

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 5th June 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 – Romans 8:18-25

2. Worship in SONG (with Daniel Langat):

SONG 1: Endless Light

SONG 2: Creation Awaits

SONG 3: All I have is Christ

SONG 4: Turn your eyes upon Jesus

3. Time of Reflection and Confession

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things—
our hearts are filled with joy.

By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin
and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom.

Salvation is your gift to us.

But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts.

We try to complete what is already perfect;

we try to add to what is already full;

we try to earn what we already have.

Forgive us for our foolishness.

Help us to focus on your grace.

Help us to live grateful lives in return.

For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

- Ephesians 2:8-9

4. Reflection Song: In Christ Alone

5. The Lord's Supper

²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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.

- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

6. Prayers

7. Bible reading: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 12:9-11

¹ The words of the Teacher,^[a] son of David, king in Jerusalem:

² “Meaningless! Meaningless!”
says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless!
Everything is meaningless.”

³ What do people gain from all their labors
at which they toil under the sun?

⁴ Generations come and generations go,
but the earth remains forever.

⁵ The sun rises and the sun sets,
and hurries back to where it rises.

⁶ The wind blows to the south
and turns to the north;
round and round it goes,
ever returning on its course.

⁷ All streams flow into the sea,
yet the sea is never full.

To the place the streams come from,
there they return again.

⁸ All things are wearisome,
more than one can say.

The eye never has enough of seeing,
nor the ear its fill of hearing.

⁹ What has been will be again,
what has been done will be done again;
there is nothing new under the sun.

¹⁰ Is there anything of which one can say,
“Look! This is something new”?

It was here already, long ago;
it was here before our time.

¹¹ No one remembers the former
generations,
and even those yet to come
will not be remembered
by those who follow them.

Chapter 12

⁹ Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. ¹⁰ The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.

¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads,
their collected sayings like firmly
embedded nails—given by one shepherd.

SERMON OUTLINE: Your best life now? (Ecclesiastes 1:1-11)

The circle of life

A circle of gain

“You have to learn the rules of the game well. And then you have to play better than anyone else.” – attributed to Albert Einstein

The bombshell (v2)

A circle of pessimism?

Who is this guy anyway?

The Teacher (cf 12:9)

The Preacher (*Qoheleth*)

...giving us nothing less than wisdom! (12:9, 11)

His words are...

“son of David, king in Jerusalem” (1:1)

So Ecclesiastes is royal wisdom

Not pure cynicism

Not pure evangelism

God in Ecclesiastes (eg. 2:24, 3:11, 8:17, 11:5, 9)

So a book by a believer, for believers as well

So what exactly is he saying?

1. What is life like?

The theme tune

**HEBEL* = meaningless? Vanity? Futility?

Literally vapour/breath/mist (eg. Psalm 144:3-4)

2 aspects:

- i. Life is ephemeral

The name of Abel

- ii. Life is enigmatic

“Chasing after wind”

The story of Abel

So not being cynical, but trying to get us to face reality

2. What happens when we try to make life purely about gain?

What is there to show for a lifetime of working for gain? (v3) Implied answer:

Consider:

- a) The dead end of our strivings

- b) The dead end of progress

c) The dead end of legacy

Stop being in denial! But...

3. Why is life this way?

“under the sun”

The Teacher has Genesis 1-3 open in front of him!

Once upon a time, life “under the sun” was all _____

But that’s no longer the case (compare Ecclesiastes 3:20, 12:7 with Genesis 2:7, 3:19)

Our lives are limited

4. Is there a better way, then?

The Christian preacher’s answer

- ▶ Look beyond life under the sun to the Son of God

The Preacher of Ecclesiastes’ answer

- ▶ See that life is ultimately more about gift than gain

Consider creation

If we live recognising our limits, and understanding everything we have is a gift, we’ll live differently

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Connect cards**
- **Giving**
- The following 8 persons have been **elected to be the elders of BEM KEC** for the next 3 years:
 - Dr Vincent Chen Boon Hean (Mandarin)
 - Dr Tay Keng Kiong (Mandarin)
 - Dr Ng Hoong Phak
 - Pr Brian King Sie Ann
 - Dennis Wong Sie Sing
 - Dr Kenny Wong See Yin
 - Edward anak Suka
 - Benjamin Bian Baru

Should any registered member of BEM KEC wish to raise a valid reason and object to any individual who has been elected, they may do so in writing to the Church Secretary, within 14 days from the date of election.

- **Deacons' nominations** is open **today, June 5th until the following Sunday, June 12th**. The qualifications of a deacon are spelt out in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. You may also wish to listen again to a sermon on "Deacons", preached on 12th May 2019, available at our church sermon repository – <https://sermons.bemkec.my>.
- The next **Teh C Talk** will be held on **Saturday evening, 7.30pm, June 18th**, entitled "*Is Christianity Anti-Family?*" Venue: ROTM Café (Canaan Square)
One of the hallmark of Asian culture is our emphasis on family and community: respecting one's elders, upholding traditional principles, following customs, and maintaining good public image. Christianity is often accused as a religion that selfishly prioritizes individual faith over community values. Does Jesus command his followers to obey him at the sacrifice of our family? Is God a selfish master that calls people to give up everything to follow Him?
Do start prayerfully considering whom you can invite! Sign up at www.tinyurl.com/TCTJUN22
- **Advance Notice: Missions Weekend (June 25th-26th) with Dr. Chris Abner.**
- Preaching next week: Dr. Ng Hoong Phak (Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26)
- Our **Prayer Meeting** is on this week, on **Wednesday, June 8th, 8-9ish pm**. We are currently aiming to have some form of in-person Prayer Meeting from July.

<p>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/</p>	<p>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/</p>	<p>Sunday School Our Sunday School is currently still online (either live on Zoom/lessons Whatsapped to parents – depending on age group), but will resume in-person in July 3rd.</p>
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The latest SOPs

There will **NO longer be any online pre-registration required.**

Masks are still required when indoors, or in crowded outdoor spaces. For the moment, we will also maintain the current spacing for our seating arrangements, and revise further down the line.

MySejahtera check-ins are no longer required. However, please note that when required, the ushers may still need to check your risk status on the app. Those with “High Risk” status or under a Home Surveillance Order can follow the service via livestreaming instead.

BENEDICTION

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- Colossians 3:15-17

COFFEE QUESTIONS

- How might you see this mindset of “gain” taking hold both in your own life, and/or in those around you?
- The Preacher shows us the dead ends we run into when we try to make life purely about gain. What do you make of his observations?
- What do you think it might look like if you lived your life as a gift to be received and lived in relation to God? What do you think would change?