

## CCF Statement of Faith

We are Calvary Chapel Freiburg. We are a part of the universal church of Jesus Christ and at the same time a local church here in Freiburg.

As a part of the universal church of Jesus Christ, we confess the classical, historic Christian faith in Jesus Christ, as it was proclaimed in all the world by his Apostles. This faith is found in the Bible and is summarised concisely and clearly in the early creeds of the Christian church – in the Apostles' Creed and in the Nicene Creed. In sharing this confession, we express our unity with Christians from all confessions and churches throughout the world and from all times, who, together with us, confess faith in Jesus Christ. It is on the basis of this apostolic faith that we baptise at Calvary Chapel Freiburg.

We also have further foundational and biblical convictions which give us our identity as a Calvary Chapel and as a local church in and for Freiburg. We have summarised these convictions in our Statement of Faith.

1. We believe in the **Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit**, three divine persons, each co-eternal and co-equally God, they exist in loving mutual relationship as **the one, true, almighty God**, the creator of heaven and earth, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (Mt. 28.18-20, 2 Cor. 13.13; Jn 1.1-2, 14, 18; Jn 8.58; Jn. 10.30; Jn 20.28; Rom. 9.5; Tit. 2.3; Col. 1.15-20; Acts 5.3-4; Deut. 6.4; Isa. 45.5-6 & 46.9-10; Gen. 1.1).
2. We believe in **God the Father**, the Almighty. The Father so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Before the creation of the world, he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen the Father, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side, has made him known. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made. (Jn 3.16; Eph. 1.5; Jn 1.18; Rom. 1.20).
3. We believe in **God the Son, Jesus Christ**, the eternal Son of God, begotten, not made; he was incarnate, that is, he was united to human nature, he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and became man. He is truly God and truly man. He is the Messiah, the Holy One of God, the Glory of his people Israel; in him and through him are fulfilled all the promises which God gave to Abraham, Moses and David. (Jn 1.1-4; Heb. 1.3a; Mt. 1.20; Lk. 1.34-35; 2 Cor. 1.20, Col. 2.17, Gal. 3.16, Mt. 1.1, Acts 3.24-25).
4. We believe in **God the Holy Spirit**, the Spirit of God, who proceeds from the Father, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son, who with the Father and Son together is worshipped and glorified. He is a person, the *Paraclete*, that is, the Helper and Comforter, who is given to us by the Father through the Son. He convicts the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment. He makes the Son, Jesus Christ, known to us. (Jn 15.26; Jn 14.15, Jn 16.7-11).
5. We believe that the **Holy Scriptures** (the Word of God) are inspired and infallible. The Bible is true, it is sufficient and is the highest authority in all questions of Christian faith and practice, both for the individual Christian and also for the whole church. Therefore, the Bible is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. (Ps. 19.7-11; 2 Pet. 1.20-21, 2 Tim. 3.15-17).
6. We believe in **Creation by God's Word (fiat)**. The universe was created by the word and power of God alone, from nothing. God is the Creator and the Lord over all life, over all the creation. God saw the creation, all that he had made, and God saw that it was very good. The later corruption of creation by sin does not erase this goodness. Though fallen, the creation continues to declare the glory of God and longs for its restoration at the end of this age. All things, the entire creation including mankind was created for, and exists to, the glory of God. (Heb. 11.3; Gen. 1.1; Gen.

1.31; Ps. 104; Ps. 8; Ps. 19.1-6; Rom. 8.20-22; Acts 3.21; Isa. 65.17ff; Ps. 148; Rom. 11.33-36; 1 Cor. 10.31; Col. 1,15-20)

