



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for 30th January 2022
prepared by Rev Julie

Worship in the following locations:

Youtube Worship on the Trinity Church, Leek Channel from 10.30am

Endon Methodist Church - at 10am with Dr Lynne Bradbury
Cheadle & Tean - at Tean Methodist Church - at 10.30am with Rev Julie Hassall
Trinity Church, Leek - at St Edwards at 10.30am with Rev Richard Pope
Ipstones Methodist Church - at 10.30am with Mrs Gill Meredith
Rudyard Methodist Church - at 11am with Ms Ann Donaldson
St Andrews Methodist Church - at 10.30am with Rev Eleanor Smith
Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - at 2.30pm with Rev Colin Cooper
Waterhouses Methodist Church - at 6.30pm with Rev Julie Hassall

Online prayers on Tuesdays at 7.30pm till 8pm

To join the Zoom meeting details are as follows

<https://zoom.us/j/93992988436?pwd=dFBZSFdteFVEQWg3Zk1MRUhVS2VHUT09>

Meeting ID: 939 9298 8436

Passcode: 915603

A time for refreshing and renewing!

Within the Methodist Church there is an established pattern of sabbatical time, which is in place for the re-equipping of those in active ministry.

The purpose of the sabbatical remains that sense of refreshing and renewing but will look different in its detail dependent upon individual circumstances.

Such times of renewal are meant to take place every seven years.

Rev Julie will be on sabbatical from March 7th 2022 until June 6th 2022 and will be undertaking a course of study on pioneer ministry at Cliff College during March, with some subsequent study. In addition, there will be times of quiet and refreshment on the isle of Iona and some training in Mental Health First Aid. If you have any questions about the sabbatical, please contact either
Rev Julie or one of the Circuit Stewards.



Call to Worship

Bright and grace-filled,
Breathing hope, scattering joy,
Strength to the weary,
Vulnerable, compassionate God,

Let us be still in the presence of the One who speaks our name,
and breathes peace.

Song - [Be still for the presence of the Lord - YouTube](#)

Psalm 71 v 1-6

In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.
Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.

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Song - [Psalm 62 - Aaron Keyes & Stuart Townend \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

Reading - [Jeremiah 1:4-10 NIV - The Call of Jeremiah - The word of the - Bible Gateway](#)

Song - [Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders. Lyric video \(StF 158\) - YouTube](#)

Prayer

God of grace, we thank you for the wonders through which you have spoken in our lives,
For the astonishing and beautiful sights around us, for the new life which begins to emerge from the ground, for bright morning skies and restful nights,

For the wonders of your love, we offer our thanks and praise



God of kindness, we praise you for the whispers through which you speak to us day by day,
For a gentle word spoken in season, for birdsong and the encouraging touch of friendship,
For the warming of the sun, and an unexpected visit,

For the sustaining of your love, we offer our thanks and praise

God of healing, we worship you for the silence through which you offer peace,
For the quiet time of prayer, for time out from the busyness of activity,
For moments of stillness, of heart, soul and mind,

For the refreshing of your love, we offer our thanks and praise

Generous God, we thank you that when words were not enough you came to us in Jesus, speaking boldly, gently, compassionately, challenging insights, changing lives. Be present with us now as we gather to hear you speaking to us again!

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Reading - [Luke 4:21-30 NIV - He began by saying to them, "Today - Bible Gateway](#)

Reflection

There was a phrase our teacher used to produce on a regular basis whenever someone would complain that another student was verbally bullying them, picking on them. Perhaps you remember it too - *'sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me'*

I can recall that one of the girls in my class, a timid and withdrawn child whose story none of us ever fully understood was often the target of intimidation - and that as the time went by, she became ever more reclusive as a result. I hope and pray that schools are more alert these days to such dynamics. But I always used to think that the argument that 'names cannot hurt us' was deeply flawed. Our language is powerful, and the reckless or intentionally cruel use of words can be just as damaging as physical assault. I often wonder what happened to the girl in my class - I pray that she was offered support at some stage, and sometimes I wonder if we could have used our own words to influence that situation to the good.

What we say, what we don't say - and how we say it, is important. Throughout our lives we have a responsibility to grow in wisdom in our use of words.

The Old Testament is filled with the stories of those God calls to speak - none of whom seem on the face of things particularly ready for the challenge! Remember Moses, David, Jonah! Today we are reminded of Jeremiah who joins the band of unlikely recruits. Jeremiah believes that God has chosen the wrong one, because he is too young to speak God's word (Perhaps Jeremiah knew my granny, who was fond of telling us that young people should be seen and not heard!)

He is reassured by God not to be afraid - that in whatever he faces God will go with him.

I wonder when you might have heard the call to speak for God, for good, and looked round to see if maybe God meant someone else!

Jesus, having returned to Nazareth has been teaching in the temple and has amazed those around him with his eloquence, warmth and grace. They were excited to be in his presence and to learn from him. That is, until he starts to quote Scripture which reminds them that the goodness and the grace of God is not reserved simply for them (who think themselves worthy recipients). He rehearses in their hearing the stories of those God had blessed who were perceived as outside the 'chosen' - and the atmosphere very quickly changes from warm acceptance to open hostility! Speaking the truth can sometimes get you into trouble.

The good news of God's indiscriminate grace which makes room for all asks much of us who carry that message in our own day;

- To be bold in believing that God can and will use us to share transforming love, if we will only remain open to God's voice. The history of God's engagement with people shows very clearly that nobody is too young or too old to be a messenger of hope!
- To use our words with integrity - to be faithful and diligent in our study of Scripture, to try to understand more of the stories we share with others
- And in our everyday living to be careful with our words - in small ways as well as in bigger ways. We are called to temper boldness with compassion, and perhaps our own growth in wisdom will lead us to hold other's stories more gently, to pause before we speak (and pray), and to be those who constantly seek God's guiding in sharing the Gospel...
...as the Spirit leads us and encourages us to breathe love. Amen.

Song - [Speak, O Lord - Keith & Kristyn Getty - YouTube](#)



Prayers

We remember before the loving gaze of God all who today will hear or sense a vocation,

- All who are facing a change of direction in employment or volunteering
- those who will dare to use their voices to speak out against oppression or division
- All who work in advocacy and who seek to empower others

We pray alongside those who today have no voice,

- Those whose hopes and dreams are undermined by the circumstances of birth
- All whose voices are silenced by bullying and intimidation
- Those whose confidence is shaken, for whatever reason that might be

...into the silence, in this week of Holocaust Memorial Day we give thanks for all who will lovingly speak the names of many precious souls, and all who work for trust, for peace, for understanding - and we pray for all who use their words to demean and to destroy

And as we offer our own prayers, we remember together the life changing words Jesus once prayed...

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Song - [Chris Tomlin - Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone \[with lyrics\] -](#)



Blessing

The blessing of God whose word is love, be with us,
The blessing of Christ whose word is life, be with us,
The blessing of the Spirit whose word is breath, be with us
Today and every day,
Amen