



## Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

21st September 2025 Prepared by Deacon Peter Ogle

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

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

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - At 10:30am - With Rev Rob Cotton

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

Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Anthony Clowes

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

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Dr Lynne Bradbury

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

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

Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Rev Nigel Irons with St Edwards - Local Arrangement

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

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 14:30pm - With Rev Joyce Smith - Holy Communion



### Call to Worship

What is our mission here? He makes his purpose clear: one world, one Lord!

Spirit of truth descend; all our confusions end: give me your hand my friend-

Jesus is Lord!

Fred Pratt Green 1903-2000 (Singing the faith 691 verse 2)

Hymn 662 Have you heard God's voice

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQ\\_TRU6aPbY&list=RDjQ\\_TRU6aPbY&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQ_TRU6aPbY&list=RDjQ_TRU6aPbY&start_radio=1)

### Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, we come before you today, with a sense of expectation, for you have promised to be wherever 2 or 3 are gathered in your name. We come, with a sense of gratitude for what you have given us as we continue along our earthly journey. We come, as we are, with our hopes and dreams, with our fears and failings in the knowledge that you receive us with open arms. Arms of love, comfort and security.

We bring our sins to you today, sins of commission and omission. We thank you for giving your son Jesus, whose death on the cross outside the city walls of Jerusalem enable us to bring them to you. Thank you for the promise that our sins will be forgiven and forgotten. Pour down your Holy Spirit upon us as we pray today, enable us to be your representatives in the community in which we live. 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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn 664 Lord you are calling us to your service

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtsubiBA78s&list=RDMtsubiBA78s&start\\_radio=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtsubiBA78s&list=RDMtsubiBA78s&start_radio=1)

### Reading 1 Timothy chapter 2 verses 1-7

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. And for this purpose, I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

Biblegateway NIV

## Reflection

I don't know what it is like where you live, but here in Leek, there's been an explosion of St. George flags around the town over recent weeks, in fact one street is almost completely covered. At least one pedestrian crossing has been decorated/vandalised (according to your particular stance) with a vertical and horizontal red stripe on each white rectangle.

It seems to me that it became fashionable when England's men's and women's teams were involved in either the World or European nations football cups. In a sense people wanting to show their support for the team.

But today it feels much more sinister. There's much been written on social media about the purpose of this campaign, "stop the boats and take our country back" headlines scream. A slogan that has given rise to a wave of populism across Europe and America.

This campaign is principally aimed at those people who are considered by many, to be illegal immigrants, who are being housed at great cost, and contribute nothing to England. The only thing that is missing is the baseball caps with the slogan MEGA, Make England Great Again) but am sure some enterprising person will be latching on to the idea soon. I wonder if I should patent the idea (only joking).

I wonder if those people who are putting up flags and painting stripes on pedestrian crossings, actually know who St. George was? I have to admit to having only a vague knowledge. So, I googled it, what did we ever do before Google came into our lives? I found there are differing opinions. These range from "he never existed at all, through to he was a Roman. Born to Turkish/Syrian parents. He never visited England.

He didn't kill a dragon. He's not only a Christian saint but also a Muslim and Jewish prophet". In today's climate, he would be considered an immigrant.

We need to ask the question, **what should the church be doing in this situation?** There will probably be many different answers, but it seems to me that we can find one in our reading this morning. Timothy had been sent by Paul, to the church in Ephesus, while he went to Macedonia. Timothy was to provide care, support and encouragement to the young Church. What he found was a congregation facing many challenges, particularly in respect of what Paul considered to be false teaching. During the 8 years since Paul had been in Ephesus, Gnosticism, Judaism and false asceticism had infiltrated into the teachings of Jesus that Paul had shared with them.

In 1 **Timothy 1 verse 5** we find Paul having commanded Timothy to stay in Ephesus and preach against the false doctrines, we read **"The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith"**.

He wants Timothy to get involved with the community in this case the fledgling Church, to point out the errors of its ways and get them back on the straight and narrow. He never promised it would be easy, and it wasn't. What he did promise was that Timothy would go in the strength of the Lord.

The first few verses of chapter 2 set out a way Paul thinks Timothy's involvement might take shape. He suggests that the congregation come together in prayer. Verse 1 **"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all people"** Paul has a burning desire that all people should come to God. He goes on to urge that prayers should also be made specifically for all those who are in authority in the world. This would have been controversial because Nero the notorious Roman emperor was in power at the time and many would have found it difficult to pray for him. Paul wanted the leaders of the nations to rule for the benefit of everyone, because they themselves had a deep reverence for God. Paul had a vision of people living peaceful and quiet lives, making a contribution to a world that God created. A world that acknowledged Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

We might consider it difficult to pray for President Trump, President Putin, Prime Minister Netanyahu, Nigel Farage and many others today. We might also consider it difficult because we live in a multi-cultural world, but I bring us back to the late Fred Pratt Green's words I used at the beginning. What is our mission here? He makes his purpose clear: one world, one Lord! Spirit of truth descend; all our confusions end: give me your hand my friend- Jesus is Lord!

Is it time to meet up with Christians in our local communities, to pray for God's work within those communities?

Is it time to meet up with other members in the Staffordshire Moorlands Circuit to pray for our local, national and international leaders?

Is it time to look out rather than in? I know we need to maintain our buildings, I know we need a certain amount in our reserve funds, I know we need officers to fulfil specific positions on our church council. I know too, that we cannot do nothing. God's church, God's world needs faithful witnesses.

To conclude I leave you with the words of the first verse of Keith Getty and Stuart Townend's hymn In Christ Alone.

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song; this Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.  
Amen

Let's pray:

In the silence, pray for:

Your local parish or town councillors.

Staffordshire Moorlands Council members.

Staffordshire County Councillors.

Your MP.

Members of the Houses of Commons and Lords.

The members of HM Government and Opposition.

Leaders of the nations of the world and people of those nations.

King Charles, Queen Camila and members of the royal family.

Kings, Queens and members of other royal families around the world.

For yourself, your family and your brothers and sisters around the world.

That together, we might make a difference in God's world.

Hymn 378      Father of everlasting grace

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMWGfpZPqLw&list=RDfMWGfpZPqLw&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMWGfpZPqLw&list=RDfMWGfpZPqLw&start_radio=1)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for evermore. Amen.