

## **KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (KEC SERVICE online)**

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

KIDS VIDEO will be made available by 8am. This week, we'll look at the book of Jonah. This book tells that God is a God of grace and kindness and love. But the prophet Jonah is not happy about this! Jonah thinks the people of Nineveh are too bad to deserve God's forgiveness. What happens next? Let's journey along with Jonah!

Direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDInERW5CTk>

You can access the livestream at [https://www.facebook.com/bemkec/live\\_videos/](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 – Jeremiah 9:23-24; 10:6-16**

### **2. WORSHIP in SONG (with Joshua Baru):**

SONG 1: The power of the cross (O to see the dawn)

SONG 2: Jesus strong and kind

### **3. E100 Reading Aid: How to read biblical narratives – plot**

#### **4. Prayers**

- World
- Nation
- Church

### **5. Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5**

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”<sup>[a]</sup>

**2** And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. <sup>2</sup> For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. <sup>4</sup> My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.

- a. [1 Corinthians 1:19](#) Isaiah 29:14
- b. [1 Corinthians 1:31](#) Jer. 9:24

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### **God chose the weak and foolish things (1 Cor. 1:18-2:5)**

Insecure about the gospel?

If only the gospel could be just a little more impressive

Being Christians in Corinth, an impressive place

Wanting the world’s temple to be the church’s temple  
...but 1:17...

So what should we do when’re feeling insecure about the gospel?

**Remember...**

#### **1. God chose the weak and foolish things**

The cross looks stupid! (v.18, 23)

How scandalous the cross was in the ancient world

Repulsive

So Christians must be stupid too!

Before we get too defensive...

Exactly what God wants to broadcast to the world

What PR consultants might say – v.22

After all, what are you? (v.26)

If God chose you, he can certainly choose the cross

**2. In God's reality, these weak and foolish things are actually strong and wise**

The absolute genius of God

“Christ crucified”

Transforming foolishness into wisdom (v.21)

At the cross

The apostles get it – they gloried in the cross

What happens if we only get Truth 1 without Truth 2?

- ◆ Tempted to dress up the gospel
  
- ◆ Tempted to put our confidence in the window dressing, not the main product

What actually saves

When people hear the message of Christ crucified, two things happen (v.18b)

### **3. God did it this way so that we would boast in him alone**

v.19-20, 27-29

Let's do it this way! Why?

The real problem

God wants to expose the lie

The alternatives – do they really work?

Can't have Christ without his cross

One major application:

**Don't feel the need to dress up the gospel / Trust that the cross is enough**

**RESPONSE SONG: I will boast**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- Connect cards
- E100 Bible Reading Plan (<https://bemkec.my/e100>)
- Life Explored with Paul Ling, continues on Zoom until further notice.
- Impact AUS Conference Online: Sat, 2-5pm, 23 January 2021
- Personal evangelism webinars with Tim Nicholls (Fridays Jan 22, 29, Feb 5, 8-10pm).  
Evangelism & the Heart / Know & Tell the Gospel Story / Conversational Evangelism. Register at <https://bemkec.my/evangelism>
- *“Life in a Covid World: Depression, Anxiety & Dealing with the unexpected”* Webinar with Christian counsellor Dr. Edward Welch (Sat Jan 30, 8-10pm) Register at <https://new.equip.org.my/biblical-counselling-conference/> (Fee: RM20)
- Sunday School – starts today
- Giving
- Prayer Meeting – on Zoom until further notice

## BENEDICTION

<sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

- 2 Peter 3:18