

HILL CITY  
BAPTIST CHURCH



## Contents

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| PREFACE.....            | i  |
| CONSTITUTION.....       | 1  |
| COVENANT.....           | 15 |
| STATEMENT OF FAITH..... | 18 |
| APPENDIX.....           | 30 |



Dear Brother/Sister,

We're so glad you're considering membership at Hill City Baptist Church.

Though we live in a society where individuality reigns supreme, we believe the New Testament assumes that formal membership to an identifiable, local body of believers will be the reasonable ambition of every Christian. Just as an arm or ear cannot survive if separated from the body, so Christians will wither when isolated from the opportunity to be fully known, fully loved, and to meaningfully use their gifts to serve one another.

To this end, the following package contains several documents which we require all potential members to read and affirm before being officially considered for membership.

***The first document is our church constitution.*** Not only is this document a legal necessity for all charities wishing to operate in Canada, but it also outlines the nuts and bolts of how our church runs on a week-to-week basis. Here you will find information on the voting process for new members, recommending new elders and/or deacons, and our basic financial structure.

***The second document is our church covenant.*** Though you won't find a specific verse regarding covenants, we believe it follows naturally in the course of the membership process. Just as it would be frustrating to start a new position at a company without any defined responsibilities, so would committing to a vague idea of membership without knowing what that actually means for you. This brief document, taken almost entirely from Scripture, helps put flesh on the bones of what it means to be a member.

*The third and final document is our church statement of faith.* There are many people today who claim to “believe in Jesus,” but the question inevitably follows— “*What is it that you believe about Jesus?*” This document outlines the specifics of what our church affirms about subjects such as the trinity, human nature, and the reliability of the Scriptures. We affirm as our general principle the sentiment expressed by the late German theologian Rupertus Meldenius: “In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity.” In short, this document enunciates what we believe to be the essentials of the Christian faith.

It takes more than an individual to be a city. It is our hope that, united in Christ, we truly will be a city on a hill—unmistakably radiant, shining on to a darkened world.

Together in Christ,  
The Elders

# CHURCH CONSTITUTION





**Preamble:**

Hill City Baptist Church will be a Christian church that exists for the advancement of religion, and all of its activities will be carried on without purpose of gain for its members. Any profits or other assets of Hill City Baptist Church will be used solely to promote its objectives. In the event that Hill City Baptist Church should dissolve, terminating its operations, all of its assets shall be donated to a Canadian registered charity.

The members of Hill City Baptist Church set forth the following articles to which we voluntarily submit ourselves:

**Article 1: Name and Date of Establishment**

The name of this church is “Hill City Baptist Church” and is located in Peterborough, Ontario and was established on April 28, 2013. Hereafter, in this document, Hill City Baptist Church will be referred to as “the church” or “this church.”

**Article 2: Purpose**

The purpose of this church is to advance and teach the religious tenets, doctrines and observances associated with the Christian faith.

**Article 3: Doctrinal Beliefs**

This church accepts the Bible as its supreme and complete authority in all matters of doctrine and practice.

However, due to the lack of consensus as to what the Bible specifically teaches, we also generally regard the tenants set forward in *Hill City Baptist Church Confession of Faith*, *The 1644 Baptist Confession of Faith*, *The Nicene Creed*, and *The Apostles Creed* as excellent summaries of the basic teachings of the Bible. We do not accept creeds and confessions as infallible, but rather see them as a useful anchor and help in theological controversy.

## **Article 4: Organizational Structure**

### ***Elders***

The elders of this church will be interchangeably called “elders”, “pastors”, “bishops”, or “overseers”, as each of these terms refers to the same office. They will be primarily devoted to pastoral work; namely, prayer and the ministry of the word (Acts 6:4), and bear ultimate responsibility for governing the church according to the beliefs and practices prescribed by our constitution. Elders will hold their office indefinitely except in the following circumstances:

- i. An elder is no longer willing to hold this office in the church. In such cases, that elder will resign from his office.
  
- ii. An elder comes to believe that it is not in the best interests of the church for him to continue to hold his office. In such cases, that elder will resign from his office.
  
- iii. An elder is no longer qualified to hold this office in the church, according to the requirements outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. In such cases, that elder will resign or be removed from his office by a vote of the members of the church at a Members’ Meeting.

Whenever an elder vacates his position, the other elders will make known the vacancy to the congregation, and will search for a new elder to take his place, if possible. All prospective elders must meet the Biblical requirements outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

Qualified men will be recommended to the members of the church by the current elders and elected to the office of elder by a vote of the members of the church at a Members’ Meeting. In addition to replacing elders, new elders may be added even when a position has not been vacated. In this case, the process for adding elders is the same as outlined above.

Whenever the church is financially able, and whenever it would serve to advance the purpose of the church, the church will pay a salary or honorarium to one (or more) of these elders in return for an increased personal investment in pastoral work within the church in keeping with the biblical instruction that “those who proclaim the gospel should receive their living by the gospel.” (1 Corinthians 9:14)

Elders are implicitly considered members of the church, and will have one vote each during Congregational Decisions at Members’ Meetings.

### *Deacons*

Deacons will serve the church, under the authority of the elders, by overseeing its administration and practical concerns so that the elders may devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word (Acts 6:4).

All prospective deacons must meet the Biblical requirements outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Qualified persons will be recommended to the members of the church by the elders and elected to the office of deacon by a vote of the members of the church at a Members’ Meeting.

Deacons will hold their office indefinitely except in the following circumstances:

- i. A deacon is no longer willing to hold this office in the church. In such cases, that deacon will resign from his office.
- ii. A deacon comes to believe that it is not in the best interests of the church for him to continue to hold his office. In such cases, that deacon will resign from his office.
- iii. A deacon is no longer Biblically qualified to hold this office in the church. In such cases, that deacon will resign or be removed from his office by a vote of the members of the church at a Members’ Meeting.

