

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 10th April 2022 (KEC Hybrid Service)

The livestream can be accessed at

https://www.facebook.com/bemkec/live_videos/ or <https://youtube.com/bemkec/live>

Welcome to church! Here at BEM KEC, these are our core convictions:

- To be centred on the gospel
 - To be driven by God's Word
 - To be focused on growing disciples
 - To be a community of truth and love
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1. CALL TO WORSHIP –John 1:1-14

2. Worship in SONG (with Bobby Langat):

SONG 1: Your great love (Heavenly Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

SONG 2: Light of the World

SONG 3: To be pleasing you

SONG 4: This is my desire

3. Prayers

4. Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 14:1-40

14 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. ² For anyone who speaks in a tongue^[a] does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. ³ But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. ⁴ Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ I would like every one of you to speak in tongues,^[b] but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues,^[c] unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

⁶ Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? ⁷ Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? ⁸ Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? ⁹ So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. ¹⁰ Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. ¹¹ If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker is a foreigner to me. ¹² So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

¹³ For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ So what

shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. ¹⁶ Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer,^[d] say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.

¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰ Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. ²¹ In the Law it is written:

“With other tongues
and through the lips of foreigners
I will speak to this people,
but even then they will not listen to me,
says the Lord.”^[e]

²² Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. ²³ So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? ²⁴ But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵ as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

²⁶ What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. ²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. ²⁸ If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

²⁹ Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. ³⁰ And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. ³¹ For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. ³² The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. ³³ For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.

³⁴ Women^[f] should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. ³⁵ If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.^[g]

³⁶ Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? ³⁷ If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord’s command. ³⁸ But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored.^[h]

³⁹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

SERMON OUTLINE: For the sake of others (1 Cor 14)

When we read in context...

One more time, what the Corinthian church was like!

The gift they thought was “greater”

Paul begins to address this pastorally

Chp 12 – many gifts, all given by the Spirit, all necessary

Chp 13 – love is the essential ingredient

So...

14:1 – “Pursue love”! (ESV)

“eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit”

If you want to be a loving *and* spiritual church at the same time, what does it look like?

For the Corinthians, that would mean v.1c = “especially _____”

Why?

*The headline for today:

A loving and spiritual church is one that employs gifts for the sake of others

What are tongues?

Foreign human languages that have not been learnt (Acts 2)

Same or different in 1 Cor 14?

What about prophecy?

Delay defining it for now, but just remember two things at this stage

- A verbal gift, like tongues
- Not to be reduced to “prediction”

So why does Paul ask the Corinthians to desire prophecy over tongues?

i) because prophecy better edifies the church (v.2-5)

v.4 (also v.5, 12, 17, 19)

The two gifts' differing audiences (v.2-3)

What prophecy does that makes it "greater" (v.3)

Turns our thinking on its head

ii) because prophecy is understandable and meaningful (v.6-19)

Intelligible!

3 illustrations (v.7-11):

Tongues doesn't achieve edification, unless it is interpreted! (v.5, 13)

The comparison, put mathematically (v.19)

iii) Because it can bring conviction to even outsiders (v.20-25)

The allusion to Isaiah 28

A negative sign!

Why tongues then, is for unbelievers / prophecy is for believers

The underlying principle: see *headline above.

2 more specific implications:

1. Look to prophesy in this way

A more inductive approach to defining prophecy

A whole Bible-sketch

Old Testament Big P Prophecy = authoritative and infallible

God has put his very words in their mouths (eg. Deut. 18:18, Jer. 1:9)

The NT equivalent = apostles / apostolic writings (John 14:25-26, 2 Peter 1:21, 3:1-2)

small p prophecy = not authoritative (see 1 Cor 14:29, cf. 1 Thess. 5:21-22)

What is this kind of prophesying? Notice...

