**North East Circuit of Independent Methodist Churches**

**Devotional for Friday 10th April 2020 – Good Friday**

**Introduction**

* Today is Good Friday and many of us are apprehensive as we consider how to have a meaningful Easter.
* Nothing seems right as we are unable to gather as we would in our usual ways.
* Let us take comfort and encouragement on this Good Friday as we look to Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our Faith.

**Hymn: When I survey**

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

**Bible Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart

**Devotional:**

* Today is Good Friday, and we lament the fact we are unable to meet this weekend.
* What can we do when nothing seems right?
* The writer to the Hebrews offers us some great advice:
* vv 1, 2: We are to run with perseverance as we fix our eyes on Jesus – the words used here for fix means looking away from other things and only looking to Jesus. Our present circumstances and even the great cloud of witnesses could lead to distraction so let us fix our eyes on Jesus.
* Why Jesus?
* Well, Jesus as can be expected did not regard the cross as a joy. He did not relish in the suffering of the cross, but He endured the cross in anticipation of the joy that was to follow.
* That same mentality of enduring our present situation will make the joy of meeting together once this experience is over all the sweeter.
* I don’t think we will take our gathering together so much for granted once this is over. Our coming together as God’s people will become even more precious
* Knowing what good would come from the pain, agony and shame (v2) of the cross enabled Jesus to endure the cross.
* That pain, that shame was not easy.
* Our present circumstances are far from easy.
* The result of enduring of the cross now sees Jesus sat at the right hand of God.
* The promise remains true for you and for me, that one day, having ran the race with perseverance, having endured what we are called to experience we shall see Him face to face (1 Cor. 13:12).

*Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.*

**Prayer:**

O God our Heavenly Father, we come before you this Good Friday. We thank you for Jesus, who endured the cross for our sake and took the shame for us. Help us not to grow weary or to lose heart.

We pray for our decision makers that you will grant them wisdom and for our frontline workers that you will keep them safe.

**The Lord’s Prayer**