



## Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

7<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Prepared by Rev Julie Hassall

### Worship in the following locations:

Boundary Methodist Church - At 18:00pm - With Rev Julie Hassall - Holy Communion  
Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle- With Mr Mark Fallows - Toy Service  
Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - Messy Church at 15:30pm  
Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Mr Dennis Johnson  
Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Mr and Mrs Massey  
Onecote Methodist Church - At 11:00am - Local Arrangement  
Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Rev Denise Williamson  
St Andrews Methodist Church, Cheddleton - At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall - Holy Communion  
The Gathering At St Andrews, Cheddleton - At 15:00pm  
Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Rev Colin Cooper  
Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Ms Heather Hayward  
Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 10:30am- With Rev Joyce Smith - Holy Communion



### Call to Worship

Into the chaos and turmoil of the world, Christ will come.  
Into hardened hearts and souls overwhelmed by sorrow, Christ will come.  
Into homes of hospitality and warmth, Christ will come.  
Into every corner of our living Christ will come, to make all things new!

Hymn - [The Candle Song \(with lyrics\)](#)

## Prayer

Gracious and loving God,  
For those who forth-told your coming in Jesus, we praise you!  
For those who spoke timely words into trying times, we praise you!  
For those who have lived bravely and courageously, we praise you!  
In this season of darkness, we offer you our thanks and praise for all those who have shone a light on our path, challenged us, cherished us. As we wait for the fulfilment of your promise, we long to draw nearer to you. Inspire us to keep space for creative waiting, for prayer-filled anticipation, for daring love - as we wait for your coming. In Jesus name we pray...Amen.

## Reading - Isaiah 11 [Isaiah 11 NIV - The Branch From Jesse - A shoot will - Bible Gateway](#)

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. CCLI 259441

## Reflection

Isaiah talks about the proud being chopped down as though they were mighty trees - and then here he paints a picture of God who watches over the stump of that tree and breathes upon it, from it causing shoots to grow.

We are told that this line, this peaceful kingdom would come from the stock of Jesse, King David's father - indeed the authority of David's line had lain dormant for almost 600 years by the time of the birth of Jesus. It must have felt like a long wait for the fulfilment of that prophecy - generations came and went, and people must have wondered if Isaiah was mistaken in his assertion that this would be the way in which salvation would come, and peace would be realised - imagine a King who would come in humility and yet possessing great power, wisdom, understanding - it seemed unimaginable!

When eventually the King came, it was as if he slipped in almost silently and unnoticed amongst a people who were so busy fighting and arguing with one another that they barely noticed the little child who was forth told. Those who were most acutely aware of his coming would be the least and the lowest, those for whom life was a daily struggle, those who had little to hold onto and who in all probability were not even looking for a Saviour anymore - resigned to the poverty of their living and the absence of hope in their hearts.

Astonishing, then that Isaiah's prophecy was precisely for them - and who better to receive this life changing news than those who needed to hear it the most.

Over the coming weeks we will hear some of the best-known passages from the prophecy of Isaiah in words so beautiful that, as someone once said to me, **'they are almost too extraordinarily lovely to read'**

As you hear those words again this year - as they make their way past your ears and down into your heart, think again about those in your own community, your own street, your own family, who need most of all to hear good news this Christmas. For the prophecy of Isaiah is indeed filled with beautiful imagery and language which has the power to touch our souls - but it demands a response which goes beyond passive gratitude.

As we prepare to welcome the One who comes as Isaiah announces as *'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'* - reflect again on what we might need to do to receive such a King into our hearts and lives, how we are called to be those who forth-tell his coming, and whether those who are in the greatest need of good news in our communities will know that we seek to serve in his name. **Amen.**

#### Prayer

Alongside those who imagine themselves self-sufficient, **we pray for the breaking in of God's Kingdom...**

Alongside those who have lost hope, and whose hearts are crushed, **we pray for the breaking in of God's Kingdom...**

Alongside those who are waiting endlessly for respite to come, for light to dawn, **we pray for the breaking in of God's Kingdom...**

Alongside those who are filled with sorrow, or weighed down with anxiety, **we pray for the breaking in of God's Kingdom....**

And for ourselves - wherever we are in these prayers, we pray for the breaking in of God's Kingdom in the words Jesus once first spoke...

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.**

Hymn - [Soon and Very Soon \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

Blessing

*May God move us and inspire us, disquiet us and challenge us, comfort us and send us - may this be God's continued blessing in our lives, until God brings us home. **Amen.***