

*** 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

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.

Acts 2:38-39 (NKJV)

THEME FOR THE YEAR

Faith in action

(2 Thessalonians 1:11)

We're trusting God to enable us to do all the good things faith prompts in us in Jesus name (NLT).

DID YOU KNOW?

Every Sunday, we worship together at **Unit 13, Skylines Village**. When unable to attend, do visit our website or YouTube channel for recorded sessions.



Sunday 6 August 2023

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

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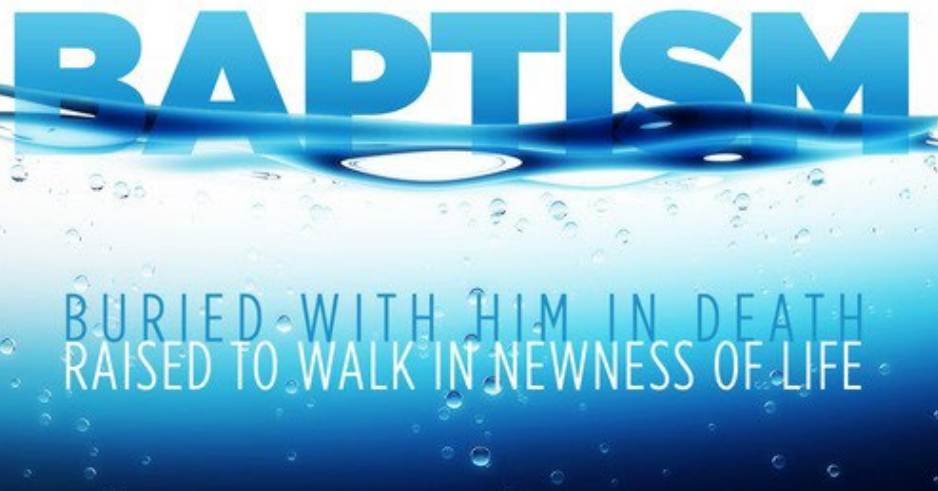


Image source(s): <https://calvarysr.org/baptism>

Our 'must-visit' website



[Home](#) [Our Focus](#) [About us](#) [Contact Us](#) [Sermons](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

JOIN US ONLINE AT SUNDAY 10AM OR
AT 13 SKYLINE VILLAGES, E14 9TS

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#) [JOIN US ON ZOOM](#)

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

Water baptism: it's purpose and link to salvation

Text: Matthew 3:13-17

Water baptism is a symbol of Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection. It is called water baptism to differentiate it from the common version observed in Judaism or other traditional churches and the implication or symbolism is more or less the same. In some practices, an adult or God-parent pledges to bring a baptised minor up to know God. Crucially however, it is necessary to be able to make the decision to follow Christ.

The act demonstrates its symbolism and Jesus made it clear it is to fulfil all righteousness. When we're immersed in the water, it is a symbol of entering into a relationship with Jesus Christ. We come as we are, clothed in our old life, old habits, mindset, pre-conceived notions, prejudice and behaviours. When we emerge, by faith we believe we're renewed and rebirthed (Col 2:12; 2 Cor 5:17).

So, among other things, water baptism symbolises the following:

Trust and reliance on God: It's our belief that all we need to have life is in Jesus (Rev 22:17; Acts 17:28). The rich young ruler desired "eternal life", but didn't know what he was really asking Jesus for (Mk 10:17-27). He didn't realise or couldn't appreciate that it is all or nothing and encompassing (Matt 16:24; Gal 2:20). He didn't count the cost (Lk 14:26-30).

Obedience to God: John knew Jesus didn't need to be baptised, but Jesus told him it was necessary to "**fulfil all righteousness**" (Matt 3:13-17). In Judaism, water is used as an outward symbol for internal cleansing (Isa 1:16; Ezek. 36:25; Psa. 51:2). This is what Jesus was doing when he washed his disciple's feet (Jn 13:5-11) and John fulfilled prophesy by preaching repentance and baptism (Mk 1:1-4; see also Mal 3:1; Isa 57:14). Peter also linked baptism to Noah and what happened during the flood (1 Pet 3: 18-22). For Peter, baptism is no longer the "**removal of the filth of the flesh**", but the "**pledge of good conscience**".

Unity with all the saints: As Christians, we belong to a community and the body of Christ and unity is core to the success of our walk with God within that (Matt 12:22-28). Therefore, we're never alone. This is emphasised in the two overarching commandments, as summed up by Jesus (Matt 22:37-40). Water baptism is a reminder of that.

Our validation / justification: The scriptures told us we're crucified, died and buried with Jesus. So, the life we live now is by faith (Gal 2:20). Water baptism marks the point at which the Holy Spirit is regenerated in us, when we become a new creation (Tit 3:5; 2 Cor 5:17).

It is commanded: In the great commission, Jesus commanded us to make disciples and baptise them (Matt 28:19). We can see all the symbolisms in the baptism of Jesus. However, it is not a prerequisite for salvation. Otherwise, Jesus couldn't have promised salvation to the criminal on the cross (Lk 23:39-43; Eph 2:8-9).

Bottom line:

Jesus felt it was important to both validate and participate in the practice. Therefore, it is a command we need to obey (John 13:14-17).

RCCG Bethel Parish

The pillar of truth, defining the future today