



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for
26th June 2022
prepared by Rev Julie

Worship in the following locations:

Youtube Worship on the Trinity Church, Leek Channel from 10.30am

Endon Methodist Church - at 10am with Mrs Gill Meredith
Cheadle & Tean - at Cheadle Methodist Church - at 10.30am with Rev Julie Hassall
Trinity Church, Leek - at 10.30am with Rev Richard Pope
Wetley Rocks Methodist Church- at 10.30am with Local Arrangement
Ipstones Methodist Church - at 10.30am with Dr Lynne Bradbury
Rudyard Methodist Church- at 11am with Mrs Beryl Stew
Boundary Methodist Church - at 6pm with Rev Richard Pope
Waterhouses Methodist Church- at 6.30pm with Local Arrangement

Sunday 26th June at 2.30pm
A Thanksgiving Service for Leigh Methodist Church
With Rev Julie Hassall

Please keep those who have worshipped in Leigh over the years in our prayers

Heroes!! Summer Holiday Clubs

Calling all superheroes!! Come and join us for a heroes themed holiday club. There will be stories, crafts, games and challenges! Suitable for ages 5 – 11. It's free. To book a place on one of the holiday clubs please see the details below.

- ❖ **Endon 25th – 29th July from 10am until 12 noon.**
Contact Jonny: - 1108lw6@gmail.com or 07598580545
- ❖ **Trinity, Leek – 2nd, 4th, 5th August from 10 am until 12 noon.**
Contact Abi : - abi.ratcliffe@smmethodist.org.uk
- ❖ **Cheddleton – 8th – 12th August from 10am until 12noon.**
Contact Jonny: - 1108lw6@gmail.com or 07598580545
- ❖ **Cheadle- 16th, 17th, 18th August from 10am until 12noon.**
Contact Mark:- mark.hatcher56@icloud.com





Call to Worship

Let us worship the Living God, whose image is all around us,
In the familiar, the astonishing, the unexpected, the shocking, the beautiful, and in the
everyday things and people of our living.

Let us be open enough to notice the presence of love, the stirring of life, the birthing of
hope - and let us give thanks!

Song - [\(1\) Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise - YouTube](#)

Prayers of thanksgiving

In a few moments of quiet, offer your prayers to God in the knowledge that God hears
whatever you bring. Allow times of silence and listen for God's word to you - a word of
comfort or affirmation, of strengthening or of challenge.

Name before God the things for which you are thankful - the unexpected blessings of this
week.

Remember the times when you have felt far from the presence of God, and the times when
you have known with confidence the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

Recall before God the times in your life when you have known peace....and give thanks.

The Lord hears our prayer;

Thanks be to God! Amen.

We pray together that God's goodness might be known the world over, in these words...

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.

Reading - [Galatians 5 1, 13-25 oremus Bible Browser : Galatians 5: 1, 13-25](#)

Song - [Put peace into each other's hands. Lyric video \(StF 712\) - YouTube](#)

Reading - [Luke 9:51-62 NIV - Samaritan Opposition - As the time - Bible Gateway](#)

Song - [I Have Decided to Follow Jesus ~ Cedarmonk Kids ~ lyric video - YouTube](#)

Reflection

I wonder if you are someone who likes lists? I love a good list - I have a friend who says that you should always have at least a couple of things on your 'to do' list that you have already done, so that you can cross them off and take that feeling of satisfaction into the rest of the list!

Often my lists are very long! And I notice that no matter which particular list I am working with at any one time there are always things on there which I never seem to get round to - and which make it onto the next list! Things I suppose I put off... I can hear my dad saying '*never put off until tomorrow what you can do today*' - sometimes I think I must be a great disappointment! I wonder what it would look like if 'Follow Jesus' was at the top of all my 'to do' lists?



In Luke's Gospel we reach a pivotal point - after Peter's confession and the mountain top experience of transfiguration Jesus looks towards Jerusalem and talk turns to what it means to follow Jesus.

As they journey, they pass through Samaritan villages, where the welcome is less than warm, yet Jesus is angered at the suggestion of bringing fire down upon them as James and John call to mind the story of Elijah. Instead, Jesus challenges them to remain open to those they hardly understand (sometimes despise) - he will soon follow this encounter with a story of a travelling Samaritan who rises to the call for hospitality to be shown to the stranger (perhaps you recall the story!)