Whenever the church is financially able, and whenever it would serve to advance the purpose of the church, the church may pay a salary or honorarium to one (or more) of these deacons in return for an increased personal investment in the work of the church, so that the elders may “devote [themselves] to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4).

Deacons are implicitly considered members of the church, and will have one vote each during Congregational Decisions at Members’ Meetings.

### *Non-elder and non-deacon staff members*

- i. Whenever the church is financially able, and whenever it would serve to advance the purpose of the church, the church may hire one (or more) paid non-elder and non-deacon staff member. Such staff members will work under the authority and guidance of the elders and/or deacons.

### *Members*

- i. Though the word “membership” cannot be found in the New Testament, we believe the concept of membership is assumed, and necessary for at least five reasons:
  - a) Churches have an “inside” and an “outside,” and can be “numbered” (cf. 1 Cor 5:12; Acts 2:41, 47).
  - b) Church members are expected to know who does and who does not belong to the church (cf. 1 Cor 5:9–12).
  - c) Christians are under the authority of the church as a whole, which means giving up our autonomy and putting ourselves under the church’s authority, such that if they persist in unrepentant sin, they are to be excluded from it (cf. 1 Cor 5:4–5, 13; Matt 18).
  - d) Christians are also under the authority of the leaders, and are instructed to submit to them (cf. Heb 13:17).

e) Leaders will give an account for those entrusted to their care, and must therefore know who they are responsible for (cf. Heb 13:17).

ii. Any person who professes faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and has demonstrated that faith and repentance through baptism, and who has affirmed those principles as set forward in the *Hill City Baptist Church Covenant*, *Hill City Baptist Confession of Faith*, and the *Hill City Baptist Church Constitution*, will be considered for membership.

iii. Any person desiring membership who meets the above mentioned requirements must verbally make their desire for membership known to one of the elders.

iv. When a prospective member (hereafter referred to as “the applicant”) has made his or her desire for membership known to one of the elders the following process will commence as soon as possible:

a. The applicant will attend a Membership Class in which one (or more) of the elders will articulate and explain the expectations, privileges, and responsibilities of members and will articulate and explain our doctrinal beliefs. During this Membership Class the applicant will have the opportunity to ask any questions or raise any of his or her potential concerns and/or hesitations.

b. After attending a Membership Class, if the applicant desires to continue with the application process, he or she will be required to attend a Membership Interview with one (or more) of the elders. During this interview the applicant will be expected:

- i. to articulate his or her understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ and affirm his or her personal acceptance of the gospel.
- ii. to verbally affirm substantial agreement with the doctrinal beliefs and practices of this church as outlined in the *Hill City Baptist Church Covenant, Confession of Faith, and Constitution*.

c. After the Membership Interview, if the elders are satisfied that an applicant has met the requirements for membership, they will present a motion to the members of the church at the next Members' Meeting that this church receive the applicant into membership. After hearing the new member's testimony and the elders' recommendation, the members of the church will render a Congregational Decision to receive the applicant into membership or deny the applicant membership.

v. A person's membership in this church may be terminated in any of the following ways:

a. By physical death.

b. By resignation. Members in good standing may resign their membership, subject to a Congregational Decision approving the resignation of their membership.

c. By exclusion. It is right and in harmony with the Scriptures for the members of the church, by means of a Congregational Decision and upon recommendation from the elders, to exclude from this fellowship any person who persists in holding heretical doctrine, or who obviously and persistently lives inconsistently with his or her Christian profession, or who persists in disturbing the peace and unity of the Church, or who has become

inactive and/or defunct (see Matt 18:15ff; 1 Cor 5:1ff; 2 Thess 3:6–15; Rom 16:17).

d. By inactivity. On occasion, whenever a member ceases attendance and participation in the life of the church for a prolonged period of time, during which the circumstances of his or her withdrawal may be investigated (e.g. incorrect/unavailable contact information), it may be deemed appropriate for the congregation, upon recommendation from the pastors and by congregational decision, to remove such a person from the membership of Hill City Baptist Church.

### **Article 5: Church Discipline**

Church discipline can be either formative or corrective. Formative church discipline is intended to form godly character and habits within the lives of church members, and corrective church discipline is intended to correct sinful character and habits within the lives of church members. In both cases, the aims of church discipline are always the spiritual health of the member under discipline and of the church as a whole. The most important reason for practicing both kinds of church discipline is to protect the reputation of Jesus.

#### **i. Formative Discipline Process**

At Hill City Baptist Church, we will encourage each attendee who professes faith in Jesus Christ to become a member. This is because we believe that the accountability and mutual responsibility of church members to one another and to the elders is healthy and helpful for all Christians. Members are accountable to the elders and to one another for the expectations outlined above.

Members are under the care of the elders who regularly pray for the members and keep watch over their souls. From time to time

the elders will contact each member to see how they're doing spiritually. Members are also encouraged to care for and talk to one another regularly about the health of their spiritual lives.

This type of consistent and meaningful interaction between church members and elders helps encourage healthy Christian living and prevent serious spiritual problems.

## ii. Corrective Discipline Process

In the event that a member has severely or persistently failed to meet the expectations of members, the process outlined in Matt 18:15-20 will usually be followed:

The sinful member should be approached by one person, then two or three if necessary. The one(s) approaching the sinful member should urge him or her to repent of the sin at hand.

If the sinful member refuses to repent, the ones who have approached the sinful member should make the sin known to the elders. The elders will act as representatives of the church, hearing of the sin and urging the sinful member to repent on behalf of the members of the church.

If the sin is serious enough, or persistent enough, to call the sinful member's salvation into question, the elders will present a motion to the members of the church to revoke the sinful member's membership, excluding him or her from membership in the community of God's people (1 Corinthians 5). There will be a period between the time the sin is made known to all the members and the time that he or she is excluded during which the other members will have the opportunity to plead with the sinful member to repent. If, after this period, the sinful member is still unrepentant, the members of the church will vote to exclude him or her from membership (2 Cor 2:6).



