

*** 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

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:12-13 (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.

And whatever you do,
whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of
the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the
Father through
him.

Colossians 3:17 NIV

Image source(s): <https://aclaviar.net/2013/11/in-jesus-name/>

Sunday 7 January 2024

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

WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



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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

Portraits of Jesus series: To be all in

Text: Mark 6:45-52

Today's text gives an account of Jesus, watching his disciples struggle against gale force winds. At dawn, he would've passed them by until they saw him, walking on the sea. Afraid, they thought he was a ghost, but he calmed them and got into the boat. Immediately, the storm stilled and the scripture said they were amazed because they hadn't yet understood about the loaves (Mk 6:51-52; Matt 14:13-21).

Before this renowned incident, Jesus had just fed five thousand people, hence the reference to the loaves. Why couldn't they understand? Why were their hearts hardened? In his disciples' minds, natural laws and logic was already in conflict with the extraordinary events they're witnessing, clouding their eyes of faith. They've just left Jesus behind and as far as they knew, they were all alone and in trouble. It didn't occur to them that he could see them, that his sight isn't controlled by natural laws.

The eye of faith is not natural (Heb 11:1). They could've called out for him to save them, but they were stuck in their struggle until Peter stepped out in faith, walking on water until he began to doubt and sink (Matt 14:22-33). Stepping out in faith is not a natural way of living. It defies a hardened heart. It is living by conviction. Natural laws, expectations plans harden our heart and blinds our eyes of faith.

While the disciples were worried about lack of loaves (Matt 16:8-9), Jesus is telling us we've got enough when we have him. We're thought by nature to avoid risks, but faith is about putting God first and living as God wants us to; to be all in. Peter once declared they've left everything to follow Jesus (Matt 19:27). Yet, after Jesus was crucified, he went fishing – his back-up plan – until Jesus appeared to him in mercy and restored him (Jn 21:1-19).

Jesus asked Peter: "**Do you love me more than these?**" (Jn 21:15). This is a question we should ask ourselves too. Is Christ enough for us? If we don't achieve anything and all we get from this world is Christ, will we feel fulfilled (Matt 6:33; 22:37)? This year, be all in for Christ. Don't be satisfied with doing nothing because he's given you talents and gifts. Let them count for the kingdom and don't let your heart be hardened.

Forget the loaves, he can provide. Don't feel isolated. In the midst of the storm, he can see you. In fact, that's the easiest place to encounter Jesus because he's Lord over the raging sea and fire (Psa 89:8-9). He will cause you to walk on the water. Bless the Lord at all times and don't be afraid. (Psa 34:1-4; Mk 6:50b). Be the one that walks on water. Do the extraordinary and the unexpected. Don't be satisfied with the ordinary. Defy the odds.

Bottom line:

The only thing that stops us from being all in is fear. Whatever you plan to do this year, be all in and don't be afraid (Psa 34:4).

RCCG Bethel Parish

The pillar of truth, defining the future today