



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for October 10th 2021 -
prepared by Rev Eleanor

Youtube Worship on the Trinity Church, Leek Channel from 10.30am
Worship in the following locations:

Endon Methodist Church at 10am with Rev Eleanor Smith

Cheadle & Tean at Cheadle Methodist Church at 10.30 am with a local arrangement

Trinity Church, Leek at 10.30am with Mrs Gill Meredith - contact the office
on 01538 398483

Ipstones Methodist Church at 10.30am with Rev Julie Hassall

Rudyard Methodist Church at 11am with Rev Richard Pope

Waterhouses Methodist Church at 6.30pm with Dr Lynne Bradbury

Boundary Methodist Church, Harvest Thanksgiving Service at 6.15pm with Mr Roger Cutts

ONLINE LIVE worship via zoom with Rev Julie Hassall at 6.pm

Everyone is welcome to join using the following details

<https://zoom.us/j/99211830855?pwd=MzJTbk5jaWhaTWw2N2U3NGFvLzJNUT09>

Meeting ID: 992 1183 0855 Passcode: 151949

Online Bible study - The story of Esther at 7.30pm till 8.45pm - Tues Oct 12th

To join the Zoom meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96289273888?pwd=d085dVEvckwrZkh4emhYM1FhMEdkQT09>

Meeting ID: 962 8927 3888 Passcode: 837070

Out and about

If you have a group starting up again or a one-off event planned - please send the details to
admin@staffmoorlandsmethodists.org.uk and we will feature it for you in one of our future editions.

Circuit Service

Next Sunday October 17th at 10.30am

at Trinity Church

joined by John. L. Bell

To attend please contact the office at Trinity on 01538 398483



GET TOGETHER

A friendly, eclectic group for all
Do join us for our first meeting on

WEDNESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

For an afternoon of social
sharing

Cheadle Methodist Church

Cost - £2 per meeting.

Bible study

Every 2 weeks from
11th October

At Boundary Methodist Church
At 7.30pm

All welcome



Call to worship

Loving God, you have led us to this moment,
not to shield us from heartache and the pain of human life
but to heal us and inspire us,
to gently redirect us
until we see the world as you do,
and love it with your love.

Hymn 11 **Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty**
<https://youtu.be/dPWpXyi9vHk>

Prayer (based on psalm 8)

How great is your name, Lord our God, through all the earth.
Your majesty is praised above the heavens.
When we see the vastness's of space, all of your making,
the galaxies and stars you have arranged,
we are amazed that you keep us in mind, that you care for us.
Yet you have made us in your image and have caused Jesus Christ to appear among us,
and we are crowned with glory and honour because of his suffering and death.
How great is your name, Lord our God, through all the earth.
Glory to you for ever. **Amen**

Confession

Let us in silence confess our sins before God.
Take time to reflect on the past week and remember the times when you have let God down,
let others down and let yourself down

May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.
Amen

Reading Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
[Amos 5:6-15 MSG - So seek GOD and live! You don't want - Bible Gateway](#) from The Message

Hymn 701 **Heaven shall not wait**
<https://youtu.be/Ue-Q6zFslTY>

Reading

Mark 10:17-25

[Mark 10:17-25 NIV - The Rich and the Kingdom of God - As - Bible Gateway](#)

Reflection



I wonder if you have heard of a new Project *Walking With Micah: Methodist Principles for Social Justice*? It is a two-year project of the Methodist Church to help us explore what it means to be a justice-seeking church. It draws on our tradition, theology and experience, and the project seeks to help us to renew our shared passion for justice.

Information can be found on the Methodist website

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/social-justice/walking-with-micah/>

On Sunday 13th June 2021 the Rt Hon Gordon Brown gave a lecture entitled *Justice and Hope* to mark the launch of the *Walking With Micah* project. In the face of Covid-19, the climate emergency and global inequality, where are justice and hope to be found? Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown argued that change is possible and that people of faith have a role to play. He was speaking as the leaders of the G7 countries were meeting in Cornwall. I was particularly struck by Mr Brown's comment that the leaders are patting themselves on the back for offering 1 billion vaccines to poorer countries when they need 11 billion. You can watch his lecture and the Q and A at this link <https://youtu.be/pTB2wLO4k1w>

There are so many issues of justice, or rather injustice, in our country and around the world, where do we start? Within the circuit our churches have contributed food from the harvest services to foodbanks, ASHA or the Salvation Army; all of us recognising that from our place of privilege there are thousands who need to ask for food because income is not sufficient to meet the basic needs of a family.

Gordon Brown, of course a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in the lecture, that the Budget is a moral statement; it is used to decide how to reduce or maintain the inequalities between the rich and poor in this country. Think of the outcry of Christians, faith leaders and politicians including some Conservatives, against the removal of the £20 a week uplift in universal benefits.

Maureen Wiskin of Trinity, an advocate for ASHA, speaks of the injustice of the closure of the home office centre in Stoke, meaning that asylum seekers have to travel by public transport to the office in Salford.

At some of the harvest services we have reflected on climate change as we await the COP26 meeting in Glasgow in November. Christian Aid reminds us that it is just plain wrong to ignore the suffering of the poorest and most vulnerable populations in the world especially when they are the least contributors to climate change.

The organisation Church Action for Tax Justice encourages a fair tax system. In a debate in the House of Lords, The Rt Rev Christopher Foster, Bishop of Portsmouth commented that our system causes an inequitable impact on the take-home earnings of those on low and modest incomes. He focussed on one of the examples from the *Fair Tax Now* campaign that the typical nurse pays a higher rate of tax than those earning £10 million – and concluded with these words: 'There are many other injustices and there is not nearly enough clarity. We need less inequality and injustice. I urge the government to address this urgently.'

The list goes on.

The prophet Micah was chosen, I am sure, as the name for a justice project, because of his words: *And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8 NIV)*

We have read some of the prophecy of Amos. There is little evidence about the circumstances of when Amos was giving voice to the message from God, but it is thought that he lived at a time of relative peace and prosperity. Amos

is attacking the wealthy for their greed, their lack of concern and justice for the poor, and for their elaborate worship which became more important to them than God himself.

And what does the prophet Amos say?

Woe to you who turn justice to vinegar and stomp righteousness into the mud. People hate this kind of talk. Raw truth is never popular. But here it is, bluntly spoken: because you run roughshod over the poor and take the bread right out of their mouths you're never going to move into the luxury homes you have built. You're never going to drink wine from the expensive vineyards you've planted. I know precisely the extent of your violations, the enormity of your sins. Appalling! Hate evil and love good, then work it out in the public square. (Verses from Amos 5. The Message).

Hymn 702 **I will speak out**

<https://youtu.be/ZCVPKzEQ1EQ>

Affirmation of faith

We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all,
and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.

Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust
and in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others,
to seek justice and to live in peace,
to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love
and in the company of the faithful so to be the church, for the glory of God.
Amen

Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
a world where different peoples and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Lord's Prayer

As we pray for our daily bread, make us hungry for justice

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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen



Hymn 550 **Forth in thy name O Lord I go**

<https://youtu.be/AUVAbXgJyqQ>

Blessing

A blessing on you who mourn

You shall be comforted.

A blessing on you who hunger for justice

You shall be satisfied.

A blessing on you who make peace

You shall be called children of God.

A blessing on you who are persecuted for the cause of right

Yours is the Kingdom of Heaven

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