### 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).

## VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NKJV)

#### THEME FOR THE YEAR

## To be all in

Hebrews 10:38-39 (AMP)

Peter replied to him, "Lord, if it is [really] you, command me to come to you on the water." ~ *Matthew 14:28* (AMP).

## **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.





# **WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS**

### SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

# FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

### RCCG Bethel Parish

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WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

# Our 'must-visit' website



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 (<a href="http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/">http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/</a>). 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 (<a href="http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/">http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/</a>).

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**

- 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 <a href="http://rccgbethel.church/">http://rccgbethel.church/</a>.

#### **Mozilla Firefox**

- 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.
- In the Home section, select Homepage and new windows and Custom URLs... from the field's drop down.
- Enter or paste the URL: <a href="http://rccgbethel.church/">http://rccgbethel.church/</a> 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.
- Select Settings and select A Specific Page or Pages from the Open Microsoft Edge With section drop down options.
- 3. Enter <a href="http://rccgbethel.church/">http://rccgbethel.church/</a>. (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

### God of covenant

Text: Genesis 8:16-22

In the text today, God "said to himself" never to curse the ground for man's sake even though he's bent towards evil (Gen 8:21 NLT). To show he meant it, God enacted a covenant marked by the sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:8-17). In other words, fulfilment's independent of anything man can do. Thus, the Noahic was the first of five main covenants God made with man. Others are Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic and the New covenant.

Some may remember tsunamis like those of 2004 (Indonesia) and 2011 (Japan). Despite their devastation within a short period, killing hundreds of thousands and costing billions in damages, they were still limited in span, many unscathed. It is interesting and fitting that the first thing Noah did was to offer God a sacrifice out of the limited stock inside the ark. Noah knew he only survived by grace and no wonder God was so moved (Gen 8:20-21).

What is a covenant? Covenants can be numerous and varied, concerning land, property and so on. They're biding, setting out rules that each party must adhere to. However, mankind doesn't have to do anything for the covenant with Noah to be fulfilled. We may all agree the sovereign God has a right to do anything he wishes, including wiping every creature off the face of the earth as many times as he wants. Yet, he bound himself never to do it again. It's the same for the covenant of grace, made with the church.

Thus, each of God's covenant established the foundation for our relationship with God, marked by the Holy Communion. In the same manner, we can make covenants for other relationships too (e.g. Job 31:1). Since God's the only one who knows the elect, he alone can justify and sanctify, and when he does, some benefits and blessings are assured. This is distinct from some of the other covenants with conditions attached.

When we give our tithes and offering, we're not doing so to purchasing salvation. Neither can we access it by our effort. Previous covenants come with earthly blessings tied to tithing, with consequences when violated (Mal 3:8). The New Covenant is only tied to the blood of Jesus, conferred on us by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9). Each time we take the Holy Communion, it's reaffirmed and it comes with immeasurable blessings.

For example, we often pray for God's mercy, but the fact is we already have it by grace (Heb 4:14-16; Psa 23:6). The Gibeonites understood this concept long before the New Covenant. In danger of being destroyed, they obtained an agreement by deception to save themselves. When confronted by Joshua, they placed themselves at his mercy (Jos 9:22-27; in context Jos 9:1-27). No effort is required by us to obtain God's grace and mercy.

#### **Bottom line:**

The blessings that come with God's covenant of grace are as assured as the God's covenant never to destroy the earth by flood again. The question is whether we understand or believe it. Do we know we already have the right to claim those blessings (Heb 4:16)?

RCCG Bethel Parish

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