

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 6th June 2021 (KEC SERVICE Online)

Please take note that this Sunday's service begins at **8.30am**, not 9am.

We will not be showing any new Kids' Church Videos for the moment. Please do join one of our Sunday School groups instead! Contact Abang Trang for more info.

You can access the livestream at https://www.facebook.com/bemkec/live_videos/

Or on Youtube here: <https://youtube.com/bemkec/live>

8.30am – Livestream starts

Livestream link should be available by 8.25am latest.

0. Starter question: What makes Christian friendship distinctive?

1. CALL TO WORSHIP – 1 John 4:7-16

2. WORSHIP in SONG (with Emmy Baru)

SONG 1: He will hold me fast (NEW SONG)

SONG 2: Jesus strong and kind

3. Time of Reflection and Confession

Heavenly Father,
You have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have gone our own way,
and rejected your will for our lives.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to love for you,
and to please you in every way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

– 1 John 1:9

4. Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

5. Prayers

- World
- Nation
- Church

6. Bible reading: Proverbs 18:24-19:7; 27:3-10; John 15:9-17

PROVERBS 18:24-19:7

²⁴ One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

19 Better the poor whose walk is blameless
than a fool whose lips are perverse.

² Desire without knowledge is not good—
how much more will hasty feet miss the way!

³ A person's own folly leads to their ruin,
yet their heart rages against the LORD.

⁴ Wealth attracts many friends,
but even the closest friend of the poor person deserts them.

⁵ A false witness will not go unpunished,
and whoever pours out lies will not go free.

⁶ Many curry favor with a ruler,
and everyone is the friend of one who gives gifts.

⁷ The poor are shunned by all their relatives—
how much more do their friends avoid them!
Though the poor pursue them with pleading,
they are nowhere to be found.

PROVERBS 27:3-10

- ³ Stone is heavy and sand a burden,
but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.
- ⁴ Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming,
but who can stand before jealousy?
- ⁵ Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.
- ⁶ Wounds from a friend can be trusted,
but an enemy multiplies kisses.
- ⁷ One who is full loathes honey from the comb,
but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.
- ⁸ Like a bird that flees its nest
is anyone who flees from home.
- ⁹ Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart,
and the pleasantness of a friend
springs from their heartfelt advice.
- ¹⁰ Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family,
and do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you—
better a neighbor nearby than a relative far away.

JOHN 15:9-17

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

SERMON OUTLINE: FRIENDSHIP

“This world is full of sorrow because it is full of sin. It is a dark place. It is a lonely place. It is a disappointing place. The brightest sunbeam in it is a friend. Friendship halves our troubles and doubles our joys.” – J.C Ryle

“Two things are essential in this world – life, and friendship. Both must be prized highly, and not undervalued.” – Augustine

The significance of friendship

Starts with who God is

In the beginning, God is *with* God! (John 1:1)

God is with God, *loving one another* (John 17:24)

Who God created us to be: Made in his image

Not good to be alone (Gen. 2:18)

The place of warmth, love and relational satisfaction (eg. 1 Cor. 13, 1 John 4:7-21, Philemon 7)

What God saved us for

Friends with God and others

eg. the language of togetherness in Ephesians (2:19, 2:21-22, 3:6, 4:16)

A wedding feast

The confusions of ‘friendship’

The question of intensity

The question of mobility

The question of proximity

The characteristics of friendship

⁴You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. (James 4:4)

How does the metaphor work? Drawing out some characteristics by how James uses it...

i. Affinity

Share the same outlook, goal, passion (cf. Luke 23:12)

ii. Allegiance

A sense of loyalty

iii. Affection

Set your hearts upon him/her (cf. 1 Sam. 20:17)

More than just acquaintances/companions/ "casual" friends (though nothing wrong with them!)

Proverbs 18:24, 17:17

Do we have such friends?

The cultivation of friendships

1. Friends are carefully chosen

Proverbs 13:20

Criteria: Psalm 119:63

Never neutral: Proverbs 22:24-25

...so be discerning!

2. Friends are committed

Consumer friendships: Proverbs 19:4, 7

Proverbs 17:17, 27:10

Impossible to have deep friendships with everyone

The relationships Jesus had with people: concentric circles

Free us from guilt

Beware

- The reciprocity meter
- The day-off syndrome
- The ideal-time myth

Imagine the payoff of commitment

3. Friends are candid

Open up to one another (cf. 1 Sam. 18:1, Romans 12:15)

The art of listening and asking good questions (Proverbs 20:5, 27:9)

Be willing to say the hard stuff (Proverbs 27:5-6; 29:5)

4. Friends are considerate

Careful with our words: Proverbs 15:28, 12:18, 20:19

Considerate in our actions: Proverbs 25:17 (cf. Gal. 6:2)

The Christ-centredness of friendships (John 15:13-15)

The Perfect Friend

Frees us for true Christian friendships (Heb. 10:24-25)

Response: What a friend we have in Jesus

ANOUNCEMENTS

- Connect cards
- Giving
- Pastoral letter, 5th June, available on website

Missions Sunday, 20th June

Speaker: Josh Reeve

Friday evening, 18th June, on Zoom (REGISTER at <https://bemkec.my/llamas>)

“From Llamas to Christ: stories from Lorenzo and Liliana”

Come meet Lorenzo & Liliana (not their real names) as they share with us their experiences of how God used their medical training to be his instruments and support local believers in a South American country for over 15 years!

We will also hear from two young adults as they share how God is calling them in different ways to participate in his kingdom beyond Malaysia.

Saturday morning, 19th June (10-11.15am). Get your Zoom link from HFG leaders or private message us on Facebook.

We will spend some time receiving updates from our mission partners and praying for them.

Special fundraiser for one of our mission partners, Jimmy Lumasay (Philippines)

This year, we seek to raise RM12,000 for Pastor Jimmy to replace his present motorcycle, which is nearly at the end of its service life. Pastor Jimmy works in a rugged and hilly region. If you wish to bless this brother in Christ, please transfer to our bank account and put “Jimmy” in the Recipients Reference.

- *KEC Church Administrator vacancy:*
Any interested parties are encouraged to apply and submit their CV by Monday, 7th June, addressed to the Church Secretary (email: brian.bemkec@gmail.com or edwards@cmsb.my). Please see the advertisement for the position in full at <https://bemkec.my>
- KVBC NextGen Conference, 10-13 August 2021 (deadline: 13 June). For more info, check out: <https://nextgen.kvbctrust.org>
- Video editors still needed – can you help? Get in touch with Catherine Chen or Daniel Langat.
- Prayer Meeting – on Zoom until further notice.

BENEDICTION

¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

- 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13