

# WHAT WE BELIEVE.

## THE BIBLE

## JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the eternal second person of the Trinity. We believe in his deity and in his miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father and voluntarily atoned for the sins of all by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which he lived and died. He ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father, where he, the only mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for his own. He shall come again to earth, personally and visibly, to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. (John 1:1-5)

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

The sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, comprised of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that Scripture in its entirety originated with God and that it was given through the instrumentality of chosen people. Scripture speaks with the authority of God and reflects the backgrounds, styles, and vocabularies of human authors. We hold that the Scriptures are infallible and inerrant in the original manuscripts. They are the unique, full, and final authority on all matters of faith and practice, and there are no other writings similarly inspired by God. (2 Timothy 3:16)

## GOD

We believe that there is one true, holy God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. In the beginning, God created the world and all things therein out of nothing, thus manifesting the glory of his power, wisdom, and goodness. By his providence, he is operating throughout history to fulfill his redemptive purposes. (Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 7:14 and Luke 1:34-35)

As believers submit to the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, they are enabled to live a life of holiness and obedience. The Holy Spirit was sent into the world by the Father and the Son to apply to mankind the saving work of Christ. He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them recognition of their need of a Savior, and regenerates them. At the point of salvation, he permanently indwells every believer to become the source of assurance, comfort, strength and wisdom. He uniquely endows each believer with spiritual gifts for the building up of the church. The Holy Spirit guides believers in understanding and applying the Scriptures. His power and control are appropriated by faith, making it possible for the believer to lead a life of Christ-like character and to bear fruit to the glory of the Father. (John 16:5-15)

# SALVATION

The central purpose of God's revelation in Scripture is to call all people into fellowship with him. Originally created to have fellowship with God, man defied God, choosing to go his independent way. Thus alienated from God, mankind suffered the corruption of his nature, rendering him unable to please God. The fall took place at the beginning of human history, and all individuals since have suffered these consequences and are in need of the saving grace of God. The Salvation of mankind is, then, wholly a work of God's free grace, not the result, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness, and must be personally appropriated by repentance and faith. Salvation is available to all, but it must be received to become a child of God (John 1:12). When God has begun a saving work in the heart of any person, he gives assurance in his Word that he will continue performing it until the day of its full consummation. (John 3:16, Romans 10:9)

# HUMAN DESTINY

Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. For all mankind, there will be a resurrection of the body into the spiritual world and a judgment that will determine the fate of each individual. Unbelievers will be separated from God into condemnation. God's judgment will reveal his justice in consigning them to perpetuate in eternal retribution for their own rejection of God. Believers will be received into eternal communion with God and will be rewarded for works done in this life. (Romans 6:23)

# THE CHURCH

The result of being united with Jesus Christ is that all believers become positional members of his body, the Church. There is one true universal Church, comprised of all those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Scriptures command believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, and the teaching of the Word of God. The Scriptures also command believers to devote themselves to the observance of Baptism and Communion as the sacramental ordinances established by Jesus Christ. We believe that Baptism by immersion, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is commanded by God. It is subsequent to conversion and is not a saving ordinance but an obedient outward expression of an inward work of the Spirit of God. (Matthew 3:13-17). We believe that Communion is a symbol of the broken body and shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It represents the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord, and a looking forward to the second coming of Christ to receive his own (1 Corinthians 11:23-24). The Scriptures also command believers to devote themselves to fellowship, to service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts, and to outreach to the world. Every member of Christ's body should share their Christian witness with others. (Acts 2:42)

# FAITH AND PRACTICE

Scripture is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. This church recognizes that it cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where Scripture is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord, to whom he or she alone is ultimately responsible.