



## Statement of Faith

HTC is an independent non-denominational church rooted in the teachings and traditions of the Church of England. We are committed to the truth and power of the Word of God, the Sovereignty of the Father, the Lordship of the Son of God, the Ministry of the Holy Spirit, the Mission of the church and the Priesthood of all believers.

We pursue Biblical orthodoxy, confessing the historic faith of the Christian Church as expressed in the Nicene and Apostles Creeds and the 39 Articles of the Church of England.

### ***Nicene Creed***

***I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.***

***And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

***Apostles' Creed***

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

***2. And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:***

***3. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary:***

***4. Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell:***

***5. The third day he rose again from the dead:***

***6. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty:***

***7. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:***

***8. I believe in the Holy Ghost:***

***9. I believe in the holy catholic church: the communion of saints:***

***10. The forgiveness of sins:***

***11. The resurrection of the body:***

***12. And the life everlasting. Amen.***

# **HTC STATEMENT OF FAITH**

## **About the Trinity**

We believe there is only one true God, eternally existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each is equal in every divine attribute, executing distinct but harmonious roles in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

## **About God the Father**

We believe in God the Father, who is infinite, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, immutable and perfect in holiness, wisdom, justice and love. We believe He is a personal God and sovereignly acts in the affairs of humanity and that, in His grace and mercy, He saves men, women and children from sin and death.

## **About Jesus Christ the Son**

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who became a man without ceasing to be God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. His life was sinless, and His death provided substitutionary atonement for the sins of humanity. We believe in His bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, and priestly intercession for all believers.

## **About the Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who illuminates, indwells, sanctifies and empowers all believers until the day of redemption, providing each with various gifts for service and who is an abiding helper, teacher, guide and comforter. We believe He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment.

## **About the Bible**

We believe the Bible is the divinely--inspired Word of God, wholly truthful and trustworthy, pointing to life in God through Jesus Christ. God's Word is our supreme authority and sufficient for understanding all matters of faith, doctrine and conduct. Our only resource for critical discernment in this world is the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit as He helps us understand the Bible, our source of truth. Therefore, we view Scripture as foundational for all we do. It is a resource God has graciously provided us, containing the message to humanity that He Himself put forth. It is inerrant in the original documents as God inspired men to write its contents, and infallible in the sense that it contains nothing that would lead to error, falsehood, or untruth when soundly interpreted through the Holy Spirit.

## **About Angels and Satan**

We believe in angels of God as well as fallen angels (demons) including Satan, who fell from favor with God to become the enemy of both God and humanity. We believe Satan, who is the temporary ruler of this world, is wholly evil and is a tempter and deceiver of humanity, blinding the unregenerate

with spiritual darkness. We believe believers have power through Christ over Satan and his host of demons who will eventually be judged and punished forever.

## **About Humanity**

We believe all humanity, male and female alike, is created in the image of God, but, due to disobedience against God's good and just authority, has incurred a sinful nature. Since the Fall of man through Adam, humanity has been sinful by nature and by choice, as well as subject to the power of Satan. We believe humanity has no power to change its fallen state, but can only be redeemed by the power of God, through Jesus Christ.

## **About Marriage and Leadership**

We believe both the image and roles of men and women flow from the essence of God's Trinitarian identity. There is mutual submission within the Trinity even though there are differing roles within the Trinity. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all equally and fully God, but each with different roles. Jesus submits to the Father and the Holy Spirit submits to both the Father and Jesus. We believe both Adam and Eve were created in God's image being equal before God as persons and that the role distinctions within biblical manhood and womanhood were ordained by God as part of His creation before the Fall, and were not a result of sin. We believe both the Old Testament and the New Testament reveal the equally high value and dignity created by God in the distinct roles of men and women within marriage.

We equally value and encourage both women and men in leadership roles within our church.

## **About Salvation, Sanctification and Manifestation**

We believe salvation is the work of spiritual regeneration obtained only by the sovereign grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, as a result of His bodily death and resurrection where He paid the penalty for sin. He offers forgiveness and eternal life to those who repent from their sin and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior. Furthermore, there is no meritorious effort of any kind that anyone can do to receive God's gift of salvation. We believe the Holy Spirit illuminates the heart of an unbeliever to seek God, and at the time of conversion, He indwells and seals the believer, guaranteeing the believer's eternal inheritance as a child of God. We believe it is the work of the Holy Spirit to sanctify and fill/empower the believer as the believer learns to live in/by the Holy Spirit for lifelong spiritual growth. We believe even though a believer experiences the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit at conversion, they do not necessarily experience the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit or the filling/empowering work of the Holy Spirit at conversion. The sanctifying and filling/empowering work of the Holy Spirit is experienced as one pursues the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit. We believe the initial filling of the Holy Spirit and the ongoing pursuit of more filling should manifest itself through the fruit of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We believe all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the church today as they were for the early church.

## **About the Church**

We believe the church, called the body of Christ, is made up of all true believers worldwide. We believe in the local assembly of believers for the purpose of community, commission and compassion. We believe each member of HTC is responsible to submit to Christ's headship, as well as to one another, striving to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, loving one another and seeking to be used of God in service, employing their spiritual gifts to further the cause of Christ.

## **HTC Sacraments**

We believe Jesus Christ instituted two sacraments that all believers are to observe: water baptism and communion, which flow from a healthy community committed to prayer and to worship of Jesus Christ. We believe our church is to be a house of prayer and worship, going after God's heart and presence so the church can be empowered to accomplish the mission God has given it.

We believe water baptism symbolizes and identifies believers with Christ's death, burial and resurrection, bearing public testimony of their belief in Him. As we believe that baptism does not save you, we allow for both infant baptism, to signify inclusion of a child into the family of God, and also adult full immersion.

We believe communion is a celebration of Christ's sacrifice on the cross where the bread symbolizes His sacrificed body, and the cup symbolizes the new covenant in His blood. As we partake in communion we celebrate His active presence, while longing for His future return.

## **About Last Things, the Church.**

We believe in the personal, imminent, earthly return of the Lord Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom forever. We believe in the bodily resurrection and judgment of all humanity, believers to eternal life in the presence of God, and unbelievers to separation from God. We believe the gracious free gift of salvation that comes through Jesus is equally offered to all Gentiles and Jews, and that all who belong to Christ are Abraham's children and heirs to God's promises. We believe the church neither is separate from Israel nor does it replace Israel, but that the church is made up of the remnant of Christ followers who are Jews and Gentiles. We believe in a future hope for the nation of Israel and that the church should show mercy to Jews and Israel, while not necessarily supporting all political positions of the nation Israel.