

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

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Colossians 1:16 (ESV)

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.

"IF YOU KNEW WHAT WAS COMING, YOU WOULDN'T NEED FAITH. AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD"
-@ALLTHINGSJESUS



Sunday 27 December 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
PHONE: 07889906677 || EMAIL:
admin@rccgbethel.church
WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



Home Our Focus About us Contact Us Sermons Privacy Policy



Our website is a treasure trove of information, and not only about our focus and mission. You could subscribe to our podcast or listen to past sermons too (<http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/>). This is particularly useful for when you are unable to attend services or for refreshing your recollection as an essential part of your private Bible study.

There's more! Details of events and outreach will almost certainly be available from relevant pages on our website and updated regularly, along with downloadable copies of our Sunday bulletins (<http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>).

So, why don't you set our homepage as one of your **startup page(s)** in your browser now? The following instructions for most of the common browsers may help.

Google Chrome

1. Open the browser and the **Settings** menu (or the **three vertical dots** to the right of the menu bar).
2. Scroll down and click on **Advanced Settings**.
3. Select **Open a specific page or set of pages** under **On Startup**.
4. Select **Set pages** and enter or add <http://rccgbethel.church/>.

Mozilla Firefox

1. Open Firefox. Press **Alt-T** on the keyboard and select **Options** from the drop-down menu or go to **Tools >> Options** from the main menu.
2. In the **Home** section, select **Homepage and new windows** and **Custom URLs...** from the field's drop down.
3. Enter or paste the URL: <http://rccgbethel.church/> or click **Use Current Page** if you are already on our website.

Microsoft Edge

1. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar.
2. Select **Settings** and select **A Specific Page or Pages** from the **Open Microsoft Edge With** section drop down options.
3. Enter <http://rccgbethel.church/>. (Click the Plus sign to add more pages if required).
4. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar again to close **Settings** menu.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Portraits of Jesus: The quest for signs

Text: Luke 2:8-20

A messianic text said people in darkness have seen a great light (Isa 9:1-7). Giving our lives to Christ is an introduction to the one we've been celebrating in Christmases past. It is when we see this great light.

The first Noel Christmas carol was taken from our text today. Nothing else was said again about those shepherds who witnessed Jesus' birth, but there was no doubt they had an astonishing experience, more than we could ever experience in our lives.

An angel, lights shining around them and they've probably never been so scared, until the angel calmed and gave them the good news. We may not know what they did afterwards, but for the rest of their lives, it is unlikely they would ever forget or question what they've witnessed: the amazing event of the birth of the Messiah.

The request for evidence

Christmas was instituted as an event to glorify God and celebrate what his coming into the world represented. But subsequently, the request for evidence have been persistent. For example, satan said to Jesus: "**If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here**" (Luke 4:9) and the Pharisees would always ask him for a sign (Mark 8:11-13; Luke 23:8; John 2:18).

If it was about signs, how could Judas have betrayed him? He saw all his miracles up close and yet, he handed him over to his enemies? I think we seek signs because our lives are ruled by evidence of what we see and feel. However, the first criteria for coming to God is to believe he is, without proof or evidence (Heb 11:6).

It is the wonderful thing about Christ and faith in Christ. We celebrate today because we believe that he is and over time, we see a reward for our belief. Even when some preachers manufacture evidence, it never works because it is in our experience of him that we can see the signs and evidence we seek.

Jesus said we know how to read the signs of the times (Luke 12:56). Today's sign is that the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, even when we don't see him, is certain. So don't ask for evidence or proof. Trust that he would show himself strong on your behalf.

Bottom line:

Job faced adversities and had every reason to deny God. And yet, he still had faith (Job 19:23-27). Like Job, we can have every confidence that even when we've long died, one day we'll be resurrected and the evidence we seek will stand before us.

We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience.

- George Washington

RCCG Bethel Parish
Pillar of truth ... defining the future today