



The Apostles' Creed

Introduction:

The Apostles' Creed is not a document written by the apostles themselves, but a faithful summary of apostolic doctrine that developed gradually in the early church. Its roots trace back to early baptismal confessions used in the first few centuries where new believers would publicly affirm core Christian beliefs before baptism. Over time, the Creed was expanded and clarified, to guard against heresy and to more clearly articulate the gospel handed down from the apostles. By the early medieval period, the form of the Creed we now recognize had become standardized in the Western church. The Anglican tradition received it through the broader catholic (universal) church and formally embedded it in its worship through the *Book of Common Prayer* (1662).

Why the Creed Matters Today:

Have you ever struggled to put your faith into words when someone asks, "What do you believe?" The Apostles' Creed helps us do this with unity. It is a simple, historic summary of the Christian faith that begins with the words, "I believe," reminding us that faith is personal. At the same time, it reminds us that we are not inventing our own beliefs. Through baptism and our allegiance to King Jesus, we join our faith with the church across time. When we confess the Creed together, we are standing with Christians who have believed and proclaimed these same truths for centuries. The Creed is valuable for several reasons in the life of our church:

1. **The Creed** provides clarity and unity. By agreeing on these core truths, believers from different backgrounds can stand together on what matters most.
2. **The Creed** connects us to a living faith. When we confess the Creed, we are not only expressing what we believe today, but also joining our voices with the early church, reminding us that we belong to something much bigger than ourselves.
3. **The Creed** provides a clear summary of Christian belief. The Creed **does not replace Scripture**, but it helps us understand and remember the essential teachings of the Scripture and guides us in interpreting it rightly.
4. **The Creed** serves as a tool for discipleship. As we learn, memorize, and recite it together, our understanding of the faith deepens, and it becomes a steady guide for helping others follow Jesus.



The Apostles' Creed¹

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.

¹ This version of the Apostles' Creed is the modern ecumenical text, finalized in 1988 by the English Language Liturgical Consultation, and is now widely used across Anglican, Methodist, and other Christian traditions. Compared to the older 1662 Anglican wording, it reflects several updated expressions, including "creator of heaven and earth" in place of "maker," "conceived by the Holy Spirit" instead of "Holy Ghost," "he descended to the dead" rather than "descended into hell," and "judge the living and the dead" in place of "quick and the dead."