



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

17th November 2024 Prepared by Dr Lynne Bradbury

Worship in the following locations:

Boundary Methodist Church - At 18:00pm - With Rev Julie Hassall - Holy Communion

Wellspring Cheadle - At 10:30am Local Arrangement

Wellspring Tean - At 3pm - Songs Of Praise - Rev Julie Hassall

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am With Mr Arthur Massey

Ipstones Methodist Church - At 10:30am with Rev Joyce Smith - Holy Communion

Onecote Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Rev Julie Hassall - Holy Communion

Rudyard Methodist Church - At 11:00am - With Rev Denise Williamson - Holy Communion

St Andrews Methodist Church - At 10:30am - With Ms Beryl Stew - Holy Communion

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

Trinity, Leek - at 10.30am - With Rev Colin Cooper - Holy Communion

Waterhouses Methodist Church- at 18:30pm - With Dr Lynne Bradbury

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - 10:30am Local Arrangement

**Sunday 24th November - Worship to be held at Wellspring Cheadle - Rev David Willis -
Holy Communion**



Welcome to this week's Bulletin Worship. The theme for this act of worship is
Moving Mountains with faith

Prayer to dedicate this time to God:

Heavenly Lord, I pray that you will send your Holy Spirit upon me now, so that I may be wholly in your presence, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Let's take a few moments of silence as we close out all the things that would distract us or claim our attention and ask God in our silent prayers to bless this time fully in his presence.)

Hymn: StF 661 Give me the faith which can remove and sink the mountains to a plain [Give me the faith which can remove \(Metropolitan Tabernacle\) - YouTube](#)

I wonder what you understand by the word 'faith?'

Try to put that meaning into silent or spoken words or phrases.

If you find it easier, you might want to draw a picture or a pattern to reflect what faith means to you.

Can you think of an example of great faith whether in your own life or that of someone you know, or in a film, book or news item?

If you are struggling to explore 'faith' in any of these ways, don't worry (many of us do); read what it says in Hebrews about faith.

Reading: Hebrews 11 v1 – 3 [Hebrews 11:1-3 NIV - Faith in Action - Now faith is - Bible Gateway](#)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for.

³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

The writer of Hebrews (once ascribed to St Paul, but more recently more generally agreed to be anonymous) goes on to describe how some of the main characters we meet through the Old Testament and into New Testament times lived in and by faith, asking God for great miracles in, often, impossible circumstances. He reminds us that:

Noah is warned of disastrous circumstance to come and, even though he has not seen the evidence, he proceeds to build an ark – God even gives the exact dimensions and advises on the kind of materials to use. In spite of the taunts of other people, Noah fulfils his mission, through faith.

Abram (whom God later renames: Abraham) obeys the God he cannot see and, even though he and his wife are in advanced years and have no idea where God will send them, they gather their followers, leave their home and go to the place that God directs.

Moses, leading the Hebrew slaves away from Egypt, stands in faith as they meet the Red Sea and, while his people become angry with Moses for bringing them to certain death, God sends a miracle – opening the sea to allow them to pass through safely. As the Egyptian soldiers approach the sea in their chariots, God closes the sea again, and the soldiers are killed.

There are so many examples of faith followed, and even faith sidelined - as when Jonah tries to abandon God's instruction to go to tell the people of Ninevah that they must change their ways; though having been swallowed by a whale and thrown back onto the shore of Ninevah, he accepts his mission and goes forward in faith.

Let's sing StF 662: Have you heard God's voice [Have You Heard God's Voice \(StF 662 / Singing the Faith 662\) - YouTube](#)

Over the last few weeks I seem to have heard many Bible readings, sermons or conversations about faith. From the story of Jairus' daughter, and the additional story of the woman who had suffered for so many years from haemorrhage to a conversation with one of the Local Preacher students in another district about something around faith in a service which had upset her and caused her great concern, it has felt as though God was reminding me to listen!

Well, I have listened carefully to all of the above and spent time exploring yet more accounts of faith in the Bible, and those in more modern times. But I keep being drawn back to the conversation with the Local Preacher student.

From our conversations, she is clearly a person of great faith and commitment to God's calling, both to the pulpit and to Christian witness beyond the walls of the church. The service which had caused her such concern had been based around the testimony of someone who had certainly been granted a huge miracle (around healing). Everything in the service then seemed, to her, to be proclaiming that great faith will always lead to receiving such healing and, if you don't receive that outcome, then your faith just isn't strong enough.

While she accepted that this was her interpretation, she felt that it was fair to consider that others in the congregation may have felt the same because of what was being said. She came away from the service completely bereft because she had lived in faith and action for God for most of her life and had prayed earnestly for God to heal the disabilities and conditions within her own family. There had been no such change.

As a Local Preacher I have had many such conversations over the years. Some had moved to the Methodist Church because they had experienced being berated by church leaders or other church members in their former church on the same theme of not having had enough faith.

This student proclaims that healing comes in many guises. For her it has been to find the joy of God's love and care each day, and the strength to go forward in faith within the present circumstances. This has been part of her calling to preach the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ.

Let's sing StF 673 Will you come and follow me? [Will you come and follow me StF 673 - YouTube](#)

I wonder what thoughts have been going through your mind as you have been reading my thoughts about faith. Let's bring these thoughts to God in prayer:

Lord, we praise and thank you for all the evidence of your love in our lives. Thank you for all the joy that we experience because your great love for us protects, guides, and challenges us in our most difficult times, but also when we feel more at ease. Forgive us when our faith is shallow, or when our prayers focus upon our problems, instead of our joy in your presence, and the assurance of our place in your Kingdom. We pray for all those who have not yet found faith, and do not know the promise of your enduring love. Help us to be committed to putting aside our own desires, in order to serve in faith so that all may know joy of your love and the glorious resurrection into your presence. Wherever people are experiencing hunger, cruelty, war or fear, pour out the power of your Holy Spirit upon them, and grant them faith in your power and your love for them.

Take a few moments to bring to God those known to you, and your own concerns, and close with the words, 'In the name of Jesus, Amen.'

Let's say The Lord's Prayer

**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's sing StF 663 I the Lord of sea and sky [Here I am Lord \(I the Lord of sea and sky\) Lyric video \(StF 663\) - YouTube](#)

In his first letter to the church in Corinth chapter 13, St Paul says that even if we have the faith to move mountains, without God's love, we are nothing. Lord bless us with ever-deepening faith, and with your love that can also move mountains and change the course of history as we close this time of worship.

Blessing

Let us go back into the daily tasks of life better able to face challenge or to relish joy. Grant us great faith and so much love that we will know your presence within us. Amen.

The Grace

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever more. Amen.