

# Ebbfleet Community Church

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 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

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**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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