

\*\*\* GIVE THANKS \*\*\*

# Thanksgiving Service

## 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

Thus says the Lord who made it, the Lord who formed it to establish it (the Lord is His name): 'Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

*Jeremiah 33:2-3 (NLT)*

## GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

Our theme this year is to **enlarge and build better (Isaiah 54:2-3)**, and by God's grace, we're trusting that the boundary lines will fall for us in pleasant places (Amen).

## 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 visit our website to find out how.

*To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.*

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Image source(s): <https://www.coolnsmart.com/quote-to-be-a-christian-without-prayer-is-25308/>



Sunday 3 July 2022

# WELCOME

*Redeemed Christian Church of God*

# Bethel

## WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

**SUNDAY**  
Thanksgiving / Worship service  
From 10am

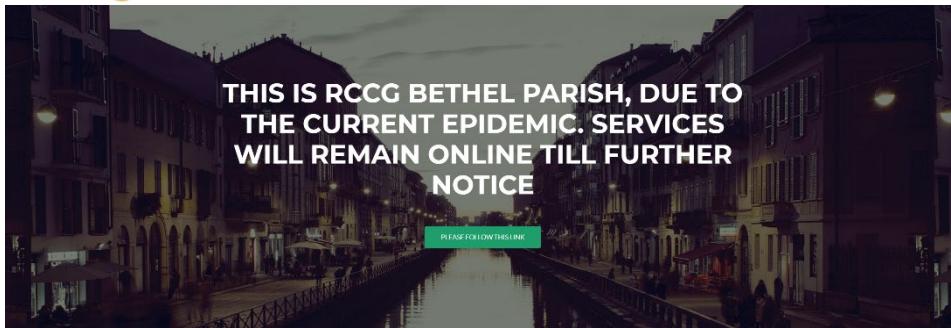
**FRIDAY**  
Prayer meeting / Bible study  
From 7pm

**RCCG Bethel Parish**  
Unit 13, Skylines Village  
Limeharbour, London E14 9TS  
**PHONE:** 07889906677 || **EMAIL:** [admin@rccgbethel.church](mailto:admin@rccgbethel.church)  
**WEB:** [www.rccgbethel.church](http://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

### **Deliberate prayers**

#### **Text: Colossians 4:1-2**

We're told to devote ourselves to prayer in this text. As Christians we're all familiar with the concept of prayer and most if not all of us pray daily. It is the crucial way we communicate with God. The New Living Translation asks us to pray "**with an alert mind and a thankful heart.**" Message translation says "**stay alert, with your eyes wide open in gratitude**" and Amplified says be "**persistent and devoted to prayer, being alert and focused in your prayer life with an attitude of thanksgiving**" (Col 4:2).

A closer examination shows it's all about focus and a target's necessary for that. For example, at a crucial time in David's life, his focus is for God to turn Aithophel's counsel into foolishness (2 Sam 15:31). Aithophel's counsel was crucial enough for David to focus on it in prayer. Notice that David assumed Aithophel's counsel will be good, but prayed that it will be received as foolishness and that was what happened.

There are times in our lives when we need to be alert to what's happening and pray. If we wait or are insensitive, it will be too late. Therefore, alertness is just as crucial as the focus. When we partner with God, by staying alert and acting in a timely manner in prayer, that's when we can move mountains and change things. We see this in Elisha who knew a double portion of Elijah's power is what he needs (2 Kn 2:9-10). Although Elijah told Elisha what he asked for was difficult, he told him to stay alert and Elisha did. This may confirm that we can always ask for the impossible and receive it when we remain alert and on focus.

We may not get exactly what we want, but we'll get what we need. For instance, Moses prayed to see the promise land until God charged him to stop (Deut 3:23-27). We see the same thing happen to Paul too (2 Cor 12:2-10). In both cases, although they didn't receive what they prayed for, they were given a compromise. Be alert and sensitive, know when to pray and be persistent, and know what to pray for (Isaiah 55:6).

How do we know what to pray for? One instruction God gave us is to love one another and this could be the core of our prayers. In fact, it may be more profitable to pray that we have love than to keep God's laws (1 Cor 13:7; Mk 12:30-31). The Good Samaritan never saw the nationality, race or character of the man he helped. He didn't know where the man came from and none of that mattered. All he saw was someone in need (Lk 10:25-37).

Moses warned the people of Israel to do what is right to avert disaster. They struggled and failed to stay within the commandment until they ended up in exile. The Israelites were never able to keep God's laws and avert disaster. How do we think we could? For example, to love people who may not deserve our love, in the way God wants us to, we need the grace of God and can seek God's help.

#### **Bottom line:**

More often than not, our battles are fought in our prayers, but it is crucial that we know when to pray, what to pray for and be persistent.

**RCCG Bethel Parish**  
*The pillar of truth, defining the future today*