In some cases, it may be prudent to bypass the process and exclude a member at the earliest opportunity. In such cases, a Members' Meeting will be called as soon as possible and the elders will present a motion to the members of the church that the church exclude the sinful person from membership by means of a Congregational Decision.

All decisions to exclude a person from membership must be Congregational Decisions.

The goal of any corrective discipline process is never to harm the sinful member, but to confront him or her with the seriousness of the sin at hand so that he or she may repent and be restored to fellowship (2 Corinthians 2:5-11).

#### **Article 6: Finances**

- i. The fiscal year of this church will begin on May 1 and will end on April 30.
- ii. This church depends entirely on the voluntary financial gifts of its members, and others who voluntarily decide to give.
- iii. Each year at a Members' Meeting between January and April, the congregation will vote to approve a budget for the following fiscal year. At least 3 weeks prior to this meeting a detailed budget of the proposed expenditures for the coming year will be made available to the members. Once the budget is approved by a vote of the members of the church it will be the basis for the utilization of church funds.

## **Article 7: Members' Meetings**

i. "Congregational Decisions" will refer to decisions that a quorum of members will vote on, and which the outcome of that said vote will be considered binding in regard to the business and affairs of the church.

ii. "Pastoral Decisions" will refer to decisions that one or more of the elders will make as appointed representatives for the good of the church.

iii. Members' Meetings are designed to communicate and discuss both Congregational Decisions and Pastoral Decisions, so that the unity of the church may be preserved and so that the purpose of the church may be accomplished.

iv. The following decisions must always be "Congregational Decisions:"

- a. Receiving persons into membership.
- b. Excluding persons from membership.
- c. Appointing persons to the office of elder.
- d. Removing persons from the office of elder.
- e. Appointing persons to the office of deacon.
- f. Removing persons from the office of deacon.
- g. Hiring a paid staff member.
- h. Approving the proposed yearly church budget.
- i. Amending our Constitution.

v. Other decisions not mentioned in Article 7.4 may be either Pastoral Decisions or Congregational Decisions at the discretion of the elders.

vi. The motion for all Congregational Decisions must come from one of the elders with the exception of the motion to remove a person from the office of elder. The reason for this is that the members should generally be looking to the elders for

leadership, and respecting their judgment about what decisions must be made and the timing of such decisions. However, in cases where the members do not have confidence in a particular elder, the motion to remove him from his office may come from the floor.

vii. There will be two types of Members' Meetings: Ordinary Members' Meetings will be the regularly scheduled meetings that must happen each year. Special Members' Meetings will be irregular meetings that may be called whenever necessary, but are not a necessary part of the church's annual calendar.

a. Ordinary Members' Meetings will occur 3 times each year: once between January and April, once between May and August, once between September and December. The exact date, time and place of each of these Ordinary Members' Meeting must be announced at least 2 weeks in advance of the meeting during our weekly worship services. Whenever possible, major Congregational Decisions should be reserved for these Ordinary Members' Meetings.

b. Additional Special Members' Meetings may occur after being announced only 1 week prior to the Special Members' Meeting.

viii. Only members are permitted to attend Members' Meetings, with the exception of prospective members to be voted into membership at any particular meeting.

ix. 1/3 of church members will constitute a quorum.

x. 2/3 of church members present will be a sufficient majority to make a Congregational Decision.

xi. All members over the age of 18 who are present at Members' Meetings will have a vote on Congregational Decision.

xii. A congregational vote regarding the appointment of elders will be conducted by written ballot.

xiii. A member may request a written ballot vote for any congregational vote.

# HILL CITY BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

***Having been brought by God's grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we now, depending upon the Holy Spirit, affirm this covenant with one another:***

We will pursue unity and peace by walking together in love and in the Spirit, and by avoiding all bitterness, gossip, anger, and hurtful speech (Eph 4:3; Gal 5:16, 25; Eph 4:29, 31)

We will be kind to one another, and forgive each other, even as God, through Christ, has forgiven us (Eph 4:1-2; Luke 17:3; Col 3:13; 1 Thess 5:11; 1 Pet 1:22)

We will, having sinned against another or been sinned against, attempt to seek reconciliation and resolution according to the steps laid out in Matthew 18:15–17.

We will seek to cultivate healthy spiritual disciplines, such as Bible reading and prayer, in our own lives to the end that what we would bear spiritual fruit and grow in our likeness to Christ (Heb 5:12; Phil 4:8, Rom 8:5–9).

We will strive to support each other through difficulties—rejoicing with those who rejoice, and weeping with those who weep (Gal 6:2; Rom 12:15)

We will endeavor to train our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, and seek to walk in a way that adorns the gospel of Christ before our family, friends, and neighbors (Prov 22:6; Eph 6:4; 1 Pet 3:1).

We will strive to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this world as we wait for the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Gal 5:22–24; Titus 2:12; 1 Pet 1:14).

We will not neglect to gather together but, in light of sin's deceitfulness and the nourishment such fellowship provides, will support and treasure

the biblical preaching of the whole counsel of God, the faithful observance of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the loving exercise of church discipline (Heb 10:25; 2 Tim 4:2; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor 11:26; Matt 18:17; 1 Cor 5:13).

We will submit to our church leaders and to commit to following them as they follow Christ, for they endeavor to lovingly and patiently watch over our souls as those who will have to give an account (Heb 13:17; 1 Cor 11:1).

We will cheerfully contribute to the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the advancement of the gospel both to our neighbors and the nations (Matt. 28:19; Luke 12:33; 2 Cor. 9:7).

We will affirm and uphold those Biblical doctrines as summarized in the Hill City Baptist Confession of Faith and the values of this church as set forward in our Church Constitution.

