

TODAY'S FACILITATORS

PRAYER: Yetunde

OFFERING: Maria

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

"Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is he who stays awake and who keeps his clothes [that is, stays spiritually ready for the Lord's return], so that he will not be naked—spiritually unprepared—and men will not see his shame."

Revelation 16:15 (AMP)

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.

*The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*

Revelations 22:20

Image source(s): <https://www.express.co.uk/news/weird/1414461/bible-prophecy-jesus-christ-second-coming-christianity-end-of-the-world-evg>



Sunday 26 December 2021

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 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

The portrait of Jesus: Unremarkable arrival

Text: Matthew 1:18

Continuing our series on the portrait of Jesus today, it is clear now no one can pinpoint when Jesus was actually born and there's a chance he wasn't born on the 25th of December. For Christians, this season should be a commemoration. It may be curious to notice that the day of Jesus's birth was unremarkable too. A day just like any other, with no fanfare to announce his birth or celebrate it.

In fact, although he's the King of kings and Lord of lords, John said he came unto his own and they rejected him (Jn 1:11-13). He was born in the lowest of places, in a manger and there's historical accounts suggesting the wise men did not even arrive with their gifts until long after he was born. For example, Herod's killing after the wise men visited him was when he was around two years old (Matt 2:16).

The angels were astonished, heralding peace on earth to all men. They couldn't keep the news to themselves and had to proclaim it, but only to lowly shepherds (Lk 2:8-10). It is the day of the Lord, when God became man and reasonable to expect some funfair, but there was none.

However, another day is coming that cannot be missed (2 Pet 3:10). Jesus warned against being deceived by big and deceitful witnesses (Matt 24:3-7; 9-10). Until today, when unusual events occur, we wonder if it might be the end. Jesus said there may be plagues and rumours of war, but the end will be just as unremarkable as his birth was. He also prophesied that even the elect may be deceived.

Jesus emphasises this by referring to Noah's day. So many were busy enjoying banquets and celebrating weddings. None of them knew till the floods came (Matt 24:36-44). We can see that the love of many of us are growing cold even now, just as he predicted (Matt 24:12). Like Elijah found, the coming of the Lord may only be like a gentle whisper (1 Kn 19:11-13).

As we commemorate his birth during this season, think about that last day. Where will you be? Let's be prepared and not get distracted. Jesus performed great miracles and yet, many didn't believe him. Today, we have technologies achieving and creating feats of innovations and likewise, reaching more people than we can ever imagine. Yet, many are becoming immune to the message of salvation, rejecting Jesus all over again.

Bottom line:

Contend for the faith entrusted to us by Jesus (Jude 1:3). Don't let the world or events or circumstances take it away from you.

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