



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

22nd March 2026 Prepared by Dr Lynne Bradbury

**Worship in the following locations:**

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

Wellspring Methodist Church, Tean- Songs of Praise At 15:00pm

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

Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson

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

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

Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Rev Andrew Willetts

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - Local Arrangement

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am- With Ms Beryl Stew



Theme: I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.  
Welcome to worship.

Let's sing (StF 628) Faithful one [Faithful One, So Unchanging \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

Prayers of thanks and praise:

Loving Lord, the earth and the seasons roll on, no matter what is happening in our world, and we know that your goodness and Grace is free to every corner of our world. The world is entirely yours, offered as a haven and home to each plant, human, and creature sharing this amazing space. Thank you for the great privilege we have of walking on the ground you made, of breathing the air that you breathed and bequeathed to us, and for the ultimate gift of being welcomed into your presence and your kingdom. As we move forward in our Spring journey, may we also walk beside you through Lent and beyond to the passion of our Lord Jesus, and to the utter joy of joining him in his glorious resurrection. Amen.

Let's sing: Glorious things of thee are spoken (StF 748) [Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken \(Tune: Austria - 4vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Reading: Ezekiel 37 v1 – 14 [Ezekiel 37:1-14 NIV - The Valley of Dry Bones - The hand of - Bible Gateway](#)

Reading: John 11 v1 – 45 [John 11:1-45 NIV - The Death of Lazarus - Now a man named - Bible Gateway](#)

Let's sing: (StF 661) Give me the faith [Give me the faith that can remove StF 661](#)

These two passages (Ezekiel 37, and John 11) were particularly powerful in my journey toward faith when I was training to be a Local Preacher.

Ezekiel, prophesying in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC, at a time when the Israelites were in exile in Babylon, had a message for the people who were feeling spiritually cut off, or even dead in their faith. They had lost their land, their temple, their King, and their hope, and had turned to sinful ways, turning their backs on the consecrated lives expected of God's people. Ezekiel shows us that, even when we could consider the whole tribe of Israel to be lost, when Ezekiel obeys God to prophesy to the bones and the breath in the valley, God shows his love and forgiveness for these unidentified people, who have not even asked for forgiveness, and breathes life into them, just as he breathes faith into the people in exile. Ezekiel stresses that this happens at the Word of God.

The passage from John's gospel has a similar theme but as the seventh of the seven signs of the divinity of Jesus, that John describes. In spite of the other six signs presented in this gospel, so many of the followers have asked for yet more signs, because they have not yet understood who Jesus really is, and how this will impact the world.

As Jesus enters Bethany and hears that his dear friend Lazarus is now dead, we see the human side of God's son, as he is seen weeping. While the presence of the odour from the tomb confirms that Lazarus is indeed dead, the words Jesus says to God, confirm that he is asking for God's confirmation that he has sent his only son, that all may believe.

At Jesus' command, the stone is moved and Lazarus emerges, still wearing the grave clothes, but raised to life, responding to the call of Jesus in the power of God.

Within these two passages, we have confirmation of God's love and forgiveness, through his son who comes to suffer, die and rise for us. Here we are shown the power and the eternal love of God, and we take a glimpse at our eternal salvation.

Let's Thank God for this incredible love.

Thank you, almighty ever-living God, for your love which is so great that you forgive us no matter what and bring us to salvation through the sacrifice of your own son. May our eyes, ears and all our senses be open to the multitude of the signs we experience each day of your love, your power, and your glory. We are sorry for anything in our lives which offends your grace. Thank you that we can know that we are forgiven, and that you offer new life to each of us, no matter what our former life. Help us now to reach out to the world around us and share the love, grace and salvation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let's sing: (StF443) Come let us sing of a wonderful love [Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love \(Tune: Wonderful Love - 4vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

**The Grace of our Saviour Jesus, the abundant love of the Creator, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.**