



**NORTH CHESHIRE
METHODIST CIRCUIT**

HOME WORSHIP – SEPT 2026

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.

Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple, and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.

Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me... Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WATERS

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for your love in all creation, and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life.

Christ is the living water, cleansing, refreshing, and making all things new.

So now we offer our thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy, the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast, and the sea.

We give thanks and praise for all good lands, for the trees and pastures, for our plentiful crops, and for the living water that quenches them.

(Adapted from Anglican Aotearoa NZ Prayer Book)

HYMN

For the beauty of the earth

Sing the Faith 102

Video: <https://shorturl.at/DF3G7>

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
*Gracious God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:

For each perfect gift and sign
of your love so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

LAMENT

We look upon your waters, O God, and
we grieve: Rivers run polluted. Oceans
choke with plastic.

Marine life disappears from warming seas. Coral reefs fade and fisheries collapse.

Ashamnu (we have all been guilty)

The seas rise and swallow coasts. Storms grow stronger. Floods destroy homes. Drought cracks the Earth and children thirst.

Ashamnu (we have all been guilty)

We confess that we have not guarded your waters. We have consumed water without restraint. We have polluted what you called good. We have forgotten that the river of life flows from your throne.

Forgive us, O God.

ABSOLUTION

God's mercy flows like living water. The love of God, incarnate in Jesus who spoke to troubled waters, forgives us and calms our hearts so that justice may flow to all the dry places in our lives.

In the name of Christ, may this grace free us to follow and proclaim the good news of the healing of all creation.

Amen.

HYMN

I'm accepted, I'm forgiven

Sing the Faith 427

Video: <https://shorturl.at/O49GC>

I'm accepted, I'm forgiven, I am fathered by the true and living God.
I'm accepted, no condemnation,
I am loved by the true and living God.

There's no guilt or fear as I draw near
to the Saviour and Creator of the world.
There is joy and peace
as I release my worship to you, O Lord.

READINGS

First Reading: Ezekiel 47:9-12

Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish once these waters reach there. It will become fresh, and everything will live where the river goes.

People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea.

But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt.

On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.

Second Reading: Revelation 22:1-7

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.

On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Nothing accursed will be found there anymore.

But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship

him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

"See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Third Reading – John 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' "

Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.

HYMN

All creatures of our God and King

Sing the Faith 99

Video: <https://shorturl.at/xDnat>

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise him, alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
O rushing wind that is so strong,
and clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
and lights of evening, find a voice:

O flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
sing 'Praise him, alleluia!'
O fire, so masterful and bright,
giving to all both warmth and light:

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds rich blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that bloom and
grow,
let them his glory also show:

And all who are of tender heart
forgiving others, take your part,
sing, 'Praise him, alleluia!'
All who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God, and on him cast your care:

And now, most kind and gentle death,
waiting to hush our fading breath,
O praise him, alleluia!
You homeward lead the child of God,
and Christ the Lord the way has trod:

Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:

RESPONSE TO THE READINGS

The hottest and driest summer on
record.

The signs of drought are everywhere;
scorched earth, brown grass, distressed
trees whose colour has changed already,
roses that are much smaller, birds
squabbling over water, farmers on winter
feed already and rivers running dry. It
almost feels apocalyptic, doesn't it?!

Ezekiel saw the Temple emerge from the water; in the book of Revelation the angel is showing the water of life; and in John's gospel, Jesus is describing himself and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as living water in which our hearts flow in the great tide of God's grace and love.

Water is H₂O, an organic compound that is in all known living organisms. We human beings are about 65% water; our lungs are about 90% water; and our skin 80%.

Within each of us, we have all of the salts that are found within the oceans of the planet Earth.

Water is a cleansing agent, not just in a shower but in all sorts of industrial situations.

Water is essential, and on this the 'Blue Planet', water is all around us.

Is it any wonder that God, through the Word, uses the imagery and metaphor of water so much. That 'bubbling' up, that 'gushing' we have in worship, the symbol for Baptism, following the logic of Jesus that water is more important than blood as we become brothers and sisters in Christ.

And water is what we human beings are so good at polluting.