We will, if moving from this place, unite as soon as possible with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

In committing ourselves to pursue these things, we acknowledge our utter dependence on God to establish the work of our hands—as Psalms 127:1 reminds us, “*Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.*”

*Signature:*

*Date:*

---





# CONFESSION OF FAITH

## 1. The Triune God<sup>1</sup>

We believe in one God,<sup>2</sup> eternally existing in three equally and fully divine Persons: the Father,<sup>3</sup> the Son,<sup>4</sup> and the Holy Spirit,<sup>5</sup> who know, love, and glorify one another.<sup>6</sup> This one true and living God is infinitely perfect both in his love<sup>7</sup> and in his holiness.<sup>8</sup> He is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, and is therefore worthy to receive all glory and adoration.<sup>9</sup> Immortal and eternal,<sup>10</sup> he perfectly and exhaustively knows the end from the beginning,<sup>11</sup> sustains<sup>12</sup> and sovereignly rules over all things,<sup>13</sup> and providentially brings about his eternal good purposes to redeem a people for himself and restore his fallen creation,<sup>14</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace.<sup>15</sup>

## 2. Revelation

We believe that God has graciously disclosed his existence and power in the created order,<sup>16</sup> and has supremely revealed himself to fallen human beings in the person of his Son, the incarnate Word.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, this

---

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the Confessional Statement of the Gospel Coalition.

<sup>2</sup> Exod 15:11; 20:2–3; Deut 4:35, 39; 6:4–5; 32:39; 1 Kings 8:60; Isa 44:6–8; 45:5–6, 14, 21–22; 46:9; John 17:3; Rom 3:30; 1 Cor 8:6; Eph 4:6; 1 Tim 2:5; Jas 2:19.

<sup>3</sup> John 13:3; 20:17; Rom 1:7; 15:6; 1 Cor 15:24; Phil 2:11; Jas 1:27; 2 Pet 1:17; Rev 1:6

<sup>4</sup> Isa 9:6; John 1:1, 18; 20:28; Rom 9:5; Col 1:19; 2:9; Titus 2:13; Heb 1:3, 8–10; 2 Pet 1:1; 1 John 5:20.

<sup>5</sup> Acts 5:3–4; 1 Cor 3:16; Heb 9:14

<sup>6</sup> Matt 3:17; 17:5; John 3:35; 5:20; 8:54; 13:32; 14:31; 16:14; 17:1, 5, 24.

<sup>7</sup> 1 John 4:8–10, 16.

<sup>8</sup> Exod 15:11; Lev 11:44–45; 19:2; 20:26; Josh 24:19; 1 Sam 2:2; Ps 22:3; 99:3, 5, 9; Isa 6:3; 57:15; 1 Pet 1:16; Rev 4:8; 15:4.

<sup>9</sup> Gen 1:1; Neh 9:6; Ps 90:2; Isa 40:26, 28; 45:18; Jer 10:12; John 1:3; Acts 4:24; 14:15; 17:24; 1 Cor 8:6; Eph 3:9; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2; 11:3; Rev 4:11; 10:6; 14:7.

<sup>10</sup> Gen 21:33; Deut 33:27; Ps 90:2; Isa 40:28; 1 Tim 1:17; Heb 9:14.

<sup>11</sup> Isa 46:10; 1 John 3:20.

<sup>12</sup> Col 1:17; Heb 1:3.

<sup>13</sup> Ps 103:19; Dan 4:35; Matt 10:29–30; Rom 11:36.

<sup>14</sup> Gen 50:20; Eph 1:11; 3:11.

<sup>15</sup> Isa 48:11; Eph 1:6, 12, 14.

<sup>16</sup> Ps 19:1–6; Acts 14:17; Rom 1:19–20.

<sup>17</sup> John 1:1; Heb 1:1–2; Rev 19:13.

God is a speaking God who by his Spirit has graciously disclosed himself in human words: we believe that God has inspired the words preserved in the Scriptures, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, which are both record and means of his saving work in the world.<sup>18</sup> These writings alone constitute the verbally inspired Word of God, which is utterly authoritative<sup>19</sup> and without error in the original writings,<sup>20</sup> complete in its revelation of his will for salvation, sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do,<sup>21</sup> and final in its authority over every domain of knowledge to which it speaks. We confess that both our finitude and our sinfulness preclude the possibility of knowing God's truth exhaustively, but we affirm that, enlightened by the Spirit of God,<sup>22</sup> we can know God's revealed truth truly. The Bible is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it teaches; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; and trusted, as God's pledge, in all that it promises. As God's people hear, believe, and do the Word, they are equipped as disciples of Christ and witnesses to the gospel.<sup>23</sup>

### **3. Creation of Humanity**

We believe that God created human beings, male and female, in his own image.<sup>24</sup> Adam and Eve belonged to the created order that God himself declared to be very good,<sup>25</sup> serving as God's agents to care for, manage, and govern creation, living in holy and devoted fellowship with their Maker.<sup>26</sup> Men and women, equally made in the image of God, enjoy equal access to God by faith in Christ Jesus and are both called to engagement in family, church, and civic life.<sup>27</sup> Adam and Eve were

---

<sup>18</sup> 2 Tim 3:16; James 1:18; 1 Pet 1:23; 2 Pet 1:19–21.

<sup>19</sup> John 10:35.

<sup>20</sup> Ps 12:6; Prov 30:5; John 10:35; 17:17; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18.

<sup>21</sup> 2 Tim 3:15–17; cf Jas 1:18; 1 Pet 1:23.

<sup>22</sup> 1 Cor 2:13–15; Eph 1:17–18; 1 John 2:20–21, 27.

<sup>23</sup> Matt 28:18–20.

<sup>24</sup> Gen 1:26–27; 5:1–2; 9:6; Jas 3:9.

<sup>25</sup> Gen 1:31.

<sup>26</sup> Gen 1:28–30; 2:15–20.

