

Minister: Rev Derek McLean

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

*We are pleased to welcome another guest contributor this week:*

Dear Friends

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 is a passage where Paul has some profound things to say about the theme of strength in weakness. God's strength reveals itself most effective in our weakness. We all have instants of human weakness and vulnerability, pain and struggles, battles, and hardships, but it is in those moments when we are at our lowest and most helpless points, we can draw on God's strength. Right now, with COVID19 always on the news and so many people sick, we see the weakness of ourselves and the need to depend on God's strength. It is God's power within us that allows us to stand resolute in the Lord and to walk through it with him. He does not take the frailties or struggles away, but He reinforces us with His power and might, so we can go through it in His strength and with comprehensive peace as we will come out the other side triumphant.

Our prayers should not be for God to take away all our struggles, but instead, we should pray for His strength and power to endure it and to be able to stand strong in the midst of whatever life throws at us. In our country and throughout the world, God is in the business of mending our every flaw. God is in the business of turning our personal defeats into victories, our disappointments into hope. But the first step is to trust that God will help us deepen our weakness until that weakness becomes a path to God's strength. Then, impossible things can happen. By God's grace, our weakness can become a balm in Gilead, a healing force, to make other wounded people whole. This is the good news of weakness, and it's such good news we can sing it: "There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole. There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. Sometimes I feel discouraged. Sometimes my work's in vain. But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again". Let us pray: Help us in our weakness with your strength through struggles that we will see your power- Amen +



Rev Debra  
Chidakwa-Akue

**Morning Worship** continues online every week at **10:30am**.

10/1 Revd Helen Cameron (Covenant Sunday)

17/1 Richard Tinley

Please let me know if you would like to join online, and I can send you a link, and also talk you through setting this up. Email for information: [derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk](mailto:derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk)

Don't forget that it is possible to phone in, even if you haven't got a computer.

### **Sunday Evening Circuit Services**

From Sunday, January 10th, there will be a Circuit Service online every Sunday evening at 6pm. The service will last around 40 minutes, and there will be the opportunity after the service to chat to people from around the Circuit.

Revd Paula Hunt will lead the service on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Funerals**

We hold in prayer the families and friends of those known to us who are preparing funerals at this time. Please pause and hold these people in prayer at the relevant time, but please contact the family if you plan to attend as numbers are strictly limited during Covid.

### **Prayer**

We particularly hold in prayer:

- Those for whom this was the first Christmas following the death of a loved one
- Those who have been isolated and alone over Christmas
- Those for whom Christmas has been intolerable, trapped in a cycle of abuse
- The people who have been supported by the Food Bank, particularly those who have received Food Parcels for the first time, and those families normally receiving free school meals
- Those working in hospitals where the pressures are increasing again
- Those planning the distribution of the Covid vaccine, and those doing the vaccinations
- We rejoice to hear that so many of our number have already had their first dose
- We rejoice that N's mother is making a good recovery.

**Saturday Prayer** continues online each week at 10:15, please contact Barry or Derek for joining instructions.