

ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 5th APRIL (KEC Livestreamed service)

*You can also get all the kids' video and worship songs on one page by going to <https://churchserviceplanner.co.uk/p/cfvxa1wgw4>

Before livestream starts:

8.30am thereabouts

Log onto our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/bemkec>), and look for the Kids Church post! This week, we'll have 2 videos (8 minutes total), thinking about how big God is, and a little about Palm Sunday.

Direct link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpaLco8zRXU> (Colin Buchanan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgCbvNycUOE> (Modes of transport matter...)

8.45am thereabouts

Please sing these 2 songs below wherever you are, whether via the Youtube lyric videos, which will be made available on our Facebook page, or via a musician in your midst!

Song 1: As the deer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBppKZ0eJlQ>

Song 2: All I have is Christ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugGucoYMmKg>

9am – Livestream starts

Livestream link should be available by 8.57am latest.

WELCOME / CALL TO WORSHIP – The 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.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to 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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Creator of everything, Judge of everyone,
We admit that we have sinned against you
In thought, speech and action,
And deserve your just punishment.
We truly repent and are sorry for what we have done.
Have mercy on us, merciful Father.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
Forgive us all that is past,
And enable us to serve and please you in a fresh way,
To the glory of your name. Amen.

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

² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

(1 John 1:9, 2:2)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD and FOR THE CHURCH

BIBLE READING: Psalm 84 (NIV2011)

For the director of music. According to gittith.^[a] Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.

¹How lovely is your dwelling place,
LORD Almighty!

²My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.

³Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

⁴Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.^[a]

⁵Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

⁶As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.^[a]

⁷They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before God in Zion.

⁸Hear my prayer, LORD God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.

⁹Look on our shield,^[a] O God;
look with favor on your anointed one.

¹⁰Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor;

no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.
¹²LORD Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Sermon Outline: Longing for home (Psalm 84)

What is it that you're longing for?

Why do we long at all? Why do long for things to be "just right"?

C.S Lewis answer

2 options

- i. We like the state of longing
- ii. Our longings points to the existence of something outside of us that we need

'Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.' – *Mere Christianity*

What Psalm 84 is there for

Setting the scene

Redirecting our hearts

1. To long for God (v.1-4)

Homesick

Just a building?

More than the building

Where we belong

Envyng the birds

The Christian life is experiential

Theology leads to doxology

Be stirred to know and long for God more

Our future dwelling place

²²I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple – Revelation 21:22

2. Journey with God (v.5-7)

Pilgrimage

The Valley of Baka

Picture of transformation

Our Valley of Baka

Naming our losses

Look to the future, but stay grounded in the present

Vessels of self-introspection, or agents of transformation?

Too weak – v.5

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

- 1 Peter 4:11b

3. Trust in God (v.8-12)

“God’s worst is better than the devil’s best” (Spurgeon)

Sun and shield

Prayer for the anointed one

The Anointed, Favoured One

Given us the very best

What are we longing for?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

- 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17