



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

20th July 2025 Prepared by Rev Joyce Smith

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 Dr Lynne Bradbury

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

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

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Rev Joyce Smith

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

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

Trinity, Leek @ St Edwards - At 10:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson - Holy Communion

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Ms Beryl Stew- Holy Communion

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am - Attending St Andrews Methodist Church, Cheddleton

Sunday 27th July 2025 – Worship at Wellspring Cheadle– At 10:30am with Rev Julie Hassall – Holy Communion



We gather:

God of all time and eternity, for everything there is a time, and time is now our most precious commodity. We are like Martha, distracted and pre-occupied with our long to-do lists.

Slow us down Lord, and for now simply remind us that only one thing is needful, that we be still before you and know that you are God. Amen.¹

We sing: 443 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love [Come, let us sing of a wonderful love](#)

We pray:

Loving God, we come to sit at your feet, to listen and learn. We come to make you our priority in this time of worship. Help us to be open to your leading, willing to receive what you have to say to us and committed to serving you in every aspect of our daily lives. We set aside the things that worry and distract

us, we bring our thanks for all your many blessings and pray that you will work through us and in us so that those we meet may feel the warmth of your love and grace. May we be open to your presence at all times.

We confess that we sometimes let other things distract us, there are times when our personal agendas become more important than yours; times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what you have said and done and promised.

Forgive us and renew us we pray. **Amen**

We sing: 441 As water to the thirsty <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/42j1uz8bssdjwh0mvzw45/441-As-Water-To-The-Thirsty-2.mp4?rlkey=rfexjv1nbtew7k2kr913eipmv&st=l07fdb4y&dl=0>

We read: Luke 10:38-42 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2010%3A38-42&version=NIV>

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one.^[a] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."ⁱⁱ

Reflection

In today's gospel reading we are introduced to Martha. Martha was "worried and distracted by many things". Before any of the things that distract us in our day and age, Martha was worried and distracted by many things. I can only imagine what it would be like for Martha today with mobile phones, social media, and financial pressures!

We live in a time of never-ending worries and distractions, don't we? The distractions are obvious, and so are the worries, they seem to grow all the time. That's what makes Martha's story so relatable, we've all been there.

What really mattered for Martha was the presence of Jesus in her home. But her worries and distractions pulled her away from that amazing experience. Distractions pull us away from what really matters, from what is truly important. And it happens to us all, sometimes we are so distracted by other matters that making God the focus of our attention for just an hour in worship is too much. If you are completely honest, isn't there at least one occasion when your mind has wandered from worship to whatever is worrying you? One occasion when your focus on the prayers has strayed to "did I lock the front door"? I admit it has happened to me.

There's a word you will be very familiar with-Religion. It comes from the Latin, re-ligare, which literally means to be re-attached. Re-ligare. Re-attached. That is what religion does, at its best. It re-attaches us to what truly matters.

So, while distractions pull us away from the things that matter, faith re-attaches us to what is truly important. And, in particular, it re-attaches us to Jesus.

Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet, not because she was lazy or neglectful of the hospitality which Martha was fretting about, but because she knew what really mattered. Worship isn't about an hour on Sunday, it's about a lifestyle which places God at the centre of everything, it's about making God our priority. Ask yourself, if Jesus came to my house, would I be Martha or Mary? It's not an easy choice to make, because Martha was doing something important. After all, if everyone just sat at Jesus' feet, everyone would have gone hungry. There is a balance that is important. Today's gospel reading is a reminder to re-attach ourselves to God on a daily basis through spending time in prayer, setting aside time with God and joining in worship with others. Then those things we stress about will be put into context and time spent at Jesus' feet is never time wasted.

You might feel called to serve at the moment; you may feel the need to sit at Jesus' feet. Both are important, but our motivation and attitude are telling. God calls us to act out of love, not obligation or pressure or resentment.

Yes, worries and distractions pull us apart. But it is Jesus who holds us together. His cross; His love; His mercy; His grace. These are the things that hold us together, that keep us close to him. There are times when we just need to

*"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."*

We sing: Turn your eyes upon Jesus

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?&q=Song+Lyrics+Turn+Your+Eyes+Upon+Jesus+by+Michael+Smith&mid=347699B9BC6CB9A27F4A347699B9BC6CB9A27F4A&&FORM=VRDGAR>

We pray:

<p>For all those things that worry and distract us, for places where there is war and conflict; for places where there is persecution and discrimination; for places where inequalities are perpetuated by those in power.</p> <p>For the people who worry and distract us, those who work in unsafe conditions for subsistence pay; those who risk their lives and travel great distances in search of safety; those known to us who are in need of God's peace and comfort.</p> <p>We offer all our concerns to our loving gracious God who hears all our prayers, and we say together:</p>	<p>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.</p>
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We sing: 550 Forth in thy name O Lord I go

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/d8biuu8bouy5f63328wf0/550-Forth-In-Thy-Name.mp4?rlkey=7h40zqkmbh40cgqfxu5u2nph&st=nctw0bse&dl=0>

We pray

**Grant, O Gracious God, that as we leave this time of worship,
we may not leave your presence:**

Be ever near us and keep us close to you now and for ever. that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live this day in love to one another and to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

ⁱ <http://presbyterianrecord.ca/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.biblegateway.com/>