7. We believe that God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – created **mankind in his own image**, in his likeness, as man and woman he created them, endowed with equal value and dignity. Their being created in God's image, and placed by God over the creation, men and women are unique, the crowning glory of God's creation; and through union with Christ capable of partaking in his divine nature. Being created in the image of God confers a dignity on each human being, including the unborn, that is inviolable. God saw that it was not good that the man was alone, and so he created the woman as a companion to complement the man. In bringing the woman to the man, God ordained marriage as a life-long covenant between one man and one woman. According to His purpose and design, God created men and women to fulfil distinct but complementary roles in the contexts of marriage, family and the local church. (Gen. 1.26-27; 2 Pet. 1.3-4; Gen. 9.5-6; Ps. 139.13-14; Lk. 1.15; Lk. 1.42-44; Gen. 1.18, 22-24)
8. We believe that all human beings, except Jesus Christ, are **sinners**, that is, they do not live in such a way as to give God the honour that is due to him, they disobey him and transgress his commandments. It was through the disobedience of the first human beings, Adam and Eve, that sin entered into the world. Sin rightfully deserves the judgement of God. The punishment for sin is firstly, physical death, and following that, spiritual death. (Rom. 3.23; Ps. 51.4-5; Rom. 5.12; Eph. 2.1-3, Rom. 6.23).
9. We believe that Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, was **without sin**, that he was **crucified for us**, under Pontius Pilate, that he died as a **substitutionary sin offering of atonement** for all humanity, in order to take the penalty for our sin upon himself, and that he was **buried**. (Heb. 4.15; Heb. 7.26; 1 Jn 3.5; Mt. 27.26; 2 Cor. 5.21; Rom. 3.21-26; Isa. 53.4-6; Mt. 27.59).
10. We believe that on the third day Jesus Christ **was resurrected bodily** from the dead; and as such, that he has overcome the power of death and of sin; that as triumphant victor he has **ascended bodily into heaven**, that from there he **shall return**, in order to redeem his church, to bring in the judgement at the end of the age and to assume his kingship in all power and authority. God alone knows the day and hour at which Christ will return; this moment is hidden from us. (1 Cor. 15.3-5; Mt. 28.5-6; Acts 2.24, Col. 2.15, Rom. 6.9; Acts 1.9-11; Acts 17.31; Mt. 25; 2 Thess. 1.5-10; Mk 13.32; Acts 1.7; Mt. 25.13).
11. We believe in the **resurrection of the dead**, that at the return of Christ all people who have ever lived shall be bodily resurrected: those who repent and turn from sin and trust in Jesus Christ shall be resurrected to eternal life; those who remain disobedient to the gospel of Christ shall be resurrected to eternal punishment. (Acts 24.15; Jn 5.28-29; Mt. 25.31-46; Jn 14.1-4; 2 Thess. 1.8-9).
12. We believe that our **redemption** from sin and death was accomplished **by Christ alone**, by means for his perfect, sinless life, his substitutionary death and his victorious resurrection. We believe that we partake of this redemption in Christ **by God's grace alone**, and that we take hold of this redemption **through faith in Jesus Christ alone**. (Heb. 9.26-28; Heb. 10.10&14; Heb. 4.15; Col. 2.13-15; Eph. 2.8-9; Rom. 3.21-30; Jn 14.6; Acts 4.12).
13. We believe in the **Church** of Jesus Christ, that there exists only one, catholic or universal church, whose head is Jesus Christ. To this church belong men and women from all times, of all nations, peoples and languages who believe in Jesus Christ. Every local church is an expression of this one catholic church. This church is holy, as she has been bought dearly by the blood of Jesus Christ. She is apostolic, as she is founded upon the doctrines of the Apostles, whom Jesus Christ authorised with the preaching of the gospel. (Eph. 4.4-6; Col. 1.18; Mt. 28.18-20; Acts 2.8-11; Rev. 7.9-10; Acts 20.28; Acts 2.42, Eph. 2.20)

14. We believe that Jesus has given his Church **holy baptism** and **holy communion** as ordinances or sacraments. Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals, through which God works in order to seal and testify to us the promises of the gospel. **Holy baptism** is the sign marking the beginning of the Christian life, confession of faith in Jesus, and entry into his body, the Church. It signifies that our sins have been washed away, that we have been united with Christ in his death and resurrection and have received his Holy Spirit. **Holy Communion** is the sign marking our continuing fellowship with Christ and his Church. We remember