

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Austin

OFFERING: Michael

WORD: Pastor

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you, if you are worshipping with us for the first time. We believe you've become a member of our church family by God's grace.

Please ensure you speak to the Pastor or one of today's facilitators before you leave.

May God bless you richly (Amen).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

To build a church that is **growing, healthy and full of love**, do you have comments, ideas or suggestions? If so, please talk to the Pastor or a minister.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you could join most of our services online when you are unable to attend? Talk to the technical team or the Pastor to find out how.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Romans 6:5-6

Source: <https://achristianpilgrim.wordpress.com/tag/united-with-jesus-in-a-death-like-his-we-shall-certainly-be-united-with-him-in-a-resurrection-like-his/>



Sunday 26 April 2020

WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

RCCG Bethel Parish

Unit 13, Skylines Village

Limeharbour, London E14 9TS

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WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



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THIS IS RCCG BETHEL PARISH, DUE TO THE CURRENT EPIDEMIC. SERVICES WILL REMAIN ONLINE TILL FURTHER NOTICE

[PLEASE FOLLOW THIS LINK](#)

Our main service occurs every Sunday effective from 15 March 2020 until further notice; from 10:00 to 12:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London. We may hold other meetings during the week. Links to these will be sent out to members or posted on our website.

When it is time for service(s), please join our Webex platform as follows:

If joining online, copy and paste the meeting link below into your browser:

<https://rccgbethel.my.webex.com/webappng/sites/rccgbethel.my/meeting/download/7c2a148a6a6f4c678d2cad460a7d36f3?siteurl=rccgbethel.my&MTID=ma34d26296c523f45b7c8ce7e2bc5324c>

The link should take you directly to the meeting, but if necessary, use the following details.

Meeting number (access code): 145 480 919

Meeting password: BethelDR

Joining by phone

Tap to call in from a mobile device

+44-20-3478-5289 United Kingdom Toll

Global call-in numbers

Join from a video system or application

Dial 145480919@rccgbethel.my.webex.com

You can also dial 62.109.219.4 and enter your meeting number.

Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business

Dial [145480919.rccgbethel.my@lync.webex.com](https://rccgbethel.my@lync.webex.com)

There's no need to register or sign in. Once on the meeting page, you should see a green button with the prompt **Join meeting**. If the meeting is running, you will be asked to wait. If not, you may see something like "Meeting has not started" or a similar message.

If you need help, please contact the Pastor on **07889906677**.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

United with Christ by grace

Text: Ephesians 2:6-10

We learnt weeks ago that although we have several things or people that can influence us e.g. social media celebrities, the devil and so on, grace is a greater influencer in our lives (Eph 2:5). In our text today, we're told God saved us in Christ, not because of anything we did, but by grace. Our first (original) position is death and God raised us from that position. This means we died and rose with Christ.

When we died with Christ, we were buried with him. Everything we were, including sin etc., was buried with him (Gal 2:20). When we rose, they're gone. We're raised to life and are now reunited with Christ. As a result, we became an example, a **masterpiece**. This was only possible because of grace.

What does it mean to be united with Christ?

A **masterpiece** is carefully crafted and precious. That's what we've become. It means we've been grafted, just like it's done in plant cultivation, taking on the nature and character – everything Christ is (Rom 11:17-18). We're no longer who we were before and we no longer 'own' ourselves, but share in the rich nourishment in the body of Christ. In other words, we're one spirit with him (1 Cor 6:9-17).

It's like being in a marriage; no longer individuals 'apart' and we shouldn't be talking about him or us as though we're separate entities (Gen 2:20-22). As in a marriage, the benefits in the union comes from what each person supplies (Eph 4:16). The difference is we brought nothing good into the union with Christ and gained everything. He makes all that he is available to us (Rom 5:5-6; 11).

For example, the umbilical cord supplies everything a baby needs when in the womb. It is said that the mother passes on all the antibodies she has to the baby before birth and that sustains the baby. In the same way, Christ passed on his antibodies to us. That is grace, because normally, we go into unions for what we can gain from each other.

We may ask then why it is that we're still unable to stop sinning. We can only stop by faith and we need grace for that too. It is by faith we've been saved (Eph 2:8). If we're still sinning, we're frustrating grace and aren't allow it to do its work in us. In other words, we set it aside, forgetting we're no longer alone or own ourselves (Gal 2:21). That's like being given access to a bank account and rejecting it, struggling to make ends meet.

Bottom line:

Today, take time and sit at Jesus' feet. Let it sink into you that you've been grafted into Christ and he's passed on his nourishments and antibodies into you. Jesus spent time confirming that at the end of his time on earth (John 14:16-17; 25-26; 16:12-16). Also, know that without the Holy Spirit, grace cannot be effective in your life. At the heart of grace, there is that crucial relationship.

This is reflected in 'the grace' affirmation we share at the end of each service. As we're locked down, spend time to develop a deliberate relationship with the Holy Spirit. Find quiet times to talk to him about anything you want. At first it may seem strange, if it's not something you're accustomed to doing, but in time you will find you've developed a worthwhile relationship.

* Download copies of Sunday bulletins from here: <http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>

RCCG Bethel Parish
Pillar of truth, defining the future today