



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

28th December 2025 Prepared by Dr Lynne Bradbury

Worship in the following locations:

Wellspring Methodist Church, Tean- At 15:00pm With Rev Julie Hassall -
Carols

Endon Methodist Church - At Rudyard- At 11:00am - With Rev Denise Williamson

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - Rev Denise Williamson

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

Trinity Church, Leek - At Rudyard- At 11:00am - With Rev Denise Williamson



28th December 2025

Theme: Covenant Promises

Let's sing together the hymn StF544: As the deer pants for the water [As the deer StF 544](#)

We're going to take a few moments of reflection as we prepare to consider the promises we will make when we come to our Covenant services. We begin in prayer: Let us pray:

Loving Lord, you are so precious in my life. I have sung that I want you more than gold or silver, that you bring me genuine joy, that even though you are a king, you are my friend and my brother. With all my heart I want to love you more than anything in my life. This is indeed my true desire. And yet, I know that I, so easily, find myself distracted or attracted to things which are not worthy of a follower of your Word.

I look about at the tinsel beginning to look a bit crumpled, and the Christmas trees, now a bit faded; and friends, neighbours, and strangers who might never have heard or considered what they were really celebrating. I pray that you will forgive me for the times when I allow myself to be drawn in to the festivities and leave the baby Jesus behind. Thank you for all the opportunities to celebrate the beauty of your coming in services which stirred my soul and drew me to tears of joy at the coming of your son, and tears of pain as I remembered the direction of his life. So much love in human form, focused on me, and drawing me to your kingdom. Thank you that you forgive me for all that is not acceptable in your disciple, and help me to know that I am, once again, a child of your grace, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Let's sing together the hymn StF 330 Joy to the world: [Joy to the World, the Lord is Come \(Tune: Antioch - 3vv\) \[with lyrics for congregation\]](#)

As I look through the current plan, I am reminded that each of our churches will be taking part in their Covenant Service over the next few weeks. I have often wondered why we have the Covenant Service as near as possible to the beginning of the calendar year, instead of at the beginning of the Church year in September. Perhaps, following the fun and festivities, particularly of that time between Christmas and the new year, or if we have been swept along by the sentimentality and the spending feast promoted by sales companies for many months before Christmas, it is good to have this time of reflection and recommitment.

Perhaps this will remind us of the promises we made this time last year, and the love we celebrate in our Communion services throughout the year. Perhaps reminding us of those parts of Jesus' life beyond the crib will reset our readiness for the journey with Jesus to the cross and, ultimately, the resurrection. If any of us have been off track, then we are invited back to our lives of service and devotion. If we have managed to remain firmly on track during the festive season, then we come to ponder and reflect upon our joy and directions for our continued discipleship.

In Mark's Gospel, chapter 16, we see Mary struggling to realise that the person she sees at Jesus' tomb is indeed Jesus. As the chapter moves forward Jesus appears to his disciples. There are various exchanges, but the key words from Jesus as we prepare for our Covenant promises, are those where he instructs his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel of salvation. As his current disciples, we inherit this instruction. It's quite a tall order, and most of us will probably not have the opportunity to go into all the world. Perhaps we need to consider the ripple effect of sharing the gospel of salvation with those closest to us, and those we meet each day who, if they open their hearts to the Holy Spirit, will then send the ripples of this command further and further into the world.

Let's sing: StF548: Blessed Assurance [Blessed Assurance with lyrics | StF 548 - YouTube](#)

Covenant services begin by proclaiming the glory of God the Father/sustainer; God the Saviour who remained without sin, died on the cross, and rose again to lead us into God's Kingdom; and God the Holy Spirit who empowers us with love.

We go on to read key Bible passages reminding us of God's law, the prophets, the gospels, and the Epistles. We go on to be reminded of the Covenant God made with Israel, renewed in the coming of Jesus, and the offer of eternal life in God's kingdom. We share 'the peace' with our brothers and sisters in Christ, recognising that those brothers and sisters in God's work will strengthen, love us and comfort us; and we share in Holy Communion.

We spend time contemplating our current lives, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have fallen short of the lives we agreed to live in God's grace. We accept, again, that our lives are at God's command, and we submit our will to his. We proclaim again our beliefs, and our determination to serve in humility, and we commit our lives anew to God's service.

Perhaps we should close our eyes and consider the gravity of what we are about to encounter. (Take a few minutes to think carefully about the promises we are about to renew, or to say for the first time. Consider them carefully and ask the Holy Spirit to take away anything that might threaten our commitment to glorifying and praising God, with every part of our being.)

Let's sing: StF 547: Beyond these walls of worship [Beyond these walls of worship. Lyric Video \(StF 547\)](#)

Let's close our service in prayer:

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.

God, our Creator, Saviour and Spirit, remind us of the salvation you have granted us, and make us ready for your great commission to share this love and joy with everyone we meet.