



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for
19th April 2026 Prepared by Ms Gill Meredith

Worship in the following locations:

Boundary Methodist Church - At 18:00pm - With Rev Julie Hassall

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - At 10:30am - Local Arrangement

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Rev Colin Cooper

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

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

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

St Andrew's 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 - With Rev Steve Faber

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Rev Denise Williamson

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Mr and Mrs Massey



As we continue to celebrate the Easter season and to prepare to spend time in the company of our risen Saviour, I invite you to make yourself a drink of tea or coffee and prepare to spend time in his company.

Song On the journey to Emmaus (StF 308) ([Frodsham Methodist Church o YouTube](#))

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for being here with me, thank you that we can spend time together, that you are a part of everything that I do, that you know what I'm thinking, what worries me, what makes me happy. Thank you that you care. Help me to be particularly aware of your presence in the ordinariness of my life, as well as in special moments like this. Amen

For about a month, following his resurrection, Jesus appeared to some of his followers, encouraging them, demonstrating that he really was alive. After his meeting, early on Easter morning in the garden by the empty tomb, Luke's gospel tells us that he met two very confused followers, Cleopas & maybe his wife, as they tried to make sense of what they had heard, as they walked the 7 miles towards Emmaus later that day.

Bible reading Luke 24, 13-35 (NIV) [Luke 24:13-35 NIV - On the Road to Emmaus - Now that same - Bible Gateway](#)

I wonder why they didn't recognise him as they all walked along the road, probably side by side? Hadn't they believed the rumour that Mary had seen him and held a conversation with him? Did they think that she'd imagined that encounter – to be fair she must have been very upset?

Or was it the light as they walked towards the setting sun? Were they watching their steps, it wouldn't have been the safest place to be as the sun started to go down? This seems to have been only Jesus' second encounter that day, it certainly wasn't what they were expecting to happen.

Experts tell us talking when we're side by side can be easier than face to face. This conversation as the three walked seems to have gone very easily, this "stranger" could explain things that they could make no sense of at all – when he met them all the excitement and anticipation of their journey towards Jerusalem had gone, now the future seemed hope-less.

When you're sitting there, with your cuppa, do you sometimes do a puzzle? I'm a great fan of sudokus and crosswords. Until quite recently, I've only ever done the Quick crossword in my newspaper, but now, once a week, there's a "quick cryptic", for people like me who need a bit of help in understanding how the clues work. I'm still not very good at it, but sometimes I read a clue and the clues as to how the words in the clue work and, after some time, maybe even the next day, the answer suddenly dawns on me.

I can only imagine that that's what happened as those two sat down with Jesus. They'd heard what he said as they walked along the road together, and they watched him break the bread, and then, as they heard him say the traditional Jewish blessing and saw the way that he held the cup – actions that were just part of their everyday lives, but done in the way that they'd seen Jesus do them so many times before.

Nothing special, and yet so profoundly special, because they meant, without a shadow of a doubt, that they were, or had been, in the presence of the risen Christ.

It wasn't just his extraordinary knowledge and biblical teaching and interpretation that, thinking back, had convinced them, although walking and learning from him had helped, it was being with him, quietly in a familiar setting.

There was no doubt in their minds! They were so sure they set straight off back to Jerusalem, this time with joy and eagerness to share their news with the others. Jesus, despite all the events of the past few days, was alive, & that news had to be shared.

As followers of Jesus, we're not promised a perfect life, things will still happen that we struggle to understand and make sense of, there may be times when we don't know which way to turn. Whether life is feeling overwhelming or wonderful, or even just a bit ordinary, what we can be certain of is that Jesus is there and will make his presence felt when we need him.

&, like those two travellers to Emmaus, we need to share that news, that the Jesus, who was dead, really is alive and can be part of our lives.

Amen

Prayer

Living Lord Jesus,

Thank you that you are always with me, my companion wherever I travel.

I know that there are people who don't know that you are with them, or whose life circumstances make it hard for them to remember that. I remember them with you now:

Those whose lives are affected by wars and natural disasters, whose only thoughts are how they and their families will survive,

The leaders of nations, who rely only on might and the power at their command,

The sick, in body and mind, and those who care for them,

Those who mourn the loss of a loved one,

Those who are lonely.

Lord, make them aware of your presence, whatever their circumstances, and help me to know how best to share your love with them in their need.

Amen

The Lord's prayer

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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen

Song I want to walk with Jesus Christ ([Somerset Mendip Methodist Circuit on YouTube](#))

We can no longer see the physical Jesus, but he is with each one of us, now and for evermore. Amen