There is an urgency in this passage which means that old rules and conventions are to be swept aside - even to the point of burying the dead! The call to follow Jesus is before all, as the time draws on when he will leave them, his journey reaching its culmination.

Seems a little harsh? After all, the obligation to deal properly with the dead was widely regarded as a most holy duty. Yet, says Jesus, even this will come behind the call to follow and to share God's Kingdom. Luke wants those who hear the gospel message to understand that to really follow Jesus will not be easy - it will make demands upon them which will stretch them to their limits. It will demand an openness and a generosity that reflect the love and grace of God in ways they could never have imagined. It was utterly shocking!

Are we, in our own day, ready to put down what we are doing, to re-centre ourselves on him, and to follow? Jesus is not saying that family is unimportant - that is a distortion of the gospel which in some situations has been used to separate folk from those they love through

the overbearing and unreasonable demands of the church on people's time...that is most definitely not what this passage is about.

But it does remind us of the urgent need in our own day to look at our 'to do' lists and to ask ourselves the question 'Where is following Jesus on this list?'

One of our modern hymns uses these words;

'Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?

Are you still prepared to follow?

Have you made a choice to remain and serve,

Though the way be rough and narrow?

Will you walk the path that will cost you much

And embrace the pain and sorrow?

Will you trust in One who entrusts to you

The disciples of tomorrow?

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What does this passage from Luke's gospel say to you?

Think back on your life;

- What have been the moments when you have felt the power and passion of God's call on your life? Have you ever shared those stories with others?
- Have there been times when following Jesus has disappeared altogether from your priorities, and if so what has drawn you back?
- Have there been moments where the call to follow Jesus has not been easy?
- Are you at a point in your life where you need urgently to re-focus on Him, and seek a new outworking of your faith?

As you look back over those times, remember this morning that the fruits of following Jesus in the power of the Spirit are described in the letter to the Galatians...

To live with the commitment to follow at the top of our list is challenging - for Jesus will urge us to speak out for others, to live gently and carefully on this earth, and to be bringers of peace to divided communities and hearts. Yet somewhere in all of that we will find fullness of life, purpose and joy - just as he promised.

We live in strange times (people have always lived in strange times actually!) - is Jesus asking us to tear up the rule books of our own day, to be breakers of convention so that we might share more freely the faith that is in us, and bring others to Him? After all, the one who looks back having sown a straight furrow will find his/her line going forward distinctly wobbly! Jesus calls them to look to the future, to hold Him at the heart of all they do, and to go out and live fully in the strength he will bestow on them.

I don't know about you - but I'm in! Amen.

Song - [Beneath The Cross Of Jesus - Keith Getty / Kristyn Getty \(Lyrics\) Christian song - YouTube](#)

Prayers

Loving God, hear our prayers for your children, and as you hear us, empower us to be at least in part the answer to those prayers....

- Praying with those who would love to turn back time and start again, with all who feel their lives are without purpose, with those who long for restoration to community

Lord, hear us, **Lord graciously hear us...**

- With those who today have responded joyfully to the call to follow Jesus, who are freed from old ways, old memories, past regrets

Lord, hear us, **Lord graciously hear us...**

- With all who feel rejected today, and those who cannot find peace

Lord, hear us, **Lord graciously hear us...**

- With those whose experiences lead them not to freedom, but to destructive and life-limiting ways

Lord, hear us, **Lord graciously hear us...**

- With all who will hear your call in fresh ways, as the prompting of your Spirit guides them to care, to minister, to love, to forgive, to heal...

Lord, hear us, **Lord graciously hear us...**

God who hears us, loves us, and emboldens us sends us out to bring healing in the world!
Amen.

Song - [We Have a Gospel to Proclaim \(Singing the Faith 418 / StF 418\) - YouTube](#)

Blessing

May God grant us the wisdom to know when to rest,
The energy and enthusiasm to play,
And the openness to listen out for the voice of the Spirit,
Today and every day, until God brings us home. **Amen.**