

*** 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

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.

Romans 12:1 (AMP)

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?

December Prayer and Fasting will span **7 days**: from **1 – 7 Dec**. We'll pray in our homes each evening and meet on **Friday, 8 Dec** to pray together.

Sunday 3 December 2023
WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship
service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

TRUE
WORSHIPERS

Worship is not a twenty minute period during a church service, but a lifestyle of relating to God in a particular way.

Mike Bickle

Image source(s): <https://www.eastgate.church/series/true-worshippers/> // <https://www.quotemaster.org/q0bc88b633635c89aba0a54252b6e2c87>

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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

Encounters with Jesus – The Samaritan woman

Text: John 4:1-42

Jesus was tired and should've been hungry (Jn 4:6; 8; 31-33). But he had to go through Samaria (Jn 4:4). Why is that, especially as we later learnt the Jews and Samaritans don't have anything to do with one another (Jn 4:9)? Some have suggested it was because he had a divine appointment with this Samaritan woman and that may be true. It does imply some form of predestination. It may also be easier or quicker to go through Samaria.

However, Jesus was also laying a template for us about discrimination and he did that several times (e.g. Lk 10:30-37; 17:11-19; 7:1-10; Mt 15:21-28). Whatever the reason, the stage was set for a remarkable encounter and the woman's name was never mentioned even once. Now we call her the Samaritan Woman.

So it was that she comes to the well at the sixth hour to find Jesus waiting (Jn 4:6). He asked for a drink and of course, the woman was surprised. She wondered what he was up to and reminded him of the feud. Instead of responding to her specific query, Jesus set out to introduce himself. He did this in a number of ways.

Jesus told the woman he's the source of the living water – a spring of water where we can be filled with everlasting life (Jn 4:10; 13-14; see also Jn 7:37-39). During a series of exchanges, Jesus confirmed she's had 5 husbands and not currently married. Suspecting he must be a Jewish prophet, she lodged a complaint about the Jews's insistent that Jerusalem is the only acceptable place to worship. Then, Jesus revealed he's the Messiah (Jn 4:24-26). This is one of a few places where Jesus explicitly made this revelation (See also Mk 14:61; 6).

What can learn several things from this encounter. God will go out of his way to bring salvation to those who are lost or chosen (Jn 4:34-35; Mt 18:12-14; 15:24; Lk 19:10; Jn 3:17; Lk 15:7). He will come to us, wherever we are and our sins, shame or past histories are never barriers (Jn 4:16-18; Isa 1:18). Neither is ignorance or religiosity (Jn 4:10-11; 20; 25; Acts 8:3; 9:1-9).

All God needs from us is to be receptive and see ourselves as we really are, in the mirror of his word, which is Jesus Christ (Jn 1:1-5). Notice that the woman was curious, willing to learn and accept her faults. She also didn't keep the Good News to herself and because of her, the Samaritans of Sychar had their encounters with Jesus too (Jn 4:39-42)

By Jesus's own testimony, the Messiah was sent to redeem the Jews (Mt 15:24). But Jesus constantly showed his disciples Jews don't have a monopoly on the Good News. No one's excluded (Mt 28:19-20) unless they're unreceptive (Mt 10:14-15; 1 Jn 2:2). Paul understood we're all heirs to the promise too (Gal 3:28-29).

Bottom line:

Jesus seeks **true worshippers** who will worship God in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:21-24). Nothing else can stand in between us and God (Rom 8:35-39). Only unbelief can (Mt 13:53-58; Heb 3:14-19).

RCCG Bethel Parish

The pillar of truth, defining the future today