

## **KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 27<sup>th</sup> 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. Can anyone be good enough for God? Nicodemus thought he was...until he met Jesus! Jesus will show him that even people who do lots of good things are not good enough for God, and that we must be changed from the inside.

Direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alSA4hrsO6I>

You can access the livestream at [https://www.facebook.com/bemkec/live\\_videos/](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 4:12-5:11**

### **2. WORSHIP in SONG (with Sarah Lasung):**

**SONG 1: Anastasis (O Praise the Name)**

**SONG 2: Jesus Strong and King**

### **3. Prayers**

### **4. Bible reading: Lamentations 4-5**

<sup>1</sup>How the gold has lost its luster,  
the fine gold become dull!  
The sacred gems are scattered  
at every street corner.

<sup>2</sup>How the precious children of Zion,  
once worth their weight in gold,  
are now considered as pots of clay,  
the work of a potter's hands!

<sup>3</sup>Even jackals offer their breasts  
to nurse their young,  
but my people have become heartless  
like ostriches in the desert.

<sup>4</sup>Because of thirst the infant's tongue  
sticks to the roof of its mouth;  
the children beg for bread,  
but no one gives it to them.

<sup>5</sup>Those who once ate delicacies  
are destitute in the streets.  
Those brought up in royal purple  
now lie on ash heaps.

<sup>6</sup>The punishment of my people  
is greater than that of Sodom,

which was overthrown in a moment  
without a hand turned to help her.

<sup>7</sup> Their princes were brighter than snow  
and whiter than milk,  
their bodies more ruddy than rubies,  
their appearance like lapis lazuli.

<sup>8</sup> But now they are blacker than soot;  
they are not recognized in the streets.  
Their skin has shriveled on their bones;  
it has become as dry as a stick.

<sup>9</sup> Those killed by the sword are better off  
than those who die of famine;  
racked with hunger, they waste away  
for lack of food from the field.

<sup>10</sup> With their own hands compassionate women  
have cooked their own children,  
who became their food  
when my people were destroyed.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD has given full vent to his wrath;  
he has poured out his fierce anger.  
He kindled a fire in Zion  
that consumed her foundations.

<sup>12</sup> The kings of the earth did not believe,  
nor did any of the peoples of the world,  
that enemies and foes could enter  
the gates of Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> But it happened because of the sins of her prophets  
and the iniquities of her priests,  
who shed within her  
the blood of the righteous.

<sup>14</sup> Now they grope through the streets  
as if they were blind.  
They are so defiled with blood  
that no one dares to touch their garments.

<sup>15</sup> “Go away! You are unclean!” people cry to them.  
“Away! Away! Don’t touch us!”  
When they flee and wander about,  
people among the nations say,  
“They can stay here no longer.”

<sup>16</sup> The LORD himself has scattered them;  
he no longer watches over them.  
The priests are shown no honor,  
the elders no favor.

<sup>17</sup> Moreover, our eyes failed,  
looking in vain for help;  
from our towers we watched  
for a nation that could not save us.

<sup>18</sup> People stalked us at every step,  
so we could not walk in our streets.

Our end was near, our days were numbered,  
for our end had come.

<sup>19</sup> Our pursuers were swifter  
than eagles in the sky;  
they chased us over the mountains  
and lay in wait for us in the desert.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD's anointed, our very life breath,  
was caught in their traps.

We thought that under his shadow  
we would live among the nations.

<sup>21</sup> Rejoice and be glad, Daughter Edom,  
you who live in the land of Uz.

But to you also the cup will be passed;  
you will be drunk and stripped naked.

<sup>22</sup> Your punishment will end, Daughter Zion;  
he will not prolong your exile.

But he will punish your sin, Daughter Edom,  
and expose your wickedness.

**5** Remember, LORD, what has happened to us;  
look, and see our disgrace.

<sup>2</sup> Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers,  
our homes to foreigners.

<sup>3</sup> We have become fatherless,  
our mothers are widows.

<sup>4</sup> We must buy the water we drink;  
our wood can be had only at a price.

<sup>5</sup> Those who pursue us are at our heels;  
we are weary and find no rest.

<sup>6</sup> We submitted to Egypt and Assyria  
to get enough bread.

<sup>7</sup> Our ancestors sinned and are no more,  
and we bear their punishment.

<sup>8</sup> Slaves rule over us,  
and there is no one to free us from their hands.

<sup>9</sup> We get our bread at the risk of our lives  
because of the sword in the desert.

<sup>10</sup> Our skin is hot as an oven,  
feverish from hunger.

<sup>11</sup> Women have been violated in Zion,  
and virgins in the towns of Judah.

<sup>12</sup> Princes have been hung up by their hands;  
elders are shown no respect.

<sup>13</sup> Young men toil at the millstones;  
boys stagger under loads of wood.

<sup>14</sup> The elders are gone from the city gate;  
the young men have stopped their music.

<sup>15</sup> Joy is gone from our hearts;  
our dancing has turned to mourning.

- <sup>16</sup> The crown has fallen from our head.  
Woe to us, for we have sinned!
- <sup>17</sup> Because of this our hearts are faint,  
because of these things our eyes grow dim
- <sup>18</sup> for Mount Zion, which lies desolate,  
with jackals prowling over it.
- <sup>19</sup> You, LORD, reign forever;  
your throne endures from generation to generation.
- <sup>20</sup> Why do you always forget us?  
Why do you forsake us so long?
- <sup>21</sup> Restore us to yourself, LORD, that we may return;  
renew our days as of old
- <sup>22</sup> unless you have utterly rejected us  
and are angry with us beyond measure.
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### **Lamentations 4-5: Cry out in remembrance**

3 ways we can read the Bible

- Airbrushed reflection
- X-Ray
- Spotlight

How Lamentations forces us to read

One more way

- Personal correspondence

How we respond can depend on what grouping we fall into

Today, God will speak to 2 groupings

- Cry out in terror
- Cry out in remembrance

#### **1. A word to the complacent (Lamentations 4)**

You will cry out in terror

*...because degeneration and disgrace are your lot*

Tarnished gold

When human beings degenerate

What are humans?

What happens when they degenerate

Indicative of what's happening on the inside

Sin deforms you into something less than human ("heartless" v.3)

A failure to live up to what we're meant to be

Satan's lie

Disgrace

The shame of the prophets and priests

God's word of warning *especially for the leaders*

- By their perverted practices
- Through their false faith

Implications for leaders

A word to the church

## **2. A word for the convicted (Lamentations 5)**

The Poet no longer speaks as an onlooker, or a sufferer, but as a prayer warrior

Crying out to God

God invites us to lament

*a) LORD, Remember!*

Remembering in the OT (Gen. 8:1, Exodus 2:24, 1 Sam. 1:19-20)

*b) LORD, Reign!*

*c) LORD, Restore!*

Judgment in this present age begins with God's household (1 Peter 4)

How should this book affect us?

- i. Listen to the Lord
- ii. Lament our losses
- iii. Learn the lesson

And the God of all grace...will restore you

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Upcoming Sermon Series – Secure in Christ (Romans 8)
- Connect cards
- Emailed Bible study
- Bible Handling Skills Webinar
- AGM (13<sup>th</sup> Oct)
- Christianity Explored Online (starting Oct 29<sup>th</sup>)
- Giving
- Prayer Meeting
- Communion next week

## **BENEDICTION**

<sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.