



# AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

*Adopted on 28/03/2021*

## Introduction

The following statements outline the primary beliefs of our faith. As a Christian Church we also affirm the historic creeds of our faith including the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed.

## Affirmations of our Faith

**THE BIBLE:** We believe that the Bible is the word of God, was written by humans who were divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction.<sup>1</sup> We believe that the Bible has God for its author, the glory of God for its end and truth without any mixture of error. Therefore, we believe that the Bible has authority in all matters of faith and conduct, that it is the source of joy and salvation and that it is the standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tested.

*Relevant biblical texts:* Deu 6:1-9; Psa 1:1-6; Psa 19:7-14; Mrk 13:31; Jhn 8:31-32; Jhn 20:31; Act 20:32; 1 Tim 5:18 (cf. Lke 10:7); 2 Tim 3:15-17; 2 Pet 1:19-21; Rev 22:18-21.

**THE TRUE GOD:** We believe that there is one living and true God, who is the maker of heaven and earth and deserves all glory, honour, confidence and love. We believe that this God has eternally existed in three persons—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit equal in every divine perfection and working together in distinct but harmonious ways in the work of redemptive history.

*Relevant biblical texts:* Gen 1:1; Deu 6:4; 2 Sam 7:22; 1 Kgs 8:60; Psa 146:6; Mat 28:19; Jhn 1:1-3; Jhn 3:16; Jhn 4:24; Jhn 6:27; Jhn 10:30; Jhn 14:16-17; Rom 1:19; Rom 5:6-8; Rom 8:26; 1 Cor 8:6; 2 Cor 3:16-18; 2 Cor 13:14; Gal 5:22-26; Eph 4:5-6; Heb 7:25; Heb 9:28.

**THE HUMAN RACE:** We believe that men and women were created in the image of God and therefore, have inherent and equal dignity and worth. The greatest purpose, responsibility and joy of every person is found in bringing glory to God by worshipping, obeying and loving him. We believe by voluntary choice Adam fell from right relationship with God and His creation. Because of this, all of humanity are sinners, not by constraint but by choice. Having inherited a nature that is corrupted by sin and inclined to evil, every person is under the just judgement of God without excuse.

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<sup>1</sup> 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament.

*Relevant biblical texts:* Gen 1:16; Gen 5:2; Gen 2:17; Psa 98:9; Mat 3:12; Mat 12:36-37; Mat 16:27; Jhn 5:22; Jhn 12:48; Act 10:42; Act 17:31; Rom 2:5-12; Rom 3:10-18, 23; 2 Cor 5:10; Gal 3:28; 2 Ths 1:9; 2 Tim 4:1; 1 Pet 3:7.

**THE WAY OF SALVATION:** We believe that the salvation of sinners is entirely a work of God's grace through the work of the Lord Jesus Christ—it cannot be earned or deserved. We believe that Jesus by the appointment of the Father took the nature of a human yet was without sin. In His life He perfectly obeyed God's law and through His death He made full atonement for our sins. Having risen from the dead, Jesus is now the exalted and eternal King who, unlike Adam, is in every way qualified to be our compassionate representative and all sufficient Saviour. We believe that those who have truly repented and trusted in Jesus are justified, adopted into the family of God and have the assurance that they will never be condemned. We believe that this is the heart of the gospel, the good news that God graciously redeems sinners and provides the way of eternal life.

*Relevant biblical texts:* Gen 3:15; Gen 22:1-18; Psa 69; Isa 9:6-7; Isa 53:1-12; Isa 61:1-2; Zec 12:10; Mat 20:28; Mrk 1:15; Mrk 10:45; Lke 22:20; Jhn 1:29; Jhn 3:16; Jhn 11:25; Act 2:22-32; Act 4:12; Rom 1:16-17; Rom 3:21-26; Rom 5:1-11; 1 Cor 5:7-8; 1 Cor 15:1-28; Gal 1:3-5; Gal 3:26; Gal 3:13; Gal 5:1-6; Eph 1:3-14; Eph 2:1-10; 1 Pet 3:18.

