

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 5th 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 – 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

2. WORSHIP in SONG (with Silas Michael)

SONG 1: Great is thy faithfulness

SONG 2: Living hope

3. Time of Reflection and Confession

God of grace, you love us,
but we have not loved you.
You call,
but we have not listened.
We walk away from neighbours in need,
wrapped up in our own concerns.
By our actions and our attitudes
we praise what you condemn.
Help us to admit our sin, so that
as you come to us in mercy we may repent,
turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

– Colossians 1:13-14

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: Genesis 16:1-16

20 Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, ² and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, ‘She is my sister.’ Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

³ But God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, ‘You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman.’

⁴ Now Abimelek had not gone near her, so he said, ‘Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? ⁵ Did he not say to me, “She is my sister,” and didn’t she also say, “He is my brother”? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands.’

⁶ Then God said to him in the dream, ‘Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her. ⁷ Now return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all who belong to you will die.’

⁸ Early the next morning Abimelek summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid. ⁹ Then Abimelek called Abraham in and said, ‘What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should never be done.’ ¹⁰ And Abimelek asked Abraham, ‘What was your reason for doing this?’

¹¹ Abraham replied, ‘I said to myself, “There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.” ¹² Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. ¹³ And when God caused me to wander from my father’s household, I said to her, “This is how you can show your love to me: everywhere we go, say of me, ‘He is my brother.’”’

¹⁴ Then Abimelek brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him. ¹⁵ And Abimelek said, ‘My land is before you; live wherever you like.’

¹⁶ To Sarah he said, ‘I am giving your brother a thousand shekels^[a] of silver. This is to cover the offence against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated.’

¹⁷ Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelek, his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again, ¹⁸ for the LORD had kept all the women in Abimelek’s household from conceiving because of Abraham’s wife Sarah.

21 Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac^[b] to the son Sarah bore him. ⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶ Sarah said, ‘God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.’ ⁷ And she added, ‘Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.’

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. ⁹ But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, ¹⁰ and she said to Abraham, ‘Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.’

¹¹ The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. ¹² But God said to him, ‘Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring^[c] will be reckoned. ¹³ I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.’

¹⁴ Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went off and sat down about a bow-shot away, for she thought, ‘I cannot watch the boy die.’ And as she sat there, she^[d] began to sob.

¹⁷ God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, ‘What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. ¹⁸ Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.’

¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. ²¹ While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

²² At that time Abimelek and Phicol the commander of his forces said to Abraham, ‘God is with you in everything you do. ²³ Now swear to me here before God that you will not deal falsely with me or my children or my descendants. Show to me and the country where you now reside as a foreigner the same kindness that I have shown to you.’

²⁴ Abraham said, ‘I swear it.’

²⁵ Then Abraham complained to Abimelek about a well of water that Abimelek’s servants had seized. ²⁶ But Abimelek said, ‘I don’t know who has done this. You did not tell me, and I heard about it only today.’

²⁷ So Abraham brought sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelek, and the two men made a treaty. ²⁸ Abraham set apart seven ewe lambs from the flock, ²⁹ and Abimelek asked Abraham, ‘What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs you have set apart by themselves?’

³⁰ He replied, ‘Accept these seven lambs from my hand as a witness that I dug this well.’

³¹ So that place was called Beersheba,^[e] because the two men swore an oath there.

³² After the treaty had been made at Beersheba, Abimelek and Phicol the commander of his forces returned to the land of the Philistines. ³³ Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Eternal God. ³⁴ And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time.

- a. [Genesis 20:16](#) That is, about 12 kilograms
- b. [Genesis 21:3](#) *Isaac* means *he laughs*.
- c. [Genesis 21:12](#) Or *seed*
- d. [Genesis 21:16](#) Hebrew; Septuagint *the child*
- e. [Genesis 21:31](#) *Beersheba* can mean *well of seven* or *well of the oath*.

SERMON OUTLINE: Faithlessness meets the faithful God (Genesis 20-21)

How does God relate to messed-up people?

Genesis 20-21: learning what God is like (especially as he relates to people who keep messing up!)

1. Despite our slowness and our fearfulness, God is faithful to protect his purposes (Gen 20)

Déjà vu! 🙄 moment!

Why?

Fearful! (v.11, 13)

Leads him to play a little loosely with the truth (v.2 cf v.12)

Become quite used to living such untruths (v.13)

Slow to learn

Like Abraham, we are often messed-up contradictions

Doctrinal faith has not become daily faith

“No fear of God in this place”? Correct, but who is it who doesn’t fear God?

What should we fear more?

Abraham’s faithlessness → putting God’s purposes at risk

...but God is faithful to protect his purposes

God & Abimelek

Restitution

What can we say?

2. Despite our past sin or mistakes, God is faithful to honour his oath (Gen 21)

The long-awaited moment finally arrives!

God does what he says

Eg. Romans 8:28

So, happy ending? But wait....there's Hagar and Ishmael...

Mocks (v.9)

Get lost! (v.10)

The chosen child of promise

Past sins/mistakes come back to haunt

A double-faced God?

Pain

Promises still kept – God will honour his Word!

True even in concluding episode of 21:22-34

God honoured his word of giving Abraham a son, now begins to honour his promise of a land

“If you are part of Christ’s own body, your sins evoke his deepest heart, his compassion and pity...[H]e’s on your side. He sides with you against your sin, not against you because of your sin. He hates sin. But he loves you.” – Dane Ortlund, Gentle and Lowly

Response: Standing on the promises

ANOUNCEMENTS

- **Connect cards**
- **Giving**
- **There are just a few Care parcels left:** Please contact our church administrator, Julie Kong, directly if you would like to obtain one to give away.
- **Equip classes: Doctrine 1** with Ps Brian, has started! It will take place every Saturday, for 10 weeks (10.30am-12.30pm). Don't forget to read the relevant chapter before the next class!
For Session 3 and 4, please take note that the classes have been rescheduled to Sunday afternoon, 19th and 26th September, 2-4pm.
- **Advance notice: A book group on "Women of the Word" by Jen Wilkin** will start on **Sept 26 for six weeks**, led by Sharon Ling. Registration details will be available next week. Places are limited as we only have 10 copies of the book for purchase at RM35 a copy.
- **Tadika Rajawali** is now open for 2022 admissions. Those born in the years 2016, 2017, or 2018 are welcome to join.
- **Prayer Meeting** this Wednesday – on Zoom till further notice

BENEDICTION

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24