



**NORTH CHESHIRE
METHODIST CIRCUIT**

HOME WORSHIP – OCT 2026

Some churches have held their Harvest Festivals already. Others will hold them in October.

This is a lovely time of year, as the leaves turn from green to gold to brown, the hedgerows are full of fruit, and there's a very special light to our days.

I'm reminded of John Keats' poem –

*“Season of mists and mellow
fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing
sun,
Conspiring with him how to load and
bless
With fruit the vines that round the
thatch-eaves run,
To bend with apples the moss'd
cottage trees
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the
core.”*

So, our worship at home for October begins with a lovely harvest hymn, reminding us that as we give thanks to God for all his goodness, we have a responsibility to do his will in how we relate to other people.

HYMN

For the fruits of all creation

Singing the Faith 124

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

For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

Lord God, we come to you,
sharing with others even in the quiet of
our own homes.

We come to you because you are the
source of all that is good, right and true.
Without you nothing will ever really
make sense.

We come to you to find meaning and
purpose.

We come to you because of the light,
the hope and the joy you bring,
because of the peace and love and
forgiveness you offer in Jesus Christ.

We praise you for the wonder of the
world you have made, for all its beauty
and its diversity:

- the amazing detail of a butterfly's wing;
- the scent of a flower;
- the power and strength of an elephant;
- the majestic height of a mountain;
- the gurgling of water over stones in a stream;
- the crashing of waves against a sea wall.

All these and so much more display
your creative hand and we stand
amazed at so much bounty.

Make us ever mindful of our duty to
look after your world well.

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

Our next hymn reminds us of the
responsibility God puts on us to look
after the world and its people well. It's
another one written by Fred Pratt
Green.

God in his love for us lent us this planet

Singing the Faith 727

Video: <https://shorturl.at/QUSF6>

God in his love for us lent us this
planet,
gave it a purpose in time and in space:
small as a spark from the fire of
creation,
cradle of life and the home of our race.

Thanks be to God for its bounty and
beauty,
life that sustains us in body and mind:
plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,
riches undreamed-of to fathom and
find.

Long have our human wars ruined its
harvest;
long has earth bowed to the terror of
force;
long have we wasted what others have
needed,
poisoned the fountain of life at its
source.

Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to enjoy it, ours, as God's stewards, to farm and fend.

From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,
good Lord, deliver us, world without end!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God,

We know that we have damaged the gifts you have given to us, the earth no longer groans in labour pains, but screams with the agony of climate change, conflict, injustice and environmental destruction.

We know that to you the darkness is as light, yet we cannot see clearly the way you would have us go.

We know that you require us to live lives of justice, and peace, yet we ignore the needs of our neighbours and cause harm.

Gracious God, heal your world.

Amen.

READING

John 1: 1-5 (not just for Christmas!)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

REFLECTION

As we go further into October, we begin to forget about the abundance and the beauty of the harvest.

The leaves on the trees turn from gold to brown and begin to fall. The days grow colder and the nights grow longer.

Perhaps we become more reluctant to go out, more insular, hunkering down in our homes as we prepare to face the coming winter.

The darkness of the nights is a reminder of the greater darkness that surrounds us in the world. We see so much that is dark, evil, wrong. We see the ongoing war in Ukraine; the unresolved conflict between the USA, Israel and Iran; civil war and starvation in Sudan; repression in Afghanistan and elsewhere; possible genocide in Gaza and the West Bank.

As I write this, our Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, has just spoken to the United Nations about the threat posed to our democracy by covert attempts at misinformation by Russia.

At home we see legitimate concerns about immigration hijacked by protesters who are only out to make trouble.

Only this week, police in Manchester have arrested two people accused of plotting terrorist attacks against Jews.

Over us all hangs the threat of AI becoming uncontrollable.

It would be easy to become depressed by all of this. So, it's good to be reminded that we serve a God who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son into the world, to bring love and forgiveness, and light wherever there is darkness.

John's gospel begins in exactly the same way as the Old Testament – *"In the beginning...."* Jesus was part of that creative process at the beginning of time and is here coming to earth to bring something new and exciting - life, a new kind of life, a new way of life.

And there is glorious hope in John's words – *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*

What is even more amazing is that Jesus calls us to be a part of this life-enhancing, light-giving process.

In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapter 5, Jesus said, *"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."*

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

What a responsibility that is! How can we do our bit to bring light and hope and love to all around us?

October draws to a close with Hallowe'en, All Hallows Eve. The following day is a time to remember those saints, people of God, who have gone before us, who have done their bit to bring light into the world.

But in less enlightened times, people thought Hallowe'en itself was the time when the forces of darkness, ghosts and evil spirits, were out and about in the world. Today people think Hallowe'en is just a bit of fun for the children, though some of the extreme behaviour we see today is not really fun.

But many churches try to counteract this by holding 'light parties', when children really can have innocent fun, and something of the light and love of Jesus can flood into their lives.

So as the month draws to a close, let us too resolve to find ways to bring a little more light into the lives of those around us. As the old Sunday School song put it, *"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine."*

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

As you come to pray for other people, you may like to light a candle as a reminder of the light of Jesus, and your calling to bring light too.

Use these prompts as a way into your own prayers.

Pray for the leaders of the nations at this time of turmoil and war. For the people who suffer attacks on their homes and cities. For those forced to flee in search of a safe place.

Give thanks for those world leaders who do their best to govern with integrity and to pursue ways of peace.

Pray for our own country. For a gentler, kinder tone to our political discourse. For those who seek to serve others in local or national government. For those affected by the cost of living, who really struggle to pay their bills and put food on the table. For those who are homeless.

For those who face discrimination because of their religion or ethnicity.

Pray for those who are unwell, especially any known to you. For those who struggle with their mental health.

For young people as they face so many pressures through social media and the demands made on them by the education system, or who are finding it difficult to get a job.

Pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Give thanks for the people who have influenced you in your life, who are no longer with us.

Finally, pray for yourself. Remember that God knows all your needs and wants to shower you with his forgiveness and his love.

Amen.

HYMN

The final hymn is in itself a prayer, that we will be able to reflect the light of Christ in all those difficult situations in our world.

Longing for Light

Singing the Faith 706

Video: <https://shorturl.at/K4dBE>

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are
homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering
others,
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

BLESSING

May you know that you share with
God's people as we worship together,
in our homes or in a church.

May you know the light and the love of
Jesus in your life, wherever you may
be this month and whatever your need.

God's grace and his blessing go with
you, today and always.

Amen.

Our thanks to Liz Holmes for the provision of
this worship resource, for use at home and
in church.

Insert Church CCLI number:

If you no longer wish to receive these
services, please contact Rae Denley-
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