- Ordinary-looking
- Edifies, strengthens, encourages comforts (v.3, cf. Acts 15:32)
- Brings about conviction of sin – similar to the word of God in Hebrews 4:12-13
- Lumped together with revelation, knowledge, teaching (14:6)
 - “reveal/revelation” in NT can simply mean insight into what God has already said, or correction to bring us back to his way (eg. Phil 3:15)

If so, then what prophesying looks like is actually this...

The kind of prophetic ministry we need

2. Seek understanding and to be understandable

One more principle: **Exercise these gifts in an orderly way (v.26-40)**

The procedures: v26-28 / v29-31 /v34-35

The basis: the character of God (v.33)

Pursue love, and try to excel in the gifts that build up the church

RESPONSE: O Church Arise

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Connect cards**
- **Giving**
- **Good Friday service, 15th April, 8.30am.** Preacher: Pastor Joshua Lee.
- **Teh C Talk: “Finding hope in Times of Uncertainty”, 7.30pm, Saturday 16th April.**
Venue: ROTM (Canaan Square) – a map will be provided upon registration.
“Endemic”: a word that we Malaysians hear every day, yet no one truly knows what it means. How can we make up for the time we lost to the pandemic? How can we regain control over our lives and find our rhythm again? Is it having more money in our bank accounts, more expensive items in our Shopee packages, and more travel plans to beautiful foreign countries?
Come enjoy a free drink with us as we explore how money, comfort, and control all fail to give us what we are looking for, and how the Christian faith provides every individual with true hope and meaning. Sign up at <https://www.tinyurl.com/TCTapr22>
- **Advance Notice:** On May 1st- May 8th, **elder nominations** will be open. The **election of elders** for the next 3 years will take place on **Sunday, May 15th**.
- **Baptisms:** We will be conducting baptisms in church on **Sunday, May 22nd**. If you wish to be baptised, please let our administrator Julie Kong know. There will be a cap on the number of baptisms we will conduct at this service. Baptism classes will be conducted on the Sundays leading up to May 22nd, after service.
- **Meet a Church Planter!:** What does a church planter do? Why plant churches? How can you come alongside a church planter and support him? Join us on **Saturday, April 30th, 7.30pm** at the **KEC Seminar Room**, to hear how God led Paul Ling to the path of church planting. Come and hear more about Paul and his team’s ministry, passion and vision to plant a gospel-centred church in Kuching. If you would like to come, let Paul Ling know.
- Our **Prayer Meeting** is on this week, on **Wednesday, April 13th, 8-9ish pm**. We are currently aiming to have some form of in-person Prayer Meeting from July.

Home Fellowship Groups Most groups have started meeting! (Usually Thursday/Friday evenings). If you would like to register your interest in joining a Home Fellowship Group, please do so at https://bemkec.my/home-fellowship-groups/	English Youth Ministry Our youth group meets every Saturday evening at church (Conference Room 1), 8-9.30pm. If you’re interested to come, do let us know at https://bemkec.my/english-youth-ministry/	Sunday School Our Sunday School is currently still online (either live on Zoom/lessons Whatsappd to parents – depending on age group). Please contact our deacon Abang Trang if you wish to know more.
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UPDATES on SOPs

From this Sunday onwards, there is no maximum limit on the number of people who can come to attend church in person.

However, the requirements to have social distancing and to wear masks remain. In addition, the requirement to check in via MySejahtera or by some other form of recording, also remains.

For the moment, we will retain online pre-registration at <https://bemkec.my/booking/>. If you forget to pre-register, you can still show up, but please do register if you remember to give us a better idea of numbers coming beforehand. Online registrations close at 3pm every Saturday afternoon.

Children below 12 are allowed in the service as long as parents/guardians are fully vaccinated. The creche is also open to be used. Sunday School is currently still online. However, we are working on a timeline and hoping for to re-open in person in the second half of this year.

If you are unwell or exhibiting symptoms such as fever, cough, or sore throat, you may continue following us online via the livestreaming of our service.

Please take note: do book in for the Good Friday and Easter Sunday service separately. Both forms will be available on our website, <https://bemkec.my>.

BENEDICTION

¹⁴ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:8