



Circuit Contact

Welcome to our Circuit Worship for

8th December 2024 Prepared by Ms Beryl Stew

Worship in the following locations:

Wellspring Cheadle - At 10:30am - Rev Julie Hassall

Wellspring Tean - Advent Carols At Greatwood Hall At 14:30pm

Endon Methodist Church - At 10:00am With Rev Joyce Smith - Holy Communion

Ipstones Methodist Church - Local Arrangement

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

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

Trinity, Leek - At 10.30am - With Mr Dennis Johnson

Waterhouses Methodist Church- At 18:30pm - With Ms Jo Powell

Wetley Rocks Methodist Church - At 14:30pm - With Rev Denise Williamson - Toy Service

**Sunday 15th December – Outside Worship at Heybridge Farm, Lower Tean – 14:30pm –
Rev Julie Hassall**



Hymn StF 181 Of the Father's love begotten [Of The Father's Heart Begotten \(Sir David Willcocks\)](#)
[Ely Cathedral Choir - YouTube](#)

Prayer of Adoration

Creator God, you inspire the words of prophecy

And we praise you.

Lord Jesus, you are the living Words,
fulfilling all that has been promised

And we praise you.

Holy Spirit, you empower us to live out our calling

And we praise you.

God, Jesus and Spirit, for giving us each a place
and part to play in your loving plan

we praise you.

Amen.

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving

God of the old and the new,
we praise you for the faithfulness that goes
before and behind all people.

we celebrate your loving plan for the Church and the world.

We praise you for your compassion for all creation
big and small, rich and poor, near and far.

we celebrate your loving plan for the Church and the world.

We praise you for this season of hope, of truth and of promise.

we celebrate your loving plan for the Church and the world.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Lord's prayer

Readings Malachi 3 v 1 – 4 [Malachi 3:1-4 NIV - "I will send my messenger, who will - Bible Gateway](#); St Luke 1 v 68 – 79 [Luke 1:68-79 NIV - "Praise be to the Lord, the God of - Bible Gateway](#).

Hymn StF 178 Long ago prophets knew [Long Ago Prophets Knew Holst/Stopford - YouTube](#)

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.

Reflection

In *Roots*, a worship and learning resource for the whole church today the title is 'A loving plan.' As the second Sunday in Advent, we focus on prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah and prepared the way, pointing to God's loving plan of salvation.

Malachi is writing in the first half of the fifth century B.C. He sees God's loving plan taking shape through the re-establishment of purified Temple worship at the heart of national life, following their return from exile in Babylon after 537 B.C. Probably the images of purification are familiar if you have heard the music of Handel's oratorio 'The Messiah'. Malachi speaks of a refiner's fire and launderer's soap – both images of cleanliness and purification. As we read this passage from this side of Christ's Life, we see that the detail is very accurate. The Messiah would purify the Temple and bring God's forgiveness for past wrongdoing, but it would be costly – costing his life by dying on the Cross.

Like the prophets and poets before him, Zechariah rejoices because God prefers to remember his ancient promises and plans for His people rather than Israel's chronic failures. As God's messenger and prophet, his son John will herald the dawning of a new age. It's freedom and forgiveness will be like the light of a new day that rises on those who have lived too long in the dark night of exile and foreign occupation. Light that shines by God's 'tender mercy' (v 78) is a reliable guide for the coming new world that the promised saviour will bring, one that is at peace with itself because God's loving plans for all people are at last being revealed and realised.

May we listen to the promises of the prophets of old during this Advent season as we prepare for the coming of the baby Jesus at Christmas, fulfilling all God's promises. May we also become part of that loving plan by the way we live day by day.

Prayers of Intercession.

We pray for the Church universal that it may be true to God's message and promises given by prophets of old and the present day.

We pray for all who are living in places where there are wars, such as Ukraine/Russia, Israel/Palestine may there be negotiations to bring about peace.

We pray for the many people who become subject to people trafficking and become destitute in foreign lands.

We pray for all who are suffering illness of body, mind, or spirit at this time, may they know your healing.

We also pray for all carers, whether professionals or family members, may they be given strength when they are tired and weary.

We ask all these prayers together with the unspoken prayers of our hearts in Christ's name.

Amen.

Hymn StF 176

Like a Candle Flame. (This song speaks of the light that Christ brings into the world)

[Like A Candle Flame](#)

Benediction.