

## CONFESSING WHAT WE BELIEVE

A creed is a statement of what a person believes. Three creeds are accepted by most Christians throughout the world as true and correct summaries of explanations of what the Bible teaches concerning God and His work. These creeds are the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed.

The Apostles' Creed is:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

As you can see, this creed is divided into three parts or articles. The first article talks about God the Father and His work of creation. The second article talks about God the Son and His work of redeeming (saving). The third article summarizes the work of God the Holy Spirit.

In worship we often recite the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. By so doing, we proclaim before one another the deeds of our God. Also, in recounting what God has done and continues to do, we glorify and honor Him.

The true God is often referred to as the "Triune God." Triune means "Three-in-one" and expresses that God is one yet three persons. The word "Trinity" means the same thing.

Our worship service often begins with the words, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." These words announce that we worship the Triune God and call upon this God to bless us.

The stained glass window on the front of our sanctuary symbolizes the Triune God. The all-seeing eye of God represents the Father. The Lamb represents Jesus, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The dove represents the Holy Spirit who appeared in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism.

