



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 Prepared by Rev Julie Hassall

## 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025

### Worship in the following locations:

Boundary Methodist Church - At 16:00pm - With Ms Heather Hayward - Carols

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - At 10:30am With Deacon Peter Ogle

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

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

Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall - Carols

Onecote Methodist Church - Carols At CofE - At 19:00pm - With Rev Julie Hassall and  
Mr Roger Cutts

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 14:00pm - Local Arrangement - Carols

St Andrews Methodist Church, Cheddleton with The Gathering - At 15:00pm - Local  
Arrangement - Carols

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

Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Rev Joyce Smith - Holy Communion

Waterhouses Methodist Church with CofE- At 14:00pm - With Mr Mark Fallows - Carols

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am- Local Arrangement - Carols

## 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Worship in the following locations:

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

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

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Mr Roger Cutts

Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:00am - With Rev Denise Williamson **\*\*Please note time Change**

Waterhouses Methodist Church with CofE- At 09:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall



As angels clear their throats to announce good news,  
As shepherds bed down on a cold and bleak hillside,  
As night falls on a bustling Bethlehem, and a frightened young couple prepare for a new life,  
We gather to worship the God who holds each one in a loving and tender gaze.

### Prayer

Hold the silence as you thank God for the blessings of your Advent journey..

- For the times of quiet and reflection
- For the days when you have heard someone else's story
- For the moments when you have sensed angels along your path
- And for the opportunities to serve your community on the road to Bethlehem

God of all grace, Holy and One, we offer back to you our journeying of these past weeks – we seek your enlivening and restoring. Grant that, as the daylight fades and the world holds its breath for the new things about to come, our hearts may be ready to welcome you. We bring our prayers in the name of the child of Bethlehem, light for the world, food for the hungry, peace for the troubled. **Amen.**

Song - [Silent Night : Kings College, Cambridge \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Reading – [Matthew 1:18-25 NIV - Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son - This - Bible Gateway](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+1%3A18-25&version=NIV)

## Reflection

I wonder what is the strangest Christmas present you have ever received? On an official visit to Scotland earlier in the year, the Princess of Wales disclosed that she had once received a chainsaw!

In our Gospel reading today it is Joseph who receives news of an unexpected gift. In Luke's Gospel it is Mary who is the focus of attention in the birth narratives but in Matthew's Gospel it is her husband to whom an angel appears. The angel tells him that his wife will bear a son; he is to be named Jesus 'for he will save the people from their sins.'

*All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:  
'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel which means 'God is with us'*

How strange is this? Not simply a gift from God, which is true of every child born! But the gift of God himself! Most of the time I wonder if they understood what had just been promised to them in any sense at all! He was a gift who was to bring them the greatest joy and break their hearts.

The Methodist Church has run a media campaign this Christmas on the theme 'Gifted'. Posters have appeared on the streets of London and material has been made available on-line. Here in the Staffordshire Moorlands, some of us have been using that material in our weekly Advent fellowship group – looking at ourselves as God's great gift (which we sometimes don't acknowledge!), and then thinking through how our churches can be 'gift' in our communities, hope and encouragement.

A short video has been produced for each week in Advent featuring the President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev Richard Andrew and the Vice-President, Matt Forsyth.

The videos are available on the Methodist Church website ( [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)) and here is the link to the first of them - [1. The Gift of Peace | Advent 2025](#)

They speak of the gifts we have received - and continue to receive- through the coming of Jesus. The gifts of Peace, Justice and Joy - and this week the most amazing gift of 'God with us'. Not 'throned above' but fully involved in the warp and weft of our daily lives. We are reminded that we are called to be gifts to others.

As we receive the gift of peace, is there a relationship we know of when we might begin to attempt some work of reconciliation? As we receive the gift of justice, what might our Church be doing to help shape our local community to make it fairer?

As we receive the gift of joy, where are we seeing signs of joy this Christmas and how can we share them?

The greatest gift we have is the knowledge that none of this we do alone. And we are not alone. In Jesus 'God is with us' and today he is to be found in each other - neighbour and stranger alike.

As Christmas draws near, I wish you the peace of the Christ-child in ways which will be life-changing for you – and for those around you. **Amen.**

Song - [It was a starry night \(youtube.com\)](#)

### **Prayers**

In this most holy week, we ask God's blessing on all who are travelling, or waiting, or fearing. We pray God's comforting of all who are missing their children, for whatever reason that might be. We seek God's strengthening for all who are far from home, alone, and afraid. We long for God's encouraging of all who are new parents, or struggling to care for their families, or who are hearing voices of judgment and condemnation in their heads. And we pray for the gift of angels to point us towards the Kingdom of Heaven....**Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May the blessing of the God of extravagant love settle in our souls,  
May the blessing of the Christ child of Bethlehem fill our hearts with joy,  
May the blessing of the Holy Spirit call us on to ever deeper hope in the God who speaks our names in the voices of the angels.  
**Amen.**

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.**