Plastic in the sea, effluence in rivers, chemicals poured into the seas with abandon, leaving trails of destruction to God's creatures and the composition of water itself.

The word that springs to mind is sin. We carelessly, and in some cases, deliberately sin in polluting our waterways and this beautiful planet.

The whole of September has been set aside by the world-wide Church as 'A Season of Creation.' A day-by-day

opportunity to celebrate, lament for, pray for the wholeness of creation, of life, all life that is so dependent on water.

This month of celebration will culminate, for many, in Harvest Festivals, a recognised time of thanksgiving and celebration.

As you read through this, enjoy your cup of tea and give thanks to Almighty God for the gift of life, life that is born in water, supported by water and blessed by the abundance of uses we have for this precious gift.

Amen.

HYMN

Praise and thanksgiving, Father
Sing the Faith 125

Video: <https://shorturl.at/ph4we>

Praise and thanksgiving,
Father, we offer,
for all things living
you have made good;
harvest of sown fields,
fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields,
blossom and wood.

Lord, bless the labour
we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbour
we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling,
we would work with you;
harvesting, milling,
for daily bread.

Father, providing
food for your children,
your wisdom guiding
teaches us share
one with another,

so that, rejoicing,
sister and brother
may know your care.

Then will your blessing
reach every people;
each one confessing
your gracious hand.
When you are reigning
no one will hunger:
your love sustaining
fruitful the land.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

We pray for places where plastics,
toxins, and oil spills blacken creeks and
wetlands, for communities whose fishing
waters are contaminated and whose
children drink from polluted streams.

Heal what has been poisoned. Bring
justice where profit has silenced truth.

**Where water flows, Lord, let
everything live, trees for food and
leaves for healing.**

We pray for all rivers dammed without
the consent of the vulnerable; for farmers
whose soil dries seasonal flood; for
indigenous peoples whose sacred waters
are engineered for distant cities and data
centres; for the suffering of communities
whose livelihoods are stolen by
corporate greed, and whose health is
sacrificed for global consumption.

Free what has been unjustly controlled.
Let rivers flow again with dignity and life.

**Where water flows, Lord, let
everything live, trees for food and
leaves for healing.**

We pray for oceans burdened by plastic
and chemical waste; for coral reefs
bleached by warming seas; for great
whales navigating through labyrinths of
nylon and ghost nets; for the microscopic
life, the plankton and the krill, now
mingling with the invisible dust of
synthetic waste; for the rivers that carry
our runoff — the fertilizers, the dyes, and
the heavy metals.

Turn our guilt into grace and our apathy
into action. Make us a people who live
justly and bring healing to every shore
and stream.

**Where water flows, Lord, let
everything live, trees for food and
leaves for healing.**

We pray for those whose lives are
closely intertwined with water coastal
peoples, fisherfolk, marine biologists,
water engineers - who can teach us wise
ways to live with water.

We pray for people to be moved to action
and use their inherent or entrusted power
to create change.

Stir governments, corporations, and
communities to protect and share water
justly.

**Where water flows, Lord, let
everything live, trees for food and
leaves for healing.**

**May we be carried by the flow of the
great river of life. May we discover a
hidden spring within, gushing forth.**

**May we be carried to the shores of the
sacred and renewed.**

Amen.

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.

HYMN

All things bright and beautiful

Sing the Faith 100

Video: <https://shorturl.at/iSfw9>

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings:

The purple heathered mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one:

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well:

BLESSING

May the God who sprung water from a rock, quenching the thirst of those who wandered in fear, spare us from the drought of a senseless life.

May the God who flows from the wells of salvation, and who is Living Water to the foreigner, the stranger, and the unknown, keep us in peace.

May the God who rolls on like a river, changing the course of the world with streams of righteousness that guide the Church's vessel in this world, empower us to work for transformation.

And may the blessing of our merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, keep us and preserve us in eternal life.

Amen.

Our thanks to Revd Gordon Gresswell for the provision of this worship resource, based on the Creatontide materials, for use at home and in church.

Insert Church CCLI number:

If you no longer wish to receive these services, please contact Rae Denley-Samson on 07394 361999 or email at circuitssupport@ncmethodists.uk