<sup>27</sup> Gal 3:28.

made to complement each other in a one-flesh union that establishes the only normative pattern of sexual relations for men and women,<sup>28</sup> such that marriage (an exclusive union between one man and one woman) ultimately serves as a type of the union between Christ and his church.<sup>29</sup> In God's wise purposes, men and women are interdependent, not simply interchangeable; they complement each other in mutually enriching ways. God ordains that they assume distinctive roles which reflect the loving relationship between Christ and the church, the husband exercising headship in a way that displays the caring, sacrificial love of Christ,<sup>30</sup> and the wife submitting to her husband in a way that models the love of the church for her Lord.<sup>31</sup> In the ministry of the church, both men and women are encouraged to serve Christ and to be developed to their full potential in the manifold ministries of the people of God.<sup>32</sup> The distinctive leadership role within the church given to qualified men is grounded in creation, fall, and redemption.<sup>33</sup>

#### **4. The Fall**

We believe that Adam, made in the image of God, distorted that image and forfeited his original blessedness—for himself and all his progeny—by choosing to sin against God in response to Satan's temptation.<sup>34</sup> As a result, all of creation is subjected to futility and all human beings are alienated from God, corrupted in every aspect of their being (e.g., physically, mentally, volitionally, emotionally, spiritually)<sup>35</sup> and condemned finally and irrevocably to death<sup>36</sup>—apart from God's own gracious intervention.<sup>37</sup> The supreme need of all human beings is to be

---

<sup>28</sup> Gen 2:18–24; Matt 19:6; 1 Cor 6:16–7:5; 11:11–12.

<sup>29</sup> Eph 5:22–32.

<sup>30</sup> 1 Cor 11:3; Eph 5:25–33; Col 3:19; 1 Tim 3:4–5, 12; 1 Pet 3:7.

<sup>31</sup> Eph 5:22–24, 33; Col 3:18; 1 Tim 2:9–12; Titus 2:4; 1 Pet 3:1–6.

<sup>32</sup> 1 Cor 12:7, 11; 1 Pet 4:10.

<sup>33</sup> 1 Cor 14:33–36; 1 Tim 2:11–14; 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9.

<sup>34</sup> Gen 3; Rom 5:12–21; 1 Cor 15:21–22.

<sup>35</sup> Gen 6:5; Pss 58:3; 130:3; 143:2; Ecc 7:20; 9:3; Isa 1:6; 64:6; Jer 13:23; 17:9; John 8:34; Rom 1:18–3:20, 23; 8:5–8; 1 Cor 2:14; Eph 4:17–19; Titus 1:15; Jas 3:2; 1 John 1:8, 10.

<sup>36</sup> Isa 59:2; Rom 1:18; 5:16, 18; 6:23; 8:6, 10.

<sup>37</sup> Matt 7:17–18; John 3:3, 5; 6:44, 65; Rom 8:7–8; 1 Cor 2:14.

reconciled to God and saved from his just and holy wrath;<sup>38</sup> the only hope of all human beings is the undeserved love of this same God, who alone can rescue us and restore us to himself.<sup>39</sup>

## 5. The Plan of God

We believe that from all eternity God determined in grace to save a great multitude of guilty sinners from every tribe and language and people and nation,<sup>40</sup> and to this end foreknew them and chose them.<sup>41</sup> We believe that God justifies and sanctifies those who by grace have faith in Jesus, and that he will one day glorify them<sup>42</sup>—all to the praise of his glorious grace.<sup>43</sup> In love God commands and implores all people to repent and believe,<sup>44</sup> having set his saving love on those he has chosen and having ordained Christ to be their Redeemer.<sup>45</sup>

## 6. The Gospel

We believe that the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ—God’s very wisdom.<sup>46</sup> Utter folly to the world, even though it is the power of God to those who are being saved,<sup>47</sup> this good news is christological, centering on the cross and resurrection: the gospel is not proclaimed if Christ is not proclaimed, and the authentic Christ has not been proclaimed if his death and resurrection are not central (the message is “Christ died for our sins . . . [and] was raised”).<sup>48</sup> This good news is biblical (his death and resurrection are according to the Scriptures),<sup>49</sup>

---

<sup>38</sup> John 3:36; Rom 1:18; 2:5, 8; 5:9; 9:22; Eph 2:3; Col 3:6; 1 Thess 1:10; 2:16; 5:9

<sup>39</sup> Matt 19:25–26; Eph 2:1–10.

<sup>40</sup> Rev 5:9; 7:9–10.

<sup>41</sup> Acts 13:48; Rom 9:6–23; 11:5–6; 1 Cor 1:27–31; Eph 1:4–14; 1 Thess 1:4–5; 2 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 1:9; 1 Pet 1:1–2.

<sup>42</sup> Rom 5–8 (esp 8:29–30); Phil 1:6; 3:21; Col 3:3–4; Heb 9:28; 1 John 3:2–3.

<sup>43</sup> Eph 1:6, 12, 14; 1 Thess 1:2, 4; 2 Thess 2:13.

<sup>44</sup> Isa 45:22; Matt 9:13; 11:28; 22:1–14; Luke 14:16–24; John 7:37; Rev 22:17.

<sup>45</sup> Matt 1:21; John 6:37, 44, 65; Rom 5:6–10; Eph 5:25.

<sup>46</sup> 1 Cor 1:24, 30.

<sup>47</sup> Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 1:18–31 47 .

<sup>48</sup> 1 Cor 15:3–4; Matt 1:23; John 5:23; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rev 4–5.

