

# what we believe

the central truths of our faith

## GOD

There is one true God, eternally existing in the trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God governs over all things according to His will, and is accomplishing His purpose in the world and in His church. He is the creator and sustainer of all things, perfect in love and righteous in all His ways.

## THE BIBLE

The Bible reveals the being, nature, character and purposes of God. Fully God-breathed, it was recorded by human authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. As the written Word of God, it is living and powerful, active in accomplishing God's purposes. The Bible is wholly true and trustworthy, the complete revelation of God's will for salvation and the ultimate authority for belief and behaviour.

## JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ the Son of God came to earth, conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, as fully God and fully man in one person. He lived a sinless life in perfect obedience to God, paid for sin by dying on the cross as our substitute. Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and reigns with God. He is the only mediator between God and mankind. Jesus Christ will come again to this earth, personally and visibly, in power and glory to fulfil the eternal plan of God, and His kingdom will have no end.

## MANKIND

God created people in His image to live in fellowship with Him, but man sinned by disobeying God choosing to go his own independent way; resulting in the corruption of his nature and alienation from God. All people are sinful by nature and choice, and therefore under God's judgment of eternal separation from Him. But God in His great love and mercy provides the way for us to be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

## SALVATION

Jesus Christ as our representative and substitute, died on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for sin, effecting true reconciliation between God and mankind for those who believe. Salvation cannot be earned through personal goodness or human effort, or obtained through any other person, religious process or power. It is only available through God's unearned favour, a free gift that is received by repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord. To those who put their faith in Christ alone, God graciously credits the righteousness of Jesus, thereby making them blameless in God's sight, and reconciled to relationship with Him.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin and draws them to Christ, imparting new life and continually living in them from the moment of their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit comforts, teaches and guides; He reveals and illuminates God's truth. He initiates and continues a process of transformation, producing in them the character of Christ. The Holy Spirit equips believers with spiritual gifts to encourage and strengthen the Church, empowers them to serve God, and to reveal and proclaim Christ to the world.

## THE CHURCH

The Church is the universal community of all believers united in Jesus Christ their Saviour and Lord. With Christ as their head, the Church functions together as many parts of one body, with the purpose of glorifying and worshipping God forever, and the mission of serving Him in the world. The Church is to make Christ known, proclaiming God's truth and His saving grace. They are to love, serve and equip one another; growing in spiritual maturity. Loving God supremely and others sacrificially, they are to live out their faith with care for others, compassion for the poor and justice for the oppressed. They are to influence and impact their community, nation and world with God's love, exhibit God's character, and demonstrate the reality of God's Kingdom.

## ETERNAL DESTINY

Jesus Christ will return to the earth, He will raise the dead and bring salvation and judgement to final completion. Unbelievers will be separated from God's presence forever to eternal condemnation and punishment. But Christ will receive all those who have put their faith and trust in Him, into eternal fellowship with God. Believers will live and reign with Christ in the fullness of God's glorious kingdom, worshipping and glorifying God forever.