



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

3rd November 2024 Prepared by Ms Gill Meredith

Worship in the following locations:

Boundary Methodist Church - at 18:00pm With Ms Gill Meredith

Wellspring Cheadle - at 10:30am With Rev Ashley Cooper

Messy Church at Wellspring Cheadle - 15:30pm

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am With Rev Julie Hassall - Holy Communion

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

Onecote Methodist Church - At 11:00am With Mr Arthur Massey

Rudyard Methodist Church - at 11:00am Mr Dennis Johnson - Chapel Anniversary

St Andrews Methodist Church - At 10:30am With Rev Joyce Smith

Memorial at St Edwards - Rev Denise Williamson at 18:30pm

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

Trinity, Leek - at 10.30am - With Rev Denise Williamson

Waterhouses Methodist Church- at 18:30pm Local Arrangement

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - 10:30am with Ms Heather Hayward



We gather together in the presence of God.

Prayer

Father God, as we join together, we give thanks for your unconditional love for each one of us; despite our faults and failings we experience your love and care for us every day. There are so many ways that you use to demonstrate that love, through the beauty of the world that you have created, in the sounds that we hear, the food that we taste and the company of family and friends. Your love has no limits and, in return, we worship you.

Song STF 6 Father we love you [Father, We Love You \(Glorify Your Name - 3vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Reflection

Are you a follower of rules? Or do you prefer to see them as suggestions?

I have to confess, that when I see an empty space on a busy car park, but the arrow painted on the tarmac indicates that it's one way, and that's not the way that I need it to be, provided that there's nothing coming and no-one's watching, I have been known to swing in.

Often, how keen we are to obey will depend on who made the rule and if we can understand the purpose. When driving I don't, for example, intend to adopt driving on the right hand side of the road, we can all see what mayhem would follow if we all just did what we felt like would cause!

There must be thousands of rules or laws that we obey every day without even thinking about it, not to mention the ones that we don't even know about. But which ones are the really important ones?

In the time of Jesus there were over 600 religious laws that a good Jew was supposed to keep, not just the 10 commandments that we would all think of; and they governed every tiny aspect of daily life. Some teachers considered that the more detailed and specific that they were, the better that they were. Others tried to summarise them.

In this reading from Mark's gospel the rabbi asked Jesus to choose just one, the most important one.

Reading from Mark 12,28-34 [Mark 12,28-34 MSG - The Story About a Vineyard - Then Jesus - Bible Gateway](#)

Sometimes one choice just isn't enough! Jesus chose verse 4 from Deuteronomy ch 6, a verse which is part of a prayer every Jew would have said every day, and verse 18 from Leviticus ch 19 to discuss further with his questioner. "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy" and "Love others as well as you love yourself". And the other rabbi agreed, out of all the options available, Jesus paired these together, and if we all managed to follow just these two rules, what a different place the world would be.

Of course, when we use the word love it means different things to different people, and in different contexts. The love that I felt when I was first handed each of my two sons was very different to the feelings that I have for close friends or the victims of a disaster that I see reported in the newspapers. The love that Jesus talks about isn't just emotional, it includes compassion, practical help, maybe forgiveness. It can involve action, cost to ourselves, prayer; it doesn't just include those people that we like, people "like

me", Jesus didn't even use the word "neighbours" here, he said "others". That's a very big ask. Love everyone that you meet, or learn about, whoever they are, wherever they're from, whatever they've done.

Song STF 256 When I needed a neighbour [When I needed a Neighbour \(with Lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

Prayer

Lord God

We hold before you your world, those situations that we are aware are in need of love;

We think of our brothers and sisters in places of conflict, where greed and the desire for power take precedence over love for others

We think of those experiencing the effects of natural disasters, often caused by the way in which we have failed to value your creation. May we appreciate how our lives affect those of others and live more lovingly.

We think of those who are sick, who suffer from the effects of the lack of resources, who are unemployed or work for inadequate wages, show us how to share our resources effectively

We remember those who are lonely, frightened, sad, that we may share our time more generously

We think of our families and all those we love but who it is so easy to take for granted, may we take time to show our love for them

We hold these before you in prayer.

Amen

As we read through the gospels Jesus repeats his message about the need to show love for everyone time and again, in the parables that he told and in his own actions. And right at the end of his teachings to his disciples, at the Last Supper, Jesus reminds them, and us, of how important showing love is - as the song goes, Love changes everything.

Reading John 14, 34-35 [John 13:34-35 MSG - "Let me give you a new command: Love - Bible Gateway](#)

Song STF 242 A new commandment [A New Commandment I give unto You Song Lyrics. - YouTube](#)

"Love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy"

"Love others as well as you love yourself"

"Everyone will recognise that you are my disciples - when they see the love that you have for each other"

We go in peace, to love, and to serve the Lord, Amen