



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

20<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Prepared by Rev Julie Hassall

### **Worship in the following locations:**

Boundary Methodist Church - At 18:00pm - With Dr Lynne Bradbury  
Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle -At 10:30pm -With Rev Julie Hassall - Holy Communion

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Ms Gill Meredith - Holy Communion

Ipstones Methodist Church- At 10:30am - With Ms Beryl Stew - Holy Communion

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

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Deacon Peter Ogle

St Andrew's Methodist Church, Cheddleton - At 09:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson - Holy Communion

The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 16:00pm

Trinity, Leek - At 11:00am - With Rev Denise Williamson - Holy Communion

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

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

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Worship at Wellspring Cheadle– At 10:30am – With Rev Joyce Smith**



### **Call to Worship**

Shout it on the mountaintops,

Sing it in the market square,

Tell the world the Good News, that Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Hymn - [\(1\) Christ The Lord Is Risen Today \(with lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

### **Prayer**

Bright and amazing God, when all was darkness,

When we thought that nothing new could come to be,

The light of your love burst forth in the resurrection of your Son from the dead - bringing life, and newness and song into silent and deathly corners.

**Christ is risen from death - Hallelujah!**

Gracious and creative God, when we thought the story was over,  
When we imagined that brutality and power had won the day,  
The exuberance of your dance swept us off our feet again - teaching us new ways of being and showing us the reality of the victory of love.

**Christ is risen from death - Hallelujah!**

On the days when we are content to accept the old ways of being,  
On the days when we find it hard to trust, and fear takes hold,  
On the days when we fail to live as people of the resurrection...  
Heal us, enliven us, and forgive us...

For the sake of your Son, who lived and died and rose again breathing hope - and in whose name we pray.

**Christ is risen from death - Hallelujah! Amen.**

Reading - [John 20:1-18 NIV - The Empty Tomb - Early on the first day - Bible Gateway](#)

## Reflection

Throughout Lent this year I have had the extraordinary privilege to journey alongside people who are exploring their vocation, hearing God's call to them, and stepping out in faith. I have also had the equally extraordinary privilege to be alongside those for whom the days are dark and there seems little hope on the horizon.

I remember that particularly profound part of my own vocation as I read the story of Mary who stands and weeps at the tomb. Perhaps you can see her in your mind's eye - overwhelmed by a crushing sorrow, she does not even recognise the one who speaks to her (perhaps she is struggling to see through her own tears). That is an experience we have all shared at some point, I suspect. Something so traumatic happens to us and we cannot, as my grandma would have said 'see straight'.

In a poignant moment in their encounter, she mistakes the risen Jesus for the gardener. She is of course quite wrong and yet at the same time there is a deep resonance in her misunderstanding with the One who rises from death to bring new life - to sow the seeds of new growth and flourishing in the hearts of those who have loved him, followed him, and stand now broken in the face of seeming defeat.

The future will look different - Jesus' encouragement not to 'hold onto' him is in part an affirmation that things are not as they were before.

In the comforting and reassuring call of her name, Mary recognises that she is in the presence of her Lord. She is so emboldened that her tears dry and off she goes to bear witness to what she has just experienced!

'I have seen the Lord!'

The old order is upturned - you only have to remind yourself that in John's account the one charged with this witness is a woman! And not a particularly reputable one at that..... More than 2000 years later, as I hear this story again today and take it to my own heart - I remember again the people I am alongside. I remember just how very much this encounter is good news for those whose are finding it difficult to see past their tears today, for those who have never really had a voice in their society, for those who need to know the transforming love which His rising makes real in the hearts of all who will hear their name spoken, with tenderness and with love.

Who are you remembering today - whose name might you be called to speak with that same tenderness in order to open up a relationship with Jesus? Who are you alongside in the dark and uncomfortable places of life? Where and how can you and I wipe away tears and embolden people to full and fruitful living? In our own day we share a high calling with those who have gone before us - in the strength of the risen Christ, to be people who are constantly at prayer and ready to live out the Good News of new life in Him.. May God bless us in our praying, in our caring and in our witnessing!

## Prayers

Loving God, on this day of resurrection

We remember in love those who have died....

- Whose light still burns brightly in our own lives even though we see them no longer...
- Whose memory inspires us to live fully and freely...

We remember in compassion those who live in death and darkness...

- All who live with addiction or trauma...
- those who suffer with frailty of body, mind or spirit....

We remember in hope our own call to be people of new life, and to share that hope with others - give us grace to notice the new life all around us as we pray for the breaking in of your Kingdom.....

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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

Hymn - [\(1\) See What a Morning - Kristyn Getty, Margaret Becker, Joanne Hogg - YouTube](#)

## Blessing

May the blessing of the *God of love*, the *Christ of new life*, and the *Spirit of hope* inspire us to live as people of the resurrection - filled with courage, faith and love, for the sake of *God's Kingdom*. **Amen.**