

Ebbfleet Community Church

Sunday 9th May Circuit Service

Bart Woodhouse (Preaching)

Sarah Ford (Worship Leader)

Welcome

Opening Prayers (Bart)

Song: O Lord My God

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
how great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I
wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:
Then sings my soul...

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...

When Christ shall come with shouts of
acclamation
and take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, 'my God, how great thou art!'
Then sings my soul...

Prayers (Bart)

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn: My Light House

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence, You won't let go
In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore...
Safe to shore...

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea

You are my light
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore...

Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore...

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 3:16-17 and Acts 4:12

Song: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From a life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Could ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I stand

Sermon (Bart)

Our Methodist history and the Deed of Union maintain that we are an “evangelical Church”. I would place myself firmly within the evangelical tradition. As we work through the challenges of “living with contrary convictions” let us revisit one of the perspectives that has a long tradition within Methodism, namely “evangelicalism”.

We will look at the four characteristics of the “evangelical” tradition over the next few Circuit Services I will lead. As stated by the church historian David Bebbington these characteristics are, (1) a belief that people need to respond and receive the gift of grace in Christ, (2) a focus on demonstrating practically the kingdom through seeking justice and meeting need, (3) a high regard for Scripture and a view that it is the ultimate authority for our theology and discipleship, and lastly, (4) a stress on the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross and the resurrection as the means by which we are saved/redeemed/rescued/healed etc.

This Sunday we are looking at the first characteristic, the need for a decision to follow Jesus, invite Him into our life, and receive the gift of grace. That this is also a moment of repentance/transformation. An evangelical understanding of the need for a decision is a key motive for evangelism, that our response to the message of the Gospel is vital, urgent, and necessary. Just as a gift can be paid for and carefully wrapped and presented, it still needs someone to take hold of it and unwrap the gift, it becomes fully a gift in its reception and discovery, otherwise it remains a costly offer.

Song: This is Amazing Grace

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of glory, the King above all kings
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love

That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order?
Who makes the orphans a son and daughter?
The King of glory, the King of glory
Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free

Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

Final Blessing (Bart)

Close