

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 20th September (KEC SERVICE - Hybrid)

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

KIDS VIDEO will be made available by 8am. This week, come and join Paul as he goes on a epic journey to many places, taking the message of the Risen King Jesus wherever he goes!

Direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uz2cqvx1xm4>

You can access the livestream at https://www.facebook.com/bemkec/live_videos/

8.30am – Livestream starts

Livestream link should be available by 8.25am latest.

1. CALL TO WORSHIP – 1 Peter 3:8-18

2. WORSHIP in SONG (with Jassica Sonia):

SONG 1: Great is thy faithfulness

SONG 2: Living Hope

3. Prayers

4. Bible reading: Lamentations 3

- 3 ^[a]I am the man who has seen affliction
by the rod of the LORD's wrath.
2 He has driven me away and made me walk
in darkness rather than light;
3 indeed, he has turned his hand against me
again and again, all day long.
4 He has made my skin and my flesh grow old
and has broken my bones.
5 He has besieged me and surrounded me
with bitterness and hardship.
6 He has made me dwell in darkness
like those long dead.
7 He has walled me in so I cannot escape;
he has weighed me down with chains.
8 Even when I call out or cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer.
9 He has barred my way with blocks of stone;
he has made my paths crooked.
10 Like a bear lying in wait,
like a lion in hiding,
11 he dragged me from the path and mangled me

and left me without help.
12 He drew his bow
and made me the target for his arrows.
13 He pierced my heart
with arrows from his quiver.
14 I became the laughingstock of all my people;
they mock me in song all day long.
15 He has filled me with bitter herbs
and given me gall to drink.
16 He has broken my teeth with gravel;
he has trampled me in the dust.
17 I have been deprived of peace;
I have forgotten what prosperity is.
18 So I say, "My splendor is gone
and all that I had hoped from the LORD."
19 I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.
20 I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.
21 Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
23 They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
24 I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."
25 The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;
26 it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.
27 It is good for a man to bear the yoke
while he is young.
28 Let him sit alone in silence,
for the LORD has laid it on him.
29 Let him bury his face in the dust—
there may yet be hope.
30 Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him,
and let him be filled with disgrace.
31 For no one is cast off
by the Lord forever.
32 Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,
so great is his unfailing love.

33 For he does not willingly bring affliction
or grief to anyone.

34 To crush underfoot
all prisoners in the land,

35 to deny people their rights
before the Most High,

36 to deprive them of justice—
would not the Lord see such things?

37 Who can speak and have it happen
if the Lord has not decreed it?

38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High
that both calamities and good things come?

39 Why should the living complain
when punished for their sins?

40 Let us examine our ways and test them,
and let us return to the LORD.

41 Let us lift up our hearts and our hands
to God in heaven, and say:

42 “We have sinned and rebelled
and you have not forgiven.

43 “You have covered yourself with anger and pursued us;
you have slain without pity.

44 You have covered yourself with a cloud
so that no prayer can get through.

45 You have made us scum and refuse
among the nations.

46 “All our enemies have opened their mouths
wide against us.

47 We have suffered terror and pitfalls,
ruin and destruction.”

48 Streams of tears flow from my eyes
because my people are destroyed.

49 My eyes will flow unceasingly,
without relief,

50 until the LORD looks down
from heaven and sees.

51 What I see brings grief to my soul
because of all the women of my city.

52 Those who were my enemies without cause
hunted me like a bird.

53 They tried to end my life in a pit
and threw stones at me;

54 the waters closed over my head,
and I thought I was about to perish.

- 55 I called on your name, LORD,
from the depths of the pit.
- 56 You heard my plea: “Do not close your ears
to my cry for relief.”
- 57 You came near when I called you,
and you said, “Do not fear.”
- 58 You, Lord, took up my case;
you redeemed my life.
- 59 LORD, you have seen the wrong done to me.
Uphold my cause!
- 60 You have seen the depth of their vengeance,
all their plots against me.
- 61 LORD, you have heard their insults,
all their plots against me—
- 62 what my enemies whisper and mutter
against me all day long.
- 63 Look at them! Sitting or standing,
they mock me in their songs.
- 64 Pay them back what they deserve, LORD,
for what their hands have done.
- 65 Put a veil over their hearts,
and may your curse be on them!
- 66 Pursue them in anger and destroy them
from under the heavens of the LORD.
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Lamentations 3: Hope against hope

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with Snow
- *Dreams*, Langston Hughes

Hope is essential to life

How can we hope when there is no hope?

What Lamentations 3 is all about

Outer layers: beginning & the end – the wrath of God

The centre/heart: v.32-33 fillings of hope

The eclipse of hope (v.1-18)

“I am the man who has seen affliction”

Speaking not as an onlooker, but as a fellow sufferer

The rod of the Lord’s wrath

The rotan of the Shepherd

Shut in a confined space

The Psalm 23 Shepherd gone rogue

Summing it up – v.17-18

The lesson of this section: facing up honestly to our condition

God is *right* in what he does

Seeing sin as serious, or just as lizards or filing systems?

God isn’t about sin management. He’s about killing sin

Do you realise how serious sin is?

The rebirth of hope (v.19-39)

Recalling bitterness – not hard!

“Calls to mind” (v.21) – a deliberate remembering

What does he call to mind? Ans: S _____ (_____ : _____)

Choices

Believing God is *good*

“The Lord’s great love” – *hesed*

God’s “Never-Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreakable, Always and Forever Love”
(Jesus Storybook Bible)

The context that illustrates *hesed*

Our idea of God vs Our lived experience of God

The better way

What we believe about God determines our hope and endurance

We can wait...

...because now we know the heart of God

The impulse of hope (v.40-51)

Hope because of a sovereign God

Hope pushes us in the direction of repentance

And repentance pushes us back in the direction of hope

The confidence of hope (v.52-66)

Verses 52-58: Poet speaks not as a representative of Jerusalem, but as a prophet to Jerusalem

Sharing his testimony

Verses 59 onwards: Speaking one again as Jerusalem

A request for justice, not revenge

The bigger picture

We can hope, because we know who God is

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- KEC Council Meeting (Tues, 22nd Sept)
- Social Concerns Ministry – seeking donations of clothes
- Library open next Saturday (26th Sept) 2-4pm
- Email Bible studies
- Bible Handling Skills Webinar (5, 12, 19th Oct)
- Giving
- Prayer Meeting

BENEDICTION

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. – Romans 15:13