<sup>49</sup> 1 Cor 15:3–4; Luke 24:27, 44–46.

theological and salvific (Christ died for our sins, to reconcile us to God),<sup>50</sup> historical (if the saving events did not happen, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, and we are to be pitied more than all others),<sup>51</sup> apostolic (the message was entrusted to and transmitted by the apostles, who were witnesses of these saving events),<sup>52</sup> and intensely personal (where it is received, believed, and held firmly, individual persons are saved).<sup>53</sup>

## **7. Salvation in Christ**

We believe that, moved by love and in obedience to his Father,<sup>54</sup> the eternal Son<sup>55</sup> became human: the Word became flesh, fully God and fully human being, one Person in two natures.<sup>56</sup> The man Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel, was conceived through the miraculous agency of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary.<sup>57</sup> He perfectly obeyed his heavenly Father,<sup>58</sup> lived a sinless life,<sup>59</sup> performed miraculous signs, was crucified under Pontius Pilate,<sup>60</sup> arose bodily from the dead on the third day,<sup>61</sup> and ascended into heaven.<sup>62</sup> As the mediatorial King, he is seated at the right hand of God the Father, exercising God's sovereign rule in heaven and on earth,<sup>63</sup> and is our

---

<sup>50</sup> 1 Cor 15:2-3, 15; Rom 4:25; 5:1-11; 2 Cor 5:18-19; Gal 1:4; 1 Pet 3:18.

<sup>51</sup> 1 Cor 15:13-19.

<sup>52</sup> Luke 24:48; Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:30-32; 10:39-41; 1 Cor 15:5-11.

<sup>53</sup> 1 Cor 15:1-2, 11.

<sup>54</sup> John 5:30; 6:38; 8:28-29; 14:31; 15:10; Heb 10:5-7.

<sup>55</sup> Isa 9:6; John 1:1-2; 8:58; 17:5, 24; Col 1:17; Rev 1:17.

<sup>56</sup> John 1:14; Rom 1:3-4; 9:5; Phil 2:7; Col 2:9; 1 Tim 3:16; Heb 2:14.

<sup>57</sup> Isa 7:14; Matt 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Gal 4:4.

<sup>58</sup> Matt 26:39-43; Luke 12:50; John 6:38; 18:11; Rom 5:19; Phil 2:7-8; Heb 5:8; 10:5-7

<sup>59</sup> John 8:29, 46; 2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15; 7:26; 1 Pet 2:22; 1 John 3:5.

<sup>60</sup> Matt 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18:28-19:42; Acts 3:13-15; 4:27-28; 13:28; 1 Tim 6:13; cf Luke 3:1; 13:1.

<sup>61</sup> Matt 28; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24; John 20-21; Act 10:41; 1 Cor 15.

<sup>62</sup> Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11.

<sup>63</sup> Luke 22:69; Acts 2:33-34; 5:31; 7:55-56; Rom 8:34; Eph 1:20; Col 3:1; Heb 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Pet 3:22.

High Priest and righteous Advocate.<sup>64</sup> We believe that by his incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus Christ acted as our representative and substitute.<sup>65</sup> He did this so that in him we might become the righteousness of God:<sup>66</sup> on the cross he canceled sin,<sup>67</sup> propitiated God,<sup>68</sup> and, by bearing the full penalty of our sins, reconciled to God all those who believe.<sup>69</sup> By his resurrection Christ Jesus was vindicated by his Father,<sup>70</sup> broke the power of death and defeated Satan who once had power over it,<sup>71</sup> and brought everlasting life to all his people;<sup>72</sup> by his ascension he has been forever exalted as Lord<sup>73</sup> and has prepared a place for us to be with him.<sup>74</sup> We believe that salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved.<sup>75</sup> Because God chose the lowly things of this world, the despised things, the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, no human being can ever boast before him— Christ Jesus our Savior has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.<sup>76</sup>

## **8. The Justification of Sinners**

We believe that Christ, by his obedience and death, fully discharged the debt of all those who are justified. By his sacrificial death on the cross, he bore in our place the punishment due us for our sins, making a

---

<sup>64</sup> Rom 8:34; Heb 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-15; 5:5,10; 6:20; 7:25-26; 8:1; 9:11,24; 10:21-22; 1 John 2:1.

<sup>65</sup> Isa 53:6, 12; Matt 20:28; Mark 10:45; John 1:29; 11:50-51; Rom 5:6-8; 1 Cor 1:30; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13; Phil 3:9; 1 Tim 2:6; Titus 2:14; Heb 9:26, 28; 1 Pet 2:24; 3:18.

<sup>66</sup> 2 Cor 5:21.

<sup>67</sup> Isa 53:10; Eph 5:2; 1 Cor 5:7; Heb 9:26.

<sup>68</sup> Rom 3:25; Heb 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.

<sup>69</sup> Rom 5:1-11; 2 Cor 5:18-21; Eph 2:16; Col 1:20.

<sup>70</sup> Acts 3:15; 4:10; 17:31; Rom 1:4; 1 Thess 1:10.

<sup>71</sup> John 12:31; 16:11; 1 Cor 15:51-57; Col 2:13-15; Heb 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8.

<sup>72</sup> Rom 4:24-25; 1 Cor 6:14; 15:12-57; 2 Cor 4:14; Eph 2:5-6; 1 Pet 1:3.

<sup>73</sup> Acts 2:36; Phil 2:9-11.

<sup>74</sup> John 14:3.

<sup>75</sup> Acts 4:12.

<sup>76</sup> 1 Cor 1:26-30.

proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice on our behalf.<sup>77</sup> By his perfect obedience, in life and in death, he satisfied the just demands of God on our behalf, since by faith alone that perfect obedience is credited to all who trust in Christ alone for their acceptance with God.<sup>78</sup>

Inasmuch as Christ was given by the Father for us, and his obedience and punishment were accepted in place of our own, freely and not for anything in us, this justification is solely of free grace, in order that both the exact justice and the rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners. We believe that a zeal for obedience flows from this free justification.<sup>79</sup>

## **9. The Power of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that this salvation, attested in all Scripture and secured by Jesus Christ, is applied to his people by the Holy Spirit. Sent by the Father and the Son,<sup>80</sup> the Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>81</sup> and, as the other Paraclete, is present with and in believers.<sup>82</sup> He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment,<sup>83</sup> and by his powerful and mysterious work regenerates spiritually dead sinners, awakening them to repentance and faith,<sup>84</sup> sealing their union with the Lord Jesus,<sup>85</sup> such that they are justified before God by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. By the Spirit's agency, believers are renewed,<sup>86</sup> sanctified,<sup>87</sup> and adopted into God's family;<sup>88</sup> they participate in the divine nature and receive his sovereignty

---

<sup>77</sup> Rom 5:15–19; 2 Cor 5:21.

