

Ebbfleet Community Church

Sunday 9th May Circuit Service

Bart Woodhouse (Preaching)

Sarah Ford (Worship Leader)

Welcome

Opening Prayers (Bart)

Song: Reckless Love

Before I spoke a word, You were singing over me
You have been so, so good to me
Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in
me
You have been so kind to me

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love
of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves
the 99
And I couldn't earn it
I don't deserve it, still You give yourself away

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love
of God
When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me
You have been so, so good to me
When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me
You have been so, so kind to me

There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me

Prayers (Sarah)

Song: Holy Spirit We Welcome You

Holy spirit, we welcome you
Holy spirit, we welcome you

Move amongst us with holy fire
As we lay aside all earthly desire
Hands reach out and hearts aspire
Holy spirit, holy spirit, holy spirit, we welcome you

Let the breeze of your presence blow,
That your children here might truly know
How to move in the spirit's flow.
Holy spirit, holy spirit, holy spirit, we welcome you

Please accomplish in me today
Some new work of loving grace i pray
Unreservedly have your way
Holy spirit holy spirit holy spirit we welcome you

Please accomplish in me today
Some new work of loving grace i pray
Unreservedly have your way
Holy spirit holy spirit holy spirit we welcome you

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn: How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Now and forever. Amen

Readings: John 15:9-17 & 1 John 5:1-8

Sermon (Bart)

The ancient Celtic people saw the Holy Spirit not as a hovering white dove but as a "wild goose." The meaning behind this peculiar choice is because they saw how the Holy Spirit has a tendency to disrupt and surprise. The Holy Spirit moves in our lives in an unexpected fashion, similar to the actions of a wild goose.

The Holy Spirit draws us into friendship with Jesus
(not a religion of empty ritual)

The Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are God's children (not religious adherents or merely "club" members)

The Holy Spirit transforms and re-creates us anew
(not a self-help strategy nor a benign affirmation of the status quo)

As we approach Pentecost let's appreciate that the Celts had glimpsed something authentic and challenging about the nature and action of the Holy Spirit... she's a wild goose not a tame dove. As the old Irish proverb tells, "A wild goose never reared tame goslings". How "wild" are we in our love of Jesus and our kingdom action in the world?

Good read – *Rewilding the Church*, Steve Aisthorpe (St. Andrew Press, 2020).

Prayer (from Lindisfarne)

"Holy Spirit, Wild Goose
Great Spirit,
Wild Goose of the Almighty
Be our eye in the dark places;

Be our flight in the trapped places;
Be our host in the wild places;
Be our brood in the barren places;
Be our formation in the lost places."
Holy Spirit takes us on your wild goose chase!
Give us the wild power of spirit, heart, and mind to be the disciples we're called to be.
Amen

Song: All to Jesus I Surrender

All to Jesus, I surrender
All to Thee I freely give
I will ever love and trust You
In Your presence daily live
I surrender all, I surrender all
All to Thee, my blessed Savior
I surrender all

All to Jesus, I surrender
Lord, I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Your love and power
Let Your blessing fall on me
I surrender all, I surrender all
All to Thee, my blessed Savior
I surrender all

All to Jesus I surrender
Now I feel the sacred flame
O the joy of full salvation
Glory, glory, to Your name
I surrender all, I surrender all
All to Thee, my blessed Savior
I surrender all (I surrender all)

I surrender all, I surrender all
All to Thee, my blessed Savior
I surrender all (all to Thee, my blessed)
All to Thee, my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Final Blessing (Bart)

Be to me, O God, a bright flame before me, a
guiding star above me, a smooth path beneath
me, and a kindly shepherd behind me, today,
tonight, and forever.

St Columba 521-597AD, Iona

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