

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 19th Sept 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.

1. CALL TO WORSHIP – Colossians 3:1-4

2. WORSHIP in SONG (with Daniel Langat)

SONG 1: King of Kings

SONG 2: Where o grave is your victory?

3. Heidelberg Catechism on the ascension of Christ

Q46. What do you confess when you say, [Jesus] ascended into heaven?

Ans: That Christ,

before the eyes of his disciples,
was taken up from the earth into heaven,
and that he is there for our benefit
until he comes again
to judge the living and the dead.

Q47. Is Christ, then, not with us until the end of the world, as he has promised us?

Ans: Christ is true man and true God.

With respect to his human nature
He is no longer on earth,
but with respect to his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit
he is never absent from us.

Q49. How does Christ's ascension into heaven benefit us?

Ans: First,

He is our advocate in heaven
before his Father.

Second,

We have our flesh in heaven
as a sure pledge that He, our Head,
will also take us, his members
up to himself.

Third,
He sends us his Spirit as a counter-pledge,
by whose we seek
the things that are above,
where Christ is
Seated at the right hand of God,
and not the things that are on earth.

4. Prayers

5. Bible reading: Genesis 22:20-23:20

²⁰ Some time later Abraham was told, ‘Milkah is also a mother; she has borne sons to your brother Nahor: ²¹ Uz the firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel (the father of Aram), ²² Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph and Bethuel.’ ²³ Bethuel became the father of Rebekah. Milkah bore these eight sons to Abraham’s brother Nahor. ²⁴ His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also had sons: Tebah, Gaham, Tahash and Maakah.

23 Sarah lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old. ² She died at Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her.

³ Then Abraham rose from beside his dead wife and spoke to the Hittites.^[a] He said, ⁴ ‘I am a foreigner and stranger among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so that I can bury my dead.’

⁵ The Hittites replied to Abraham, ⁶ ‘Sir, listen to us. You are a mighty prince among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will refuse you his tomb for burying your dead.’

⁷ Then Abraham rose and bowed down before the people of the land, the Hittites. ⁸ He said to them, ‘If you are willing to let me bury my dead, then listen to me and intercede with Ephron son of Zohar on my behalf ⁹ so that he will sell me the cave of Machpelah, which belongs to him and is at the end of his field. Ask him to sell it to me for the full price as a burial site among you.’

¹⁰ Ephron the Hittite was sitting among his people and he replied to Abraham in the hearing of all the Hittites who had come to the gate of his city. ¹¹ ‘No, my lord,’ he said. ‘Listen to me; I give^[b] you the field, and I give^[c] you the cave that is in it. I give^[d] it to you in the presence of my people. Bury your dead.’

¹² Again Abraham bowed down before the people of the land ¹³ and he said to Ephron in their hearing, ‘Listen to me, if you will. I will pay the price of the field. Accept it from me so that I can bury my dead there.’

¹⁴ Ephron answered Abraham, ¹⁵ ‘Listen to me, my lord; the land is worth four hundred shekels^[e] of silver, but what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.’

¹⁶ Abraham agreed to Ephron’s terms and weighed out for him the price he had named in the hearing of the Hittites: four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weight current among the merchants.

¹⁷ So Ephron's field in Machpelah near Mamre – both the field and the cave in it, and all the trees within the borders of the field – was legally made over ¹⁸ to Abraham as his property in the presence of all the Hittites who had come to the gate of the city. ¹⁹ Afterwards Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave in the field of Machpelah near Mamre (which is at Hebron) in the land of Canaan. ²⁰ So the field and the cave in it were legally made over to Abraham by the Hittites as a burial site.

SERMON OUTLINE: The journey of faith (Genesis 22:20-23:20)

Wear and tear

What do you do when you've lived faithfully for Jesus, but you're worn down, and nothing seems to change?

Why God kept this episode in the Bible for us

Part 1: The circumstances of Abraham (22:20-23:2)

The stage is set...for the telling of a family tree?

Why?

Introducing Rebekah?

Comparing

After more than half a century...

Sarah dies, waiting

A recipe for disillusionment and despair

Vanished from view

The temptation to pack it all in...but let's watch Abraham

Part 2: The commitment of Abraham (23:3-15)

"I am a foreigner and stranger among you"

"Sell me some *property*..."

Cf. 37:43, 17:8

What is Abraham doing?

Where you bury your loved one reflects where your heart/home is

Acting with faith

The negotiations (high-context culture)

Round 1

Round 2

Round 3

Continues to walk by faith, not by sight

Part 3: The cost to Abraham (23:16-20)

Costly

No haggling

The deal is done – there can be no dispute

Implications

The man with the mature faith...

Keeps living for the promise

Maintains his identity as one of God's people

What do you do when you've lived faithfully for Jesus, but you don't see much fruit?

Ans: You _____.

How Abraham's descendants lived (49:29-30; 50:24-25)

The nature of God's promises and our faith: living in the *already and not yet*

Waiting for promises to be fulfilled.

Guaranteed by a downpayment

Forward-looking, not navel-gazing (Heb. 11:9-10, 1)

Keeping the end of the story in mind

Keep the faith, journey on.

Pinned here,
Too exhausted to wrestle
anymore.
In the stillness I see
I'm in an embrace, not a
headlock
- From *Held*, Jenny Rowberry

ANOUNCEMENTS

- **Connect cards**
- **Giving**
- **Equip Doctrine 1 classes** have been rescheduled to Sunday afternoon for this Sunday and next Sunday (19th and 26th September), 2-4pm.
- **The "Women of the Word" book group** will run from **Sept 26 to Oct 31 on Zoom at 10.30am after Sunday service**, led by Sharon Ling. **Register at bemkec.my/word** to discuss and learn how and why to read our Bibles better. Places are limited as we only have 4 copies of the book (as of Saturday) available for purchase from the church office at RM35.
- **Bible Handling Skills Seminar: Understanding 2 Peter. Speaker: Ivan Chow.** This seminar is for all Christians who would like to be better equipped at reading and understanding the Bible. Register and join Online, **three consecutive Monday nights starting 18th October**. Each evening session will include 30-45 min of small group discussion. Some preparation required. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/bhs2Peter>
- **Prayer Meeting** this Wednesday – on Zoom till further notice

BENEDICTION

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

- 1 Corinthians 15:58