

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 3rd 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 – Psalm 136

2. Worship in SONG (with Jeremy Ng):

SONG 1: God Omniscient, God All-Knowing

SONG 2: Forever (Give thanks to the Lord)

SONG 3: Hope of the World

SONG 4: Power of your Love

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

¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

- Psalm 103:10-12

4. Reflection Song: How Deep the Father's Love for us

5. The Lord's Supper

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my

body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

6. Prayers

7. Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

³¹ Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

13 If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

SERMON OUTLINE: The more excellent way (1 Cor 13)

What do we tend to value as a congregation?

What did the Corinthian church value?

“Now eagerly desire the greater gifts...” (1 Cor 12:31a)

“...I will show you the more excellent way.” (1 Cor 12:31b)

Something you must value above all else

Literary context: church, not weddings

So **remember...**

1. The primacy of love (v.1-3)

If...but

Each time pinpointing a spiritual gift already mentioned

Not gifts vs love

Do we believe this? What do we value more?

Don't be too impressed by mere giftedness

2. The particularities of love (v.4-7)

What love looks like in the concrete

Verbs

Love is patient

Love is kind

“Love’s readiness to enhance the life of another person.” – Lewis Smedes
Cf. Romans 2:4, Titus 3:4

Love does not envy

Love does not boast; is not proud

Love does not seek to dishonour others

Love is not self-seeking

Love is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth

Slightly adapted from St. Helen’s Bishopsgate 1 Corinthians notes

Love does not envy (13:4), Love does not boast (13:4), Love is not proud (13:4), Love does not dishonour others (13:5), Love is not self-seeking (13:5) Love does not delight in evil (13:6) Love is not easily angered, nor does it keep record of wrongs (13:5)	BUT	the Corinthians did (3:3) the Corinthians did (4:7, 18) the Corinthians were (4:6, 18, 19; 5:2) the Corinthians were (11:20-21, 14:40) the Corinthians were (1:12, 3:3-4, 10:24) the Corinthians did (5:1-2, 10:21-22) the Corinthians were & did (6:1-8)
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If Paul was in our congregation, what will he observe?

3. The permanency of love (v.8-13)

Gifts will not be around forever - but what will remain?

*How then, can I love better?

“We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) ... so let’s watch love personified

Never forget love is oriented towards others

RESPONSE: Here is Love

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>
- Are you looking for **an opportunity to serve in church**? Log on to <https://bemkec.my/serving>, to learn about some ministries you could get involved in, and to sign up!
- **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.**
- Are you a **parent with a child in Sunday School**? If so, a Sunday School teacher should have WhatsApped you a survey to fill out! Please help us by **filling out that survey**, to help the Sunday School team make better-informed decisions on when and how to reopen Sunday School in person.
- **Scholarship for students (aged 18-25) from underprivileged backgrounds:** This is coordinated by Malaysian CARE, in partnership with Sunway Education group. For more info on how to apply, contact our church administrator, Julie Kong.
- Our **Prayer Meeting** is on this week, on **Wednesday, April 6th, 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 WhatsApped 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

CHURCH SERVICE, 10th April:

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.

Finally, if you missed Pastor Brian's latest prayer letter, dated 30th March 2022, you can find it at <https://bemkec.my/2022/03/30/pastoral-letter-30th-march-2022/>

BENEDICTION

¹⁴ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- 2 Corinthians 13:14