<sup>78</sup> Rom 3:21–5:1; 5:9; Gal 2:15–16; 3:8, 11, 24.

<sup>79</sup> Rom 1:5; 6:1–23; 16:26; Eph 2:10; Titus 2:14; Jas 2:14–26.

<sup>80</sup> John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7.

<sup>81</sup> John 16:14; cf 15:26; Acts 5:32; 1 Cor 12:3; 1 John 4:2.

<sup>82</sup> John 14:16–17; Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19.

<sup>83</sup> John 16:8–11.

<sup>84</sup> John 1:13; 3:3–8; Eph 2:1–6; Col 2:13; Titus 3:5; Jas 1:18; 1 Pet 1:23 .

<sup>85</sup> Matt 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16; 1 Cor 12:13; 2 Cor 1:22; cf Rom 6:1–4; Gal 3:27; Eph 1:13; 4:5; 4:30; Col 2:12.

<sup>86</sup> Titus 3:5.

<sup>87</sup> Rom 7:6; 8:13; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Cor 3:18; Gal 5:22–23; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2.

<sup>88</sup> John 1:12–13; Rom 8:15–17, 23; Gal 4:4–6; Eph 1:5–6.



distributed gifts.<sup>89</sup> The Holy Spirit is himself the down payment of the promised inheritance,<sup>90</sup> and in this age indwells, intercedes for, guides,<sup>91</sup> instructs,<sup>92</sup> equips, revives,<sup>93</sup> comforts, and empowers<sup>94</sup> believers for Christ-like living and service.

## **10. The Kingdom of God**

We believe that those who have been saved by the grace of God through union with Christ by faith and through regeneration by the Holy Spirit enter the kingdom of God<sup>95</sup> and delight in the blessings of the new covenant: the forgiveness of sins; the inward transformation that awakens a desire to glorify, trust, and obey God; and the prospect of the glory yet to be revealed.<sup>96</sup> Good works constitute indispensable evidence of saving grace.<sup>97</sup> Living as salt in a world that is decaying and light in a world that is dark, believers should neither withdraw into seclusion from the world, nor become indistinguishable from it:<sup>98</sup> rather, we are to do good to the city,<sup>99</sup> for all the glory and honor of the nations is to be offered up to the living God.<sup>100</sup> Recognizing whose created order this is, and because we are citizens of God's kingdom, we are to love our neighbors as ourselves,<sup>101</sup> doing good to all, especially to those who belong to the household of God.<sup>102</sup> The kingdom of God, already

---

<sup>89</sup> 1 Cor 12:7–11.

<sup>90</sup> Rom 8:23; Eph 1:14; 2 Cor 1:22; 5:5.

<sup>91</sup> Rom 8:4, 14; Gal 5:16, 18.

<sup>92</sup> 1 Cor 2:12–15; Eph 1:17–19; cf Matt 10:20; John 14:26; 16:13.

<sup>93</sup> John 3:3–8; 6:63; 2 Cor 3:6.

<sup>94</sup> Acts 1:8; Rom 8:4, 13; 1 Cor 2:4; Phil 1:19.

<sup>95</sup> Matt 5:20; 7:21; 18:3; 19:23–24; Mark 9:47; 10:23–25; Luke 18:24–25; John 3:5; Acts 14:22.

<sup>96</sup> Matt 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; Rom 11:27; 1 Cor 11:23–26; 2 Cor 3:6–18; Heb 8:1–13; 9:15–22; 10:15–18; 13:20–21.

<sup>97</sup> John 14:15; Eph 2:10; Jas 2:14–26; 1 John 2:2–6, 9–11, 15–17, 19, 29; 3:3, 6–9, 14–15, 24; 4:7, 12, 16, 20; 5:4, 18.

<sup>98</sup> Matt 5:13–16; 1 Cor 5:9–10; 1 John 2:15–17.

<sup>99</sup> Jer 29:7.

<sup>100</sup> Rev 21:26.

<sup>101</sup> Rom 13:9–10; Gal 5:14; Jas 2:8.

<sup>102</sup> Gal 6:10.

present but not fully realized, is the exercise of God's sovereignty in the world toward the eventual redemption of all creation.<sup>103</sup>

## **11. God's New Covenant People**

We believe that God's new covenant people have already come to the heavenly Jerusalem;<sup>104</sup> they are already seated with Christ in the heavenlies.<sup>105</sup> This universal church<sup>106</sup> is manifest in local churches<sup>107</sup> of which Christ is the only Head;<sup>108</sup> thus each local church is, in fact, the church, the household of God, the assembly of the living God, and the pillar and foundation of the truth.<sup>109</sup> This local church is a covenant community comprised of believers, who have put their faith in Jesus Christ, been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and received into covenant membership.<sup>110</sup> The church is the body of Christ,<sup>111</sup> the apple of his eye, graven on his hands, and he has pledged himself to her forever.<sup>112</sup> The church is distinguished by her gospel message, her sacred ordinances, her discipline,<sup>113</sup> her great mission,<sup>114</sup> and, above all, by her love for God,<sup>115</sup> and by her members'

---

<sup>103</sup> Matt 12:28; 13; 28:18; Mark 4; Luke 11:20; John 3:3, 5; Rom 14:17; 1 Cor 4:20; 6:9–10; 15:24–28; Gal 5:21; Eph 5:5; Col 1:13.

<sup>104</sup> Heb 12:22.

<sup>105</sup> Eph 2:6.

<sup>106</sup> Matt 16:18; Acts 8:3; 9:31; 1 Cor 10:32; 11:22; 12:28; 15:9; Gal 1:13; Eph 1:22–23; 3:10, 21; 4:4; 5:23–25, 27, 32; Phil 3:6; Heb 12:23.

