

## **ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL (KEC Livestreamed service)**

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 learn about how we can talk to God wherever we are!

Direct link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mlgl8zWaiQ>

### *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: Create in me a clean heart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7Hk3WFUMvo>

Song 2: Undivided

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RntDPMzfn90>

(please make sure the closed captions option is on for the lyrics. Just click on the "CC" button on the bottom right hand corner of the video. The lyrics are also available below the video.)

### *9am – Livestream starts*

*Livestream link should be available by 8.57am latest.*

## **WELCOME / CALL TO WORSHIP – John 15:1-11**

**A catechism taken from Andrew Peterson's song 'Is He Worthy'?**

**[italics is where the congregation online responds]**

Do you feel the world is broken?

*We do*

Do you feel the shadows deepen?

*We do*

But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through?

*We do*

Do you wish that you could see it all made new?

*We do*

Is all creation groaning?

*It is*

Is a new creation coming?

*It is*

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst?

*It is*

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this?

*It is*

All together:

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?*

*Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?*

*The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave*

*He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave*

*Is He worthy?*

*Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?*

*Is He worthy of this?*

*He is!!*

## **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD and FOR THE CHURCH**

### ***BIBLE READING: Psalm 80 (NIV2011)***

*For the director of music. To the tune of "The Lilies of the Covenant." Of Asaph. A psalm.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,

shine forth <sup>2</sup>before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Awaken your might;

come and save us.

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;

make your face shine on us,

that we may be saved.

<sup>4</sup>How long, LORD God Almighty,

will your anger smolder

against the prayers of your people?

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;

you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

<sup>6</sup>You have made us an object of derision <sup>□</sup> to our neighbors,

and our enemies mock us.

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, God Almighty;

make your face shine on us,

that we may be saved.

<sup>8</sup> You transplanted a vine from Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.

<sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it,  
and it took root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches.

<sup>11</sup> Its branches reached as far as the Sea,<sup>[a]</sup>  
its shoots as far as the River.<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Why have you broken down its walls  
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?

<sup>13</sup> Boars from the forest ravage it,  
and insects from the fields feed on it.

<sup>14</sup> Return to us, God Almighty!  
Look down from heaven and see!  
Watch over this vine,  
<sup>15</sup> the root your right hand has planted,  
the son<sup>[a]</sup> you have raised up for yourself.

<sup>16</sup> Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;  
at your rebuke your people perish.

<sup>17</sup> Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

<sup>18</sup> Then we will not turn away from you;  
revive us, and we will call on your name.

<sup>19</sup> Restore us, LORD God Almighty;  
make your face shine on us,

## SERMON OUTLINE: Revive Us Again! (Psalm 80)

Empty

Emptied of...

Emptied of God?

In the Dawkins sense

No supernatural dimension to our world

“In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won’t find any rhyme or reason to it, nor any justice.”

- Richard Dawkins, *River Out of Eden: A Darwinian view of life*

The logical conclusion

In the Plath sense

“I talked to God but the sky is empty”

How the people of Israel feel

When God has to get our attention

We realise what has always been true

The answer of Psalm 80: Pray as we wait, for revival

v.3, 7, 19

What revival is and isn’t

The infusion of new spiritual life, imparted by the Holy Spirit, to an existing part of Christ’s body. (Richard Lovelace)

A rediscovery of the gospel as life-transforming

We can’t produce it

3 actions we can take

**1. Plead earnestly for restoration (v.1-3)**

Shepherd and King...distant and dormant

Holy discontent

Sharpening our prayers and prayer requests

Not mere deliverance, but relationship (v3, rf. Numbers 6:24-26)

Are we asking for the same thing?

Pray Ephesians 3:16-19!

**2. Assess and accept the Lord's discipline (v.4-7)**

Israel's troubles

Displeased with their prayers! (cf. Isaiah 1:15)

Sin often feels good, but...

v.5, 6

Take stock

- Individually
- As a church (consider Jonathan Bailes' reflections at <https://www.pastortheologians.com/articles/2020/4/7/an-emptied-temple-and-empty-churches>)

Accept the Lord's discipline (Hebrews 12:5-6, 8, 9-11)

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

<sup>6</sup>because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son." (Hebrews 12:5-6)

### 3. Seek refuge in the True Vine and Son (v.8-19)

The Gardener/Vinedresser

How the vine turns out is a reflection of how committed the Vinedresser is

So why tear down what you've been so committed to?

Don't forget the son/son of man! (v.15, 17)

Our prayer? (Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13-14)

Psalm 80 and Jesus

How we pray, compared to the psalmist

Romans 2:4 – God's kindness leads to repentance

The main focus of Psalm 80

Samuel Shaw (17<sup>th</sup> century pastor) on emptiness and the fullness of God

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Why the emphasis on our small groups gathering online?

- The work of discipling and building the body up never stops
- To prepare for the real possibility of being unable to gather physically for a while longer
- To maintain face-to-face fellowship (while recognising meeting digitally will never be the same as embodied, physical fellowship, and so we shouldn't compare)
- To contextualise as our world changes

#### BENEDICTION

[May] Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- Ephesians 3:17-19 (ESV)