

Greater Love in Christ Church

PREAMBLE

As Christ Jesus is the Lord of Love, peace and unity among us, this church accepts the following persuaded attitude of fellowship:

We have been led by the Holy Spirit to receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, and on the basis of our faith and his finished work of salvation, we thank God the Father that we can totally depend on, and trust in Him to accomplish his good, acceptable, and perfect will in us.

As we are empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit, we seek to live our lives in conformity to God's will and word. As we walk in, and are led by the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control, will be evident in our lives. As such, our desire is to care for and counsel one another in the spirit of brotherly love, to pray for one another, to comfort and aid each other, and to practice the love of God as the natural result of being new creations in Jesus Christ.

According to his understanding, we recognize that in Christ we are under grace and not obligated to law; and as such we owe no man anything but to love one another as Christ has loved us. Therefore, joined together by this Greater Love in Christ, we accept the unity of this fellowship in accomplishing the will of God; spreading and sharing the Gospel of Christ through all nations, contributing to the support of the ministry, the expenses of this church as it endeavors to relieve the poor and serve the community.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the following statements are derived from scripture:

1. The Bible is the inspired word of God, "...and contains all things necessary for salvation: whatever is not read within it nor may be proved by it is not to be required of anyone that it should be believed as an article of the faith or be thought required or necessary to salvation."¹ and by the ministry of the Holy Spirit is the trustworthy rule of faith and life.
I Timothy 3:16-17; Job 32:8; Luke 24:45; I Corinthians 2:10; II Corinthians 3:17.
2. The Lord our God is one, the Eternal I Am, who graciously reveals himself personally in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Deut. 6:4-5; John 17:3; Ephesians 4:6; I Cor. 8:6; Genesis 1:26; Genesis 11:7; Matt. 3:16-17; Matt. 28:19; I Cor. 12:4-6; II Cor. 13:14; I Peter 3:18; Titus 3:4-7.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, his miraculous works, in his vicarious and atoning death through his shed blood, in his bodily resurrection, in his ascension to the right hand of the father, and in his personal return with power and glory.
Is. 9:6-7; Acts 1:11; Acts 20:28; I Timothy 3:16; John 1:1 and 14; Is. 7:14;
Luke 1:31-35; Is. 53:9-10; Hebrews 7:26; II Cor. 5:21; I Peter 1:18-19; I Peter 2:22
Luke 4:38-41, 5:12-13, 18-26; 6:6-10; 7:11-16; 8:22-25; 8:26-39; John 11; 12:1;
John 2; 4:46-54
Is. 61:1; Is. 53:5; Luke 4:16-21; Luke 7:18-22; Acts 2:22; John 5:19-21
Is. 53; Lev. 17:11; Hebrews 9:22-28; Matt. 26:28; John 10:17-18; I John 2:2; I Cor. 5:7; Phil. 2:5-8
Romans 4:25; Psalms 16:10; Acts 13:34-37; I Cor. 15:3-6, 14; Romans 1:4;
John 20
Acts 1:11; Acts 2:31; Acts 5:30-31; Eph. 1:19-21; Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 12:2;
Romans 8:34; I Peter 3:22
Job 19:25; Zech. 14:3-4; Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28; Matt. 24:30; John 14:1-6; Rev. 19:11-16.
4. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. All things were made by Him; indeed, nothing was made without Him. It is the Father from whom all things came, the Son through whom all things were made, and the Spirit who gave order to that which was without form and void.
Gen. 1:1; Neh. 9:9; Job 12:9; 26:7; Psalms 8:3; Psalms 33:6; Psalms 102:25; John 1:1-5; Hebrews 1:10. Hebrews 11:3; Col.1:16-18
5. God created man, male and female, in his image and walked and talked with Him in the garden where man sinned, rejecting God's expressed will. This original sin has left man with a fallen nature at enmity with God and the rest of creation. This

fallen nature is evidenced by the fact that “all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God.” Man, condemned by one man’s sin stands lost in his unrighteousness and bound for hell, but has not been left without hope by God who loves him. By the grace of God through the righteousness of Jesus Christ, all men may be saved.

Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:7; Gen. 5:1-2; Job 33:4; Psalms 8:3-6; Gen. 3:8

Gen. 3; Ecc. 7:20; Is. 64:6; Is. 53:6; Jer. 17:9, Psalms 51:5; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12; I John 1:8 and 10.

Gen. 2:17; Gen. 3:16-19; Is. 53:2; Ezek. 18:4; Romans 5:12 and 14; Romans 6:23, Proverbs 14:12

6. God in His Hold Love has called whosoever will to salvation, which He has provided by sending his son Jesus to die on the cross in man’s place, as an atonement for man’s sin, and by raising Him up from the dead for our justification. To all who respond to God’s call, recognizing their sinfulness, repent, and by faith wrought by the Holy Spirit, receive Jesus as their Savior, God gives eternal life. With the price for His sin paid by the spotless Lamb of God, he stands acquitted for Christ’s sake, forgiven, cleansed, redeemed, reconciled – a new creation. This salvation cannot be earned for we are saved by the grace of God through faith and that not of ourselves it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man shall boast.

Is. 43:11; 45:21-22; Is. 53; Job 19:25; Psalms 106:21; Matt. 1:21; John 3:5 and 16-17; John 4:42; Acts 4:12; 15:11; Romans 10:9-11; Eph. 2:8-10; Galatians 1:4; I Timothy 1:15; Titus 13:4-7; I John 2:2

7. As the individual is a new creation in Christ, raised with him out of death into life, possessed of and led by the Holy Spirit, so also is the church as a whole. This new creation is one body with many members, complete in Him who is the head. God “has put all things under his feet and gave Him to be the head over all things in the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.”

II Cor. 5:17; Col. 2:12; I Cor. 6:14

Psalms 133:1; John 10:16; John 17:11 and 21-23; Romans 12:4-5; I Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 4: 3-7; Eph. 5:23

Eph. 1:22-23

8. For His body, indeed for all men, Christ will once again come; personally, visibly, suddenly, and gloriously. As surely as He was raised, all men will be raised; the unjust to a resurrection of condemnation and the just to a resurrection of life. These, the just, are the children of the Resurrection, the righteous, the redeemed who sing a new song, and who inherit the new heaven and the new earth, to reign forever and ever with Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

John 5:28-29; John 11:25-26; John 14:1-6; Acts 1:11; Romans 8:18-25; I Cor. 15; I Thess. 4:13-18; II Thess. 2:1-9; I Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 9:27-28; II Peter 3:10-13; Rev. 19:11-16; Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 21:1-7

Footnotes:

1. Article #6 Church of England