<sup>107</sup> Matt 18:17; Acts 13:1; Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 4:17; 7:17; 16:19; 2 Cor 11:8; Col 4:15–16.

<sup>108</sup> Eph 4:15–16; 5:23; cf 1:22–23.

<sup>109</sup> Eph 2:19; 1 Tim 3:15; 1 Pet 4:17.

<sup>110</sup> Acts 2:41; 4:4; Matt 28:19.

<sup>111</sup> 1 Cor 12:12–27; Eph 1:22–23; 4:15–16; Col 2:19.

<sup>112</sup> Eph 5:25–32.

<sup>113</sup> Matt 18:15–17; 1 Cor 5; 2 Cor 2:6–8; 2 Thess 3:6, 14–15.

<sup>114</sup> Matt 28:19–20.

<sup>115</sup> Matt 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27; John 8:42; Rom 8:28; 1 Cor 2:9; 16:22; Eph 6:24; Jas 1:12; 2:5; 1 Pet 1:8; 1 John 2:15; 5:2–3.

love for one another<sup>116</sup> and for the world.<sup>117</sup> Crucially, this gospel we cherish has both personal and corporate dimensions, neither of which may properly be overlooked. Christ Jesus is our peace: he has not only brought about peace with God, but also peace between alienated peoples.<sup>118</sup> His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both Jew and Gentile to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.<sup>119</sup> The church serves as a sign of God's future new world when its members live for the service of one another and their neighbors, rather than for self-focus. The church is the corporate dwelling place of God's Spirit,<sup>120</sup> and the continuing witness to God in the world.<sup>121</sup>

## **12. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that baptism is the initiation ordinance for Christians. Believers are baptized in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to beautifully show our death to sin and resurrection to new life through our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior. As such, we believe it is most clearly portrayed by immersion. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the regular gathering of believers in Jesus to commemorate the dying love of Christ by eating the bread and drinking the cup. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are both ordained by the Lord Jesus himself.<sup>122</sup> The former is connected with the entrance of believers into the new covenant community,<sup>123</sup> and the latter with ongoing covenant renewal.<sup>124</sup> Together they serve as God's pledge to us and a means of his sanctifying grace, as well as our public vows of

---

<sup>116</sup> John 13:34–35; 15:12, 17; Rom 12:9–10, 13; 13:8–10; 1 Cor 16:14; Gal 5:13–14; 1 Thess 3:12; 4:9; Heb 13:1; Jas 2:8; 1 Pet 1:22; 2:17; 3:8; 1 John 2:7–11, 19; 3:10–18; 4:7–8, 11–12, 16–21; 2 John 5.

<sup>117</sup> Matt 5:43–47; Luke 6:27–36; Rom 12:14, 17–21.

<sup>118</sup> Eph 2:11–22; cf Rom 5:1–11; 2 Cor 5:18–21; Col 1:20.

<sup>119</sup> Eph 2:15–16.

<sup>120</sup> 1 Cor 3:16–17; Eph 2:22.

<sup>121</sup> Matt 5:13–16; 28:19–20.

<sup>122</sup> Matt 28:19; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Cor 11:23–26.

<sup>123</sup> Acts 2:38; Rom 6:2–5; Col 2:12.

<sup>124</sup> Matt 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Cor 10:16–17; 11:23–26.

submission to the once crucified and now resurrected Christ and our anticipation of his return and the consummation of all things.

### **13. The Restoration of All Things**

We believe in the personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ with his holy angels,<sup>125</sup> when he will exercise his role as final Judge<sup>126</sup> and his kingdom will be consummated.<sup>127</sup> We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust— the unjust to judgment and eternal conscious punishment in hell, as our Lord himself taught,<sup>128</sup> and the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb, in the new heaven and the new earth, the home of righteousness.<sup>129</sup> On that day the Bride of Christ, composed of believers from all ages, will be presented faultless before God by the obedience, suffering and triumph of Christ, all sin purged and its wretched effects forever banished.<sup>130</sup> God will be all in all<sup>131</sup> and his people will be enthralled by the immediacy of his ineffable holiness,<sup>132</sup> and everything will be to the praise of his glorious grace.<sup>133</sup>

---

<sup>125</sup> Matt 16:27; 24:44; 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Phil 3:20; 1 Thess 4:16; 2 Thess 1:7; Titus 2:13; Heb 9:28; Jas 5:8; 2 Pet 3:10; 1 John 3:2; Jude 14; Rev 1:7; 22:7, 12, 20.

<sup>126</sup> Matt 25:31–46; John 5:26–27; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Rom 2:5; 1 Cor 4:5; 2 Tim 4:1; Jas 5:8–9.

<sup>127</sup> 1 Cor 15:24–28.

<sup>128</sup> Matt 5:22, 29–30; 8:12; 10:28; 13:42; 18:8–9; 22:13; 23:15, 33; 24:51; 25:30, 41, 46; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 3:17; 12:5; 2 Thess 1:9; 2 Pet 2:17; Jude 13; Rev 14:9–11; 20:11–15; 21:8.

<sup>129</sup> Isa 65:17, 22; Dan 12:2; Matt 25:34; John 5:29; Rom 8:19–23; Heb 1:10–12; 1 Pet 3:22; 2 Pet 2:12–13; 3:11–13; Rev 21:1–5; 22:3.

<sup>130</sup> Rom 8:17, 23–24, 30; Eph 5:25–27; Rev 19:7; 21:2, 9.

<sup>131</sup> 1 Cor 15:28.

<sup>132</sup> Rev 7:9–12; 19:1–8; cf 4:8–11; 5:8–14; 11:15–18; 15:2–4; 16:5–7.

<sup>133</sup> Eph 1:6, 12, 14.

# APPENDIX

## The Apostles Creed:

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## The Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of the same essence as the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory  
to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.*

*We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.*