

# Stokesley Methodist Church



**Sunday 8th July, 2018**

*Welcome to Worship*

10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev Andrew Robinson  
including the Sacrament of Holy Communion  
6.00pm Town Close with Lesley Jackson

## **A Gathering Prayer from the Roots Resources**

Lord Jesus, we stand before you just as we are,  
with our own needs, our own problems.

Sometimes we forget the power we have in you.

Be among us, Lord.

Be our strength.

Thank you, Lord, that with you, all things are possible.

We are a kaleidoscope people, each with our own perception of  
you, coming together to make a new and ever-changing picture.

We thank you, Lord, that however we feel individually,

we do not need to fear approaching your throne.

Help us to see our shortcomings in a new light, as raw material  
that you can use to bring blessing on ourselves and others.

In Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## **Lectionary Readings:**

**2 Samuel 5 v1-5, 9-10** David Becomes King Over Israel/David  
Conquers Jerusalem

*"And he became more and more powerful, because the Lord God  
Almighty was with him."*

## **Psalm 48**

*"For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide  
even to the end."*

**2 Corinthians 12 v2-10** Paul's Vision and His Thorn

*"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is  
made perfect in weakness.'"*

**Mark 6 v1-13** A Prophet Without Honour/Jesus Sends Out The  
Twelve

*"Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave  
them authority over evil spirits."*

## *My Grace Is Sufficient*

Paul writes about being 'caught up into Paradise', but declines to  
boast about it. Instead he focuses on his 'thorn in the flesh'  
because it makes him boast only about his weaknesses, so that  
the power of Christ may dwell in him.

This week we are exploring how God uses perceived weaknesses  
as a source of strength and blessing.

First, let's talk about being strong. You and I, each one of us, are  
born to be strong, but we don't always feel that way. We may  
become frightened of certain things or spend time feeling bad  
about past mistakes. We may worry that we cannot do something  
we would like to do, or need to do. This makes us feel weak.

Jesus teaches us that we can become strong because of our weaknesses. He said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12 v9).

That is a difficult lesson. How can we be strong at those times when we feel weak? Let’s think about that question in this way. Could you think of yourself as being like a bowl? What would you most like to put in the bowl? We could fill it with Cheerios or ice cream or chocolate pudding and that would be wonderful. Now think of what you could be filled with that would help you live a strong, happy life.

Can you imagine being filled with God’s grace? Grace is a word that means we are given something we don’t deserve. It is another word for God’s love. God understands our weaknesses and forgives us for the mistakes we have made. God’s love and grace gives us the power and strength to make good choices. The Bible teaches us that when we feel weak his grace is enough. When you fill your bowl with cereal and milk each morning, think about filling yourself with God’s grace and love. What power!! Many years ago there was a saying that went like this: “Children should be seen and not heard.” At that time children were not allowed to speak freely, and certainly not shout, when adults were present. Children were expected to stay very, very quiet, especially when there were guests in the home. Thankfully times have changed and adults now encourage children to share in conversations and they try to listen very carefully to what children say. We like to hear their ideas and learn about their interests and activities.

All of us have experienced times when we have difficulty getting others to listen to us. You may have tried to talk to someone while the television or radio is on and they are unable hear you. Or

perhaps they were busy concentrating on a task and weren’t aware that you were talking.

If you have a cat you know that you can ask a cat to do something and the cat just ignores you. It doesn’t feel good to be ignored. In the Bible we learn that the same thing happened to Jesus. He went with his disciples to his hometown. While he was there people did not respect him or believe what he said, even though he had performed many miracles.

He sent his disciples out to tell everyone about God’s love and he gave them this advice: “If any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave.” (Mark 6:11). They should move on.

So the disciples went out and told those who would listen about the good news of God’s love. And that is good advice for all of us, children and adults; that we share the good news of God’s love with those who will listen.

### **Sending Out Prayer**

Paul said: ‘That is why I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.’ Wonderful, strong and mighty God, we go out in our weakness to share your power with those around us. Bless us in your service, Lord.

**Amen.**