

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 26th December 2021 (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 – Isaiah 9:1-7

2. WORSHIP in SONG (with Jeremy Ng):

SONG 1: Amazing Grace (My Chains are gone)

SONG 2: Jesus, Strong and Kind

3. Prayers

4. Announcements (part 1) with Pastor Brian

- Thanksgiving
- Our first sermon series of 2022 – *CHURCH: RESET*
- Church history webinars (Fridays Jan 21st and 28th): “Learning from the A-Team”

5. Bible reading: Deuteronomy 29-30; Colossians 2:9-15

29 ^[a]These are the terms of the covenant the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Horeb.

² Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them:

Your eyes have seen all that the LORD did in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his officials and to all his land. ³ With your own eyes you saw those great trials, those signs and great wonders. ⁴ But to this day the LORD has not given you a mind that understands or eyes that see or ears that hear. ⁵ Yet the LORD says, “During the forty years that I led you through the wilderness, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet. ⁶ You ate no bread and drank no wine or other fermented drink. I did this so that you might know that I am the LORD your God.”

⁷ When you reached this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out to fight against us, but we defeated them. ⁸ We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

⁹ Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do. ¹⁰ All of you are standing today in the presence of the LORD your God—your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, and all the other men of Israel, ¹¹ together with your children and your wives, and the foreigners living in your camps who chop your wood and carry your water. ¹² You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the LORD your God, a covenant the LORD is making with you this day and sealing with an

oath, ¹³ to confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. ¹⁴ I am making this covenant, with its oath, not only with you ¹⁵ who are standing here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God but also with those who are not here today.

¹⁶ You yourselves know how we lived in Egypt and how we passed through the countries on the way here. ¹⁷ You saw among them their detestable images and idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold. ¹⁸ Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

¹⁹ When such a person hears the words of this oath and they invoke a blessing on themselves, thinking, “I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way,” they will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry. ²⁰ The LORD will never be willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the LORD will blot out their names from under heaven. ²¹ The LORD will single them out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

²² Your children who follow you in later generations and foreigners who come from distant lands will see the calamities that have fallen on the land and the diseases with which the LORD has afflicted it. ²³ The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur—nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, which the LORD overthrew in fierce anger. ²⁴ All the nations will ask: “Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why this fierce, burning anger?”

²⁵ And the answer will be: “It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the covenant he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt. ²⁶ They went off and worshiped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, gods he had not given them. ²⁷ Therefore the LORD’s anger burned against this land, so that he brought on it all the curses written in this book. ²⁸ In furious anger and in great wrath the LORD uprooted them from their land and thrust them into another land, as it is now.”

²⁹ The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

30 When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come on you and you take them to heart wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations, ² and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, ³ then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes^[b] and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. ⁴ Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back. ⁵ He will bring you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors. ⁶ The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live. ⁷ The LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you. ⁸ You will again obey the LORD and follow all his

commands I am giving you today. ⁹ Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your ancestors, ¹⁰ if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. ¹² It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” ¹³ Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” ¹⁴ No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Colossians 2:9-15

⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh^[a] was put off when you were circumcised by^[b] Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you^[c] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.^[d]

Sermon outline: A heart reset (Deuteronomy 29-30)

2022?

Jaded and fatigued

Time for a reset, from Deuteronomy 29-30

4 truths to reorient us:

1. God's heart for covenant relationship (29:1-15)

Context

Climax

Covenant

Why not just say "relationship"?

Evidence of God's heart

When we know this, what will we do?

Simple! And yet...

2. The catastrophe of our cold hearts (29:16-30:1)

Witnessing the works of God without getting the heart of God

When our hearts are not captured by God

Why does God have to turn away?

Consider again how covenants work

A profound dilemma

Tension #1: How can God commit himself to an unfaithful people?

Tension #2: How can God's people commit themselves to God when they can't warm their own hearts?

Not just a warning, but a preview

3. The circumcision of our hearts (30:2-10)

What can be done?

The very promise of God (30:6)

Everything flows from this promise!

How will God circumcise our hearts?

The good news

The magnitude of God's grace

We can have hearts that are reset

4. The call to set our hearts on Jesus (30:11-20)

The word that is near you

The word that calls for faith

Choose life

Response: Undivided

ANOUNCEMENTS (Part 2)

- **Connect cards**
- **Giving**
- **English Youth Ministry (EYM)** will resume in-person on Saturdays, starting **8th of January, 2022**, subject to SOPs. Meeting will be at Conference Room 1. If you or someone you know is interested to attend EYM, or would like to find out more, kindly fill up the Google form at <https://bemkec.my/english-youth-ministry/>.
- Our library will be open **next Sunday, after service**. Do take note that from next year, fines will resume for books returned late. Do remember to return or renew your books!
- Our **Wednesday Prayer Meeting** is **on break** for the remainder of the year.

CHURCH SERVICE, 2nd January: Our capacity remains at 100 people, the maximum allowed under the current SOP. Do be reassured that we have worked hard to maintain as safe an environment as possible! Please do book early at <https://bemkec.my/booking/> to confirm your attendance. Bookings close on Saturday afternoon, 3pm.

Please take note that next week is a **COMMUNION SERVICE**. Do come with mineral water and a piece of bread/cracker.

Who should attend in-person service

- Those who have been fully vaccinated. (14 days from 2nd dose)
- Those who are above 12 years old.
- Those who show no signs of being ill.

Who should attend online service

- Those who are still waiting to be fully vaccinated.
- Those who are 12 years old and below.
- Those who are unwell or exhibiting symptoms such as fever, cough, flu.
- Those who have been in close contact with a positive case.

BENEDICTION

¹⁴ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- 2 Corinthians 13:14