



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

9th November 2025 Prepared by Rev Julie Hassall

Worship in the following locations:

Wellspring Methodist Church, Cheadle - At 10:30am - With Rev Julie Hassall - Remembrance

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am - With Mr Mark Fallows - Remembrance

Ipstones Methodist Church @ St Leonards - At 10:30am - With Mr and Mrs Massey - Remembrance

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 10:45am - With Deacon Peter Ogle - Remembrance

St Andrews Methodist Church, Cheddleton @ St Edwards- At 10:30am - Remembrance

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

Trinity Church, Leek - At 10:30am - With Rev Denise Williamson - Remembrance

Waterhouses Methodist Church - At 18:30pm - With Rev Denise Williamson - Remembrance

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 14:30pm - With Rev Julie Hassall - Remembrance



Be present in us, O Lord,
Bring peace through our words,
Bring peace through our song,
Bring peace through our listening,
Bring peace through our silence,
Come, reign in our hearts, and let your peace fill the earth....

Song - [Be still for the presence of the Lord \(Aled Jones\)](#)

Prayer

Gracious God, we offer you our gratitude for the gift of this day – for breath in our bodies, for the companionship and the encouragement of those around us, for another day to serve you...

We offer you our praise for the gifts of intellect and the wisdom of the passing years, for the ability to pause and reflect...

As today we hold in love those whose lives have been given in wars past and present, all who have fought for peace, and who are now at rest...God of life, be with us as we worship and remind us of the blessedness of each one in your sight – for we pray in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Reading - [Matthew 5:43-48 NIV - Love for Enemies - "You have heard - Bible Gateway](#)

Reflection

I wonder if you have seen the film 'The Railway Man' which came out a few years ago? In it Colin Firth plays Eric Lomax, whose real life experience the film is based on. Eric Lomax was 20 when he joined the Royal Corps of Signals just before the outbreak of War in 1939. By 1942 he was in Singapore where he was captured by the Japanese and taken as a Prisoner of War on a forced March to Changi Prison. There he worked on the notorious Burma - Siam Railway.

He was interrogated and tortured and returned home at the end of the War feeling understandable hatred for his tormentors.

Nearly 40 years later he tried to make contact with one of them, Nagase Takeshi, in an attempt somehow to get even with him, and to give voice to his hatred.

'The letter Nagase Takeshi wrote back was full of sorrow and compassion, and I think at that moment I lost whatever hard armour I had wrapped around me and began to think the unthinkable.'

Jesus' words about loving our enemies are perhaps some of his most radical and - if we are honest - the most difficult to come to terms with.

How can we be expected to love people whose actions have caused damage or hurt to others? Over the course of my life I have come to realise that to love is sometimes not a natural inclination, a warm and cosy feeling – but rather a decision which in some circumstances can be challenging and costly.

To love someone is to want the best for that person. And that may begin by trying to understand that individual and what led them to their actions, or why they are as they are.

There have been occasions when we have perhaps found someone's behaviour quite abhorrent or impossible to understand, and then we discover something about their personal circumstances- the illness they are living with, the family troubles they are going through, or the loss they have suffered- and it makes us think again. Over the course of our lifetime we will each have that moment of opportunity thousands of times in how we react to someone else – someone whose story we perhaps don't understand.

The experience of Eric Lomax was that as he met and got to know his torturer, Nagase, the hatred he felt began to melt away and, in his words, *'it transpired that we had much in common. After our meeting I felt I'd come to some kind of peace and resolution. Sometime the hating has to stop.'*

For us, this season of Remembrance may be a time to reflect on our own attitudes in the small and the big things of life and think again before we rush to judgement.

Wherever you are today – pause and remember those who gave their lives, hungry, not for oppression and tyranny, but for peace. Today, in my own small way, I commit to a hunger for peace in my interactions with others, the desire to understand, to know, to value, to love. **Amen.**

Prayers

Looking to heaven, and confident of that place of peace, which is beyond our understanding, let us pray to God..

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.

Let us hold before God all whose lives have been given in the hope that peace would come, service men and women, each one known to God

Let us remember those who love them still, in death as in life, all who cherish their memory
Let us pray alongside members of the armed forces who are in danger today, and all who await their safe return - Let us offer to God the countless lives disfigured by war and terror, mindful too of our own prejudices and hatreds

And let us pray for those who need to be remembered today – the sick, the troubled, and for every situation where light seems absent, we pray God's peace.
Our own prayers we join with the prayer Jesus once first spoke...

Song – [Lord, For the Years \(Tune: Lord of the Years - 5vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\]](#)

Blessing

May the blessing of the God of Love, the blessing of the Prince of Peace, the blessing of the Holy Spirit of Grace fall gently today upon our hearts, our families, our communities and our world – this we pray...**Amen.**