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:** We believe that Christians, by a work of God's grace and in accordance with His will, are progressively being transformed into the likeness of Jesus—the perfect image of God. This process is not a pre-requisite for receiving salvation but is a gospel blessing that demonstrates and flows out of salvation. This process begins at the point of regeneration and continues until glorification by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. We believe that Christians are called to actively participate in this work through the appointed means of grace, especially, reading and applying the word of God, prayer, fellowship, repentance and faith.

*Relevant biblical texts:* Deu 10:12-17; Deu 30:6; Psa 119:105; Isa 59:21; Ezk 36:26; Jer 31:33; Mat 7:24; Mrk 11:24; Rom 8:9-11; Rom 8:28; Rom 12:1-3; Rom 12:12; 1 Cor 15:52; 2 Cor 3:18; 2 Cor 4:16; Gal 2:20; Gal 5:13-25; Eph 2:19-22; Eph 4:15-16; Eph 6:18; Phi 2:12-13; Phi 4:6; Col 3:16; Col 4:2; 1 Ths 5:11; 2 Tim 3:16; Heb 10:24-25; Jms 1:22; Jms 5:13-16; 2 Pet 3:18.

**THE CHURCH:** We believe in the universal church; a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all who are saved—past, present and future—belong. We believe that the universal church is made visible in local churches. A true local church is defined by covenant in the faith and fellowship in the gospel; the right preaching of the Bible; the administration of baptism and the Lord's Supper; and church discipline. We believe that the purpose of a local church is to bring glory to God by worshipping him, building up and encouraging one another, and engaging in God's mission both locally, domestically and globally.

*Relevant biblical texts:* Mat 16:18; Mat 18:15-17; Mat 28:16-20; Jhn 17:17-19; Act 2:42; Act 14:23; Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 11:17-34; 1 Cor 5:13; 1 Cor 12:12-31; 2 Cor 2:6-8; 2 Ths 1:1; Gal 6:1; Eph 2:19-22; Eph 5:19-21; Heb 10:23-25; Rev 5:9; Rev 7:9.

THE ORDINANCES: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church; 1) baptism and 2) the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that in baptism Christians publicly identify their union with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as well as their participation in the body and family of the Lord Jesus—the church.<sup>2</sup> We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for believers so that they can proclaim and remember His death, and eagerly await the day when He returns and we will share the heavenly banquet with Him. We believe that the benefits of these two ordinances are received by faith alone, and that they should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus.

*Relevant biblical texts:* Mat 26:17-30; Mat 28:18-20; Mrk 14:12-26; Lke 22:7-20; Jhn 6:53-58; Rom 6:3-5; 1 Cor 11:17-34.

THE FUTURE: We believe in the personal, visible and glorious return of the Lord Jesus. We believe that He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new and will be glorified forever. We believe that this should motivate us to share the good news about the way of salvation in the Lord Jesus.

*Relevant biblical texts:* Isa 65-66; Dan 12:2; Mat 16:27; Mrk 14:62; Jhn 14:3; Act 1:11; Phi 3:20; 1 Ths 4:15; 2 Tim 4:1; Tit 2:13; 1 Cor 4:5; 1 Cor 15; 2 Ths 1:7-10; Rev 20:4-6, 11-15.

### ***Statements of Theological Position on Secondary Matters***

From time to time, the church may also approve positions on secondary matters. Affirmation of these statements is not necessary for salvation. But they seek to avoid disunity by providing clarity on matters that order the life of the church. After these statements are approved, they will be, at a minimum, made available to members and those considering membership.

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<sup>2</sup> While we believe that immersion in water is normative, we accept that the New Testament emphasis is on the order of application and the public declaration of faith (belief and then baptism). Consequently, we accept that there will be circumstances where immersion with water may not be possible. For example, for the elderly or the disabled.