

The Apostles' Creed

Common Worship 2000

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer 1662

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 Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting.
Amen.

I Believe in Jesus

Sermons and Bible Studies Autumn 2019

In our sermons and Bible studies during the autumn we are again going back to basics and doing so with the Apostles' Creed. A year ago we looked at the first part of the creed (I believe in God) and this time we are looking at the longer second part under the title "I believe in Jesus".

In the **sermons** we will be thinking about the significance of each word or phrase and at the teaching of the Bible which lies behind them. We will see how the Creed describes Jesus and the particular events of His life and future.

In our **Bible studies** we will approach matters from the other direction. First we will look at the early sermons preached by the followers of Jesus and what they said about Him. Then we will look at what the Bible writers wrote about the key events of Jesus' birth, death, resurrection, ascension, current heavenly reign and coming again. In all this we are not simply thinking about why we say "I believe..." but asking what is the significance of what we say we believe for our life as His followers today.

It seems that lots of early churches had simple creeds which were used to teach new believers and at baptism. Unlike the Nicene Creed there has never been just one version of the Apostles' Creed and for that reason the Eastern churches have never given it the same importance. But in Western Europe since about 700AD there has largely been just one form though with various translations. We will mostly use the translation used in the Church of England since 2000AD. Where necessary we will also refer to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer translation which is part of the official doctrine of our church.

Whether in Latin or various English translations, this creed has been used at baptism in the Church of England for more than 1300 years.

In the first four studies we will look at Acts and particularly the sermons of Peter and Paul and what they said about Jesus. In the remaining six studies we will consider the events mentioned in the Apostles' Creed. **Use this sheet in the first four studies to make a note of events we will be looking at later on.** Either record the chapter/verse or a brief summary.

Conception and Birth	Ascension
Suffering death and burial	Heavenly Reign (at the right hand of the Father)
Resurrection	Coming to judge