



Kendal **Methodist** Circuit

Circuit Welcome Service for the Kendal Methodist Superintendent

Revd Melanie Greenall



**Stricklandgate Methodist Church
Saturday 26th September 6.30 pm**

Revd Dr James Tebbutt - Chair, Cumbria Methodist District

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

HYMN **StF 677 Christ is made the sure foundation**

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the Church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever, and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy constant loving-kindness hear thy servants as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls always.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants what they ask of thee to gain,
blessed what they gain from thee
for ever with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory evermore with thee to reign.

Praise and honour to the Father, praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit, ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal, while unending ages run.

7th or 8th century John Mason Neale (1811–1866) (alt.)

Let us pray.

God of truth,
you are worthy of higher praise than we can offer,
and of purer worship than we can imagine.
By your Holy Spirit,
assist us in our prayers
and draw us to yourself,
so that what is lacking
in our thoughts and actions
and in our words and music,
may be supplied by your overflowing love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

Gracious God,
when we do not listen for your word in the words of others,
forgive and renew us.

When we do not use the gifts you have bestowed on us,
forgive and renew us.

When we do not love one another as sisters and brothers in Christ,
forgive and renew us.

When we do not serve our neighbours in their need,
forgive and renew us.

When we do not share the Good News with those around us,
forgive and renew us.

Silence

God calls us to serve,
forgives us in Christ,
and renews us by the Spirit.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

God of all grace,
you call your Church to be a holy people
to the praise of your name.
In the power of your Spirit,
fill our hearts with your love
and our lives with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES

The first reading is from St Paul's letter to the Romans Ch 12 verses 1-13

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke Ch 9 verses 1-6

(Before the reading)

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

(After the reading) .

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION (INSTRUMENTAL)

SERMON: Revd. Dr James Tebbutt, Chair of Cumbria Methodist District.

HYMN StF 662 Have you heard God's voice

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?

Will you use your voice;
will you not sit down when the multitudes are silent?
Will you make a choice to stand your ground
when the crowds are turning violent?

Chorus

In your city streets will you be God's heart?
Will you listen to the voiceless?
Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start,
will you share your faith with the faithless?

Chorus

Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith
and believe it could be different?
Will you share your views using words of grace?
Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?

Chorus

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THE PRESENTATION, PROMISES AND WELCOME

The District Chair:

Sisters and brothers, I present to you **Melanie Greenall**, whom the Conference has appointed to serve in this Circuit as Superintendent.

Melanie,
will you hold before us
the story of God's love and mercy,
above all, the Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and will you be among us
as one who preaches the word of God,
administers Baptism, presides at the Lord's Supper,
teaches the faith, and cares for the flock?

Answer: I will.

I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in proclaiming the Gospel of life and hope.

All: Through Christ, we have Good News to share.

Will you hold before us
God's call to holy living
and be among us
as one who awakens the careless
and strengthens the faithful?

Answer: I will.

I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in commitment to the way of Christ.

All: May we reveal Christ's way through our words and example.

Will you hold before us
God's commitment to human community,
to our neighbourhoods
and all who live within them,
and to the world that God has made?

Answer: I will.

I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in sharing God's all-embracing love.

All: May we respond to Christ in all we meet.

Melanie, to you is committed the responsibility
for the life and work of this Circuit.

Will you, with your colleagues, lay and ordained,
care for its people,
inspire its witness
and watch over its life
in the name of Christ?

Answer: I will, and I ask God to help me.

A Circuit Steward, Amanda Deaville, says to the people:

Sisters and brothers,
will you welcome Melanie,
will you offer her your friendship, support and prayers as we join
together in the work to which God has called us?

All: With God's help, we will.

Welcomes by circuit and ecumenical representatives, and other appropriate persons.

THE ECUMENICAL DECLARATION OF INTENT:

Read by Rt Rev Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop of Penrith

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION (INSTRUMENTAL)

PRAYERS

Let us pray.

In faith we pray to God,
who is more ready to hear than we are to ask.
Let us pray for the whole Church of God,
that, rejoicing in our richness and variety,
we may seek peace and unity
and be constantly renewed for mission and service.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray for the churches of our Circuit and District
and for other churches in this area,

that, rejoicing in our common heritage,
we may strengthen each other and be built up in love.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray for the life of the world,
that, rejoicing in our common humanity,
we may reject the ways of war and conflict
and work together for justice and peace.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Let us rejoice in the communion of saints,
that, strengthened by their faithful example,
we may follow the way of Christ
and live to God's praise and glory.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Give us wisdom, Lord, to know your will,
and courage to do it.

May our words declare your love
and may our compassion give substance to our words;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.
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.**

THE PEACE

We are the Body of Christ.

**All: In the one Spirit
we were all baptized into one body.
Let us therefore keep the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God,
we thank you that in every generation
you reveal your love for the world,
and set before your people
your word of life and hope.

We thank you for Jesus Christ your Son,
in whom you have made known
your way of perfect love,
and in whose dying and rising
we see your final purpose.

We thank you for your Holy Spirit,
who leads your people into all truth;
for the service and witness of your Church;
and for the preaching of the word
and the celebration of the sacraments,
through which you renew and strengthen us.

**All honour and glory be yours,
in the Church and in the world,
in time and in eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN: StF 661 Give me the faith which can remove

Give me the faith which can remove
and sink the mountain to a plain;
give me the childlike praying love,
which longs to build thy house again;
thy love, let it my heart o'erpower, and all my simple soul devour.

I would the precious time redeem, and longer live for this alone:
to spend, and to be spent, for them
who have not yet my Saviour known;
fully on these my mission prove,
and only breathe, to breathe thy love.

My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,
into thy blessed hands receive;
and let me live to preach thy word, and let me to thy glory live;
my every sacred moment spend in publishing the sinners' friend.

Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart with boundless charity divine:
so shall I all my strength exert, and love them with a zeal like thine;
and lead them to thy open side,
the sheep for whom their Shepherd died.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

The Blessing:

May the God of love
stir up in us the gifts of his grace
and sustain each of us
in our discipleship and service;
and the blessing of God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
remain with us for ever. **Amen.**

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