

AN EXPANDED APOSTLES' CREED

This expanded Apostles' Creed is a tool to help contemporary Christians confront three challenges — fragmentation of the biblical story, temptation to live by alternative life-explaining stories, and pressure to keep Christian faith private. It includes the original Creed, but also draws on Scripture to fill in key parts of the Christian Story omitted in the original (such as the goodness of creation, humankind's rebellion against God with its creation-wide consequences, God's purposeful involvement with Israel in history, the exemplary life of Jesus the Messiah, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit who sustains us in the current age of mission, and the promise of a renewed earth).

The Apostles' Creed encourages those who use it to live lives shaped by the reality that one God in three persons — the Father, the Son, the Spirit — is the creator, saviour, sustainer, judge, and future hope of all people. We hope this expanded Apostles' Creed also encourages those who use it to value the gift of embodied life, to apply Christian faith to all aspects of life within the public sphere, and to care for God's good earth.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,**

God's Intention

who created the world very good,
and placed the first couple in Eden, a perfect home.

There they succumbed to temptation
and chose autonomy over obedience,
with consequences for the entire creation,
unleashing sin and destruction into God's good creation.

Exile

God responded by choosing Abraham,
through whom he vowed to recover his purposes for all nations.
From Abraham's descendants God formed his people Israel,
and placed them in the land of Canaan,
to be a showcase to the world of life under God's reign.
Israel's persistent disobedience led to the judgement of exile,
announced by the prophets,
who also proclaimed the coming day
when God through his Messiah would establish his kingdom.

Calling Israel to a Mission

**I believe in Jesus the Messiah, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

The Surprising Victory of Jesus

He lived a full and perfect life,
and in his public ministry he proclaimed and embodied the kingdom of God.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.

From there he poured out the Spirit on the day of Pentecost,
inaugurating the age of mission,
in which the news and life of the kingdom
are to be carried to all nations.

The Renewed People of God

He will come again

to judge the living and the dead

and inaugurate the new heavens and the new earth.

God Comes Home

**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.**