



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

6th September 2026 Prepared by Rev Joyce Smith

Worship in the following locations:

Boundary Methodist Church - At 18:00pm - With Rev Denise Williamson - Holy Communion
Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle- At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall
Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Rev Colin Cooper
Ipstones Methodist Church @ St Leonard's - At 10:30am - With Mr Howard Monks
Onecote Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Ms Jo Powell
Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Ms Beryl Stew
St Andrew's Methodist Church, Cheddleton - At 10:30am - With Mr Mark Fallows
The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 16:00pm
Trinity Church, Leek with St Edward's - At 10:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson - Baptism
Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Rev Julie Hassall
Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Mr Dennis Johnson - Chapel Anniversary



We gather:

The presence of our Lord Jesus Christ is here—among us and within us.
So open your hearts and minds to the Spirit, and let's worship God together!

We sing: 103 [God is love \(hymn with lyrics\)](#)

We pray:

Eternal God of past, present and future,
Be fully present with us now, as we set aside this time to worship you.
In you we are a new creation, loved unconditionally, called to love others as you love us.

We are truly blessed, we praise and adore you.
As the people of God in this place,
we know that a crucial part of our witness is in revealing Christ to the world
through the way we love and care for one another.

Forgive us when people do not see any evidence in us of the One who is to come.
So many people, young and old, grope helplessly
in the gloom of despair and suffering,
yearning for the light of hope to dawn in their lives.
Remind us that the light of Christ shines through people like us.

Merciful God,
cleanse our hearts and minds of all that hinders us
from loving you and loving our neighbour so that our lives radiate faith active in love,
as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more
in the person of Jesus Christ. **Amen** ⁱ

We read: Romans 13: 8-14 [Romans 13:8-14 NIV - Love Fulfills the Law - Let no debt - Bible Gateway](#)

⁸ Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbour, you will fulfil the requirements of God’s law. ⁹ For the commandments say, “You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.”^[a] These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”^[b] ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfils the requirements of God’s law.

¹¹ This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes and put on the shining armour of right living. ¹³ Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don’t participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don’t let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires. ⁱⁱ

Reflection

Paul says “Owe no one anything, except to love one another”. I’m sure many of us grew up with the mantra “Owe nobody nowt.” Today, debt seems to be an accepted part of life for many people. We’ve all seen those adverts for checking our credit rating, so let me ask you: how’s your credit rating? I’m not asking about your finances, but how are you doing on the ‘love all God’s people’ rating? Are you in debt, or is your credit good?

Love is a word we use all the time, I love my family, I love shellfish, I love Mozart’s ‘Ave Verum Corpus’, but that one word doesn’t express the differences. If you were to take away shellfish and Mozart I’d cope, but take away my family and I would be bereft. The Beatles sang “All you need is Love”, but we know that’s not true; love doesn’t put food on the table or a roof over our heads. We simplify and romanticise love, yet nearly half of marriages end in divorce so there must be more to it than all the songs and films portray. We don’t think of love as a debt we owe, yet Paul says we have an obligation to love all those around us. Would we behave differently if we thought of those around us as our creditors? When we watch the news and see those affected by war, wildfires and earthquakes, do we see them as people we owe a debt of love to? Paul says no one should be left out or ignored, the debt is owed to all God’s people.

And if we do this, Paul says, then all the commandments are fulfilled, if we truly show love then there will be no murder, cheating, greed, envy. Imagine how different our world-and our lives- would be if we showed the patience, kindness and other fruits of the Spirit Paul talks about elsewhere. Not just to those close to us, but to those we don’t know, those we don’t like.

It's not like paying our taxes or mortgage, once we've made this month's payment, we're okay until next time; love is an endless debt we owe to one another. It's still a debt even when others throw it back in our faces, even when it's unwanted and unwelcome. As John's letter says "Whoever lives in love, lives in God and God in them" (1 John 4:16).

Then Paul says we are to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ", just as we get dressed and put on our clothes we are put on Christ: to be *as* Christ, so see with the eyes of Christ, to see all God's people as Jesus sees them. Just as Christ responded with love to all he met (albeit tough love with the religious authorities), so we are to repay that debt of love to all we meet.

So, how's your credit rating?

We sing: 654 [The Love Of God Comes Close](#)

We pray:

For those deprived of love and respect, for the unloved and those considered unlovable.

For those who feel ignored, unwanted and discarded.

For those who feel alone and bereft through the death of a loved one.

For those overwhelmed by illness, poverty and need.

May they feel the love of Christ surrounding and enfolding them. **Amen**

[The Lord's Prayer \(Singing the Faith 762 / StF 762\) \(Joseph Lees\)](#)

We sing: 615 [Let Love Be Real \(Michael Forster\) \(Singing the Faith 615 / StF 615\)](#)

May the love of Christ
be active in my heart,
be heard in my words,
be seen in my actions
and inform my choices
today and all days. Amen.ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.faithandworship.com/>