

## 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

Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.

*Isaiah 60:1-2 (NKJV)*

## THEME FOR THE YEAR

### Year of opportunities

**John 4:35-38 AMP**

"For in this case the saying is true, 'One [person] sows and another reaps.'" ~ **John 4:37 (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.

THERE IS A LIGHT  
INSIDE EACH OF  
YOU, ALL OF US,  
THAT ILLUMINATES  
YOUR VERY HUMAN  
BEINGNESS IF  
YOU LET IT.  
OPPAH

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Sunday 23 March 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

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WEB: [www.rccgbethel.church](http://www.rccgbethel.church)

# Our 'must-visit' website



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

**THIS IS RCCG BETHEL PARISH, DUE TO THE CURRENT EPIDEMIC. SERVICES WILL REMAIN ONLINE TILL FURTHER NOTICE**

[PLEASE FOLLOW THIS LINK](#)

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

### *The light has come*

#### **Text: Isaiah 9:1-2**

It was recorded in the scriptures that the prophesy in this text was fulfilled (Matt 4:12-17). One thing about loneliness is it's isolating, setting us apart from others or help, and so can darkness (Eph 2:12). At times, the isolation can be serious, leading to disconnection or even depression. Today's text brings light for those in anguish, in darkness (Isa 9:1).

How do we understand that light? Isaiah saw it as relief from pain and anguish. In another place, he implied the spotlight is now upon us (Isa 60:1-3). The scriptures talk about light a lot (e.g. Matt 5:14-16). It was created to dispel the darkness and the void *in the beginning* (Gen 1:1-3; Jn 1:1-5). In science, there's a measurement called light years: the distance light travels in one year. For instance, it takes over 8 minutes for light reflected from the sun to reach the earth. So, what we see on earth is its past manifestation. The same goes for planets in the galaxy. But what difference should this make in our lives?

In the scriptures, Jesus described light and how darkness can be devastating (Matt 6:22-23). With light comes insight, defined as *"the power to see what's not evident to the average man"*. What do you see? What insight do you have? When we see as God sees, we see beyond the ordinary (Isaiah 8:12). Before Christ we were nothing. Now, he's given us the permission and ability to shine (1 Cor 1:22-30).

Light helps us to understand the wonderful things God has given us (1 Cor 2:9-16). Paul said this knowledge does not come from human wisdom. It is discerned by the Spirit of God which dwells within us, speaking things our minds can't conceive in the physical. It's the light God called forth in the beginning of time, still shining within us. Spiritual darkness brings death and without spiritual light, there can be no life (Gen 2:17; 1 Sam 16:14).

As Christians, we can never be hopeless because there's always something to see. Isaac could only see the wood and the rope, but Abraham saw the provision with the spiritual light within him (Gen 22:7-8). It is the only way we can see God and the reason we can be confident of our salvation (Heb 11:6). Paul said God's made light shine in our hearts and this was Paul's testimony (2 Cor 4:6-9). You can make it yours today.

The wonderful things God gave us are in fact not casual things we can discern or explain. Many are yet to be discovered and we may only recognise others when we need them (1 Cor 2:9-10). When lonely and depressed, it is likely our thoughts created a barrier between us and the light within us (Psa 42:5). At those times, we should let the word of God flood our soul with God's light again (e.g. Phil 4:6-7).

#### **Bottom line:**

We're expected to bring light to the darkness of this world, to bring solutions to problems and a joy others will be drawn to (Matt 5:14-16). Are you aware of the wonderful things God has given you and the treasures within you and are you sharing them with others?

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