NORTH CHESHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

# HOME WORSHIP – NOV 2026

## GATHERING

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

We pray together:

**O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows. Give peace to your Church; peace among nations; peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. In the name of the Prince of Peace, our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## HYMN

**Make me a channel of your peace**
Singing the Faith 707
Video: https://shorturl.at/KUeAu

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

*O Master, grant that I may never seek*
*so much to be consoled as to console;*
*to be understood as to understand;*
*to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy:

*O Master, grant that I may never seek*
*so much to be consoled as to console;*
*to be understood as to understand;*
*to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving unto all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

## READING

Acts 10

*In Caesarea, there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God.*

*One afternoon at about three o'clock, he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius." He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?"*

*He answered, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside."*

*When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those*

*who served him, and after telling them everything he sent them to Joppa.*

*About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while it was being prepared he fell into a trance.*

*He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners.*

*In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat."*

*But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean." The voice said to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane."*

*This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.*

*Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate.*

*They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three men are searching for you. Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation, for I have sent them."*

*So, Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?"*

*They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish people, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say."*

*So, Peter invited them in and gave them lodging.*

*The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers and sisters from Joppa accompanied him.*

*The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.*

*On Peter's arrival, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, worshiped him.*

*But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal." And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled, and he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is improper for a Jew to associate with or to visit an outsider, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean.*

*So, when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?"*

*Cornelius replied, "Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. He said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms have been remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.'*

*Therefore, I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come.*

*So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say."*

*Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him.*

*You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.*

*We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.*

*He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

*While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God.*
*Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"*

*So, he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.*

## REFLECTION

Two stories blended into one chapter. Cornelius a Roman soldier who seems to have a great deal of respect for the Jewish faith. Simon, Peter, the disciple of Jesus on whom Christ says he will build his Church.

Both have a revelation from God.

Both are challenged by these revelations, Peter to forgo much of his Jewish faith through eating different foods, and Cornelius by having a Jewish-Christian come into his house. He, a Centurian, a perceived oppressor to the Jewish people, living under occupation in violent times. He's in charge. Peter, a lowly fisherman, a religious man who is living under occupation.

Yet God brings them together.

The 2019 film *'The best of enemies'* tells the story of a Ku Klux Klansman who befriends a civil rights activist, a black woman. An unlikely tale, based on a true story. A dawning that their similarities outweigh their differences, that love can overcome.

Acts 10 brings a Jewish-Christian together with a God-fearing Gentile.

They both have to learn to sacrifice in order to take up their cross. The clearly defined Baptism as entry into Christian faith, trumping male circumcision of Jewish faith, leads to an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that continues to guide the worldwide Church today.

This is a story of Christ drawing different communities together, even in the midst of violence.

We continue to see this violence in the Holy Land of Israel/Palestine, in the ancient kingdom of Sudan, in bastions of Orthodox Christan faith between Moscow and Kyiv.

These communities need people of faith, Peters and Corneliuses to stand up, respond to the prompting of the Spirit, and work together for the purposes of peace.

We, here in the UK, are reminded even more of this need as we commemorate Remembrance Sunday. The poppy continues to be a symbol, like the cross, that peace is possible, that reconciliation can happen, that communities and whole countries can live at peace with one another.

Let us embrace the silence of November 11th at 11.00, as we remember all who have fallen in battle.

## LET US PRAY

You have shown us, Lord, what is good.

Enable us, we pray, to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with you, our God.

**Grant, O Lord, that your Holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear and hatred cease; that our divisions may be healed.**

**May we live in justice and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## HYMN

**Beauty for brokenness**
Singing the Faith 693
Video: https://shorturl.at/DMqJR

Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset,
your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for all people,
trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,*
*friend of the weak,*
*give us compassion we pray:*
*melt our cold hearts,*
*let tears fall like rain;*
*come, change our love*
*from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields,
scorched earth to green,

Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned —
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.

*God of the poor,*
*friend of the weak,*
*give us compassion we pray:*
*melt our cold hearts,*
*let tears fall like rain;*
*come, change our love*
*from a spark to a flame.*

Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until your justice burns
brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.

*God of the poor,*
*friend of the weak,*
*give us compassion we pray:*
*melt our cold hearts,*
*let tears fall like rain;*
*come, change our love*
*from a spark to a flame.*

## PRAYERS

Blessed are the peacemakers, **for they will be called children of God.**

God, breaker of dividing walls, we bring our prayer to you with confidence, in the name of our Lord Jesus.

In your mercy, Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all peacemakers in this world, O Lord God, you love so much.

We pray especially for those war-torn places we see in our news feeds.

In your mercy, Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church in all places, that we may speak boldly for peace.

In your mercy, Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

Your justice will march, and peace will follow the way. We pray for our country and our local communities, that we may come together as one.

In your mercy, Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

We offer you the concerns of our hearts seeking peace for ourselves and those we pray for.

In your mercy, Lord: **Hear our prayer.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray this, the Lord's Prayer given to us by a Māori Church Community.

**Eternal Spirit,**

**Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,**

**Source of all that is and that shall be,**

**Father and Mother of us all,**

**Loving God, in whom is Heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!**

**Your Heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## HYMN

**For the healing of the nations**
Singing the Faith 696
Video: https://shorturl.at/JD9yM

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.

In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

## BLESSING

**May the Lord bless us and keep us.**

**May the face of God shine on us and be gracious to us.**

**May God's presence embrace us and give us peace.**

**Amen.**

Our thanks to Reverend Gordon Gresswell 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-Samson on 07394 361999 or email at circuitsupport@ncmethodists.uk