

# **We Believe In:**

## **God's Word**

The Holy Bible is the inspired and revealed Word of God. The 66 books of the Bible in their original languages and manuscripts are free from and incapable of error. The Bible is the only God-given authoritative source for all beliefs and practices of the Christian Church.

## **One Lord**

There is one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jesus is God's Son, the promised Messiah (or 'Christ'), fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He fully accomplished our salvation through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. In doing so He defeated sin, death, and the devil, and He now gives us the power to overcome our sinful nature. He ascended into heaven where He now sits at the right hand of God the Father, and one day He will come again to judge both the living and the dead.

The Holy Spirit is the Counselor who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment and guides us into all truth. The Spirit is actively involved in the Church today, always seeking to glorify the risen Christ. The Holy Spirit indwells believers and enables us to become more like Jesus, empowering us to lead holy lives. The Holy Spirit imparts spiritual gifts to believers by grace and according to His will for the common good of the Church.

## **One Faith**

We are born spiritually dead and are thus subject to the power of the devil. Apart from Christ, we are spiritually bankrupt and inclined only to evil all the time. Because of sin, we are destined to death and eternal separation from God in a literal hell. We are completely helpless and hopeless, powerless to change without the divine grace extended in the offer of the Gospel, God's good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

This salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. The Bible clearly teaches that our salvation cannot come about by our own works; it is entirely the work of God. The Holy Spirit draws us to Christ through the Word of God and creates faith in our hearts.

The Church is the Body of Christ on earth, the Bride of Christ, and the universal community of believers throughout the world. By the same Spirit, all believers in this age are baptized into, and thus become, one Body that belongs to Christ. Having become members of one another, we are obliged to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, rising above all sectarian differences and loving one another with a pure heart. The Church regularly meets and celebrates the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Christ and in proclamation of His death on the cross. The Great Commission Jesus gave in Matthew 28:18-20 is the shared mission and duty of the Church.

Jesus is coming again for His Bride, the Church, and this will be the end of the age. His final coming can happen at any moment, and all people will see Him return in glory surrounded by His angels. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. When He returns, a bodily resurrection of all the dead will take place. He will judge all people, both the living and the dead. Believers will receive eternal salvation and unbelievers eternal damnation. Satan, Antichrist, sin and death will be destroyed. When Christ returns, a new heaven and a new earth will be created.

### **One Baptism**

In baptism, God graciously and miraculously washes away our sins by applying the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection to us, gives us a new birth, clothes us in Christ's righteousness, seals us with the Holy Spirit, buries us with Christ and through faith raises us up with Him as new creatures, making us holy before God and integrating us into the Body of Christ. None of this comes about due to anything magical in the water, but by the Word of God in and with the water conjoined with our faith in that Word. According to the Bible, all of this happens in baptism and it is entirely the work of God, not our own doing.