDHzTHDZh35Vs&start_radio=1

STF 662 – Have you heard God's Voice? Have you heard God's voice? Lyric video (StF 662)

Blessing

As Andrew the disciple did with his brother Simon, let us go out and tell others the good news as we remain in the love of God. Amen.