

Sunday worship

Join online

<http://bit.ly/3TSxxek>

Watch on YouTube

<http://bit.ly/3aCxmjW>

## 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).

# GOD IS SPEAKING

## Are we listening?

“Never place a period where God has placed a comma”

| Gracie Allen |

## VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

*John 1:14 (NKJV)*

## THEME FOR THE YEAR

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).

### Season Programmes

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**Fridays:** Last meeting on 16th Dec

**Xmas Day:** Service from 10-11am

**Watchnite:** 31 Dec, 9pm-12:10am

**New Year:** Thanksgiving, from 10am



Sunday 11 December 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

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# 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 Samaritan woman*

#### **Text: John 4:1-42**

Around this time of the year, we take a more in-depth look at the life of Jesus and our focus will be on the Samaritan woman today. We don't know her name, but she met Jesus while fetching water at about noon on a very hot day. If we reflect back to how hot it was last summer, we may be able to understand how Jesus felt. So, it wasn't a surprise that Jesus wanted a drink.

However, the woman recognised Jesus is not only a Jew, but a man. In historical context, they shouldn't be talking to each other and she wanted to know why Jesus was talking to her. The disciples wondered about that too. **The Pulpit commentary** have the following to say about their reaction (John 4:27-38; <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/pulpit/john/4.htm>, paraphrased).

The disciples returned with their provisions and marvelled that he was talking with a woman. They didn't ask what the woman wanted, only why Jesus was talking to her. How could he not know that was wrong and isn't the expected behavior? Such a proceeding was contrary to the etiquette of a rabbi, who contended that "a man should not salute a woman in a public place, not even his own wife" (cf. Lightfoot, Edersheim, Wetstein). One of their daily thanksgivings was, "Blessed art thou, O Lord... who hast not made me a woman" (Westcott).

**The commentary** added that one of the miracles of Jesus's ministry was to break down the rabbinical prejudices against the spiritual capacities of women, supposed to contaminate their sanctity. Jesus lifted women to their true position by the side of men and were his most faithful disciples, ministering to him, sharing his miraculous healing, feeding, and teaching. They anointed his feet, wept over his agony, followed him to the cross, went early to the sepulcher, greeted him as the risen Lord and received the baptism of the Spirit. In Christ there is neither male nor female (Gal 3:28).

It surprised the woman that Jesus chose to speak to her, but she received something tangible from the encounter. Something she took with her and relayed to everyone in her village, testifying that "**He told me all that I ever did.**" Jesus stayed with them for two days and they came to believe too.

#### **Bottom line:**

No one has a right to God speaking to them. Yet, he speaks to us all the time and sends his word to us in the flesh. He still gives us his word today, through Jesus Christ who dwelled among us (Jn 1:14) and through others. The word of God is still one of the greatest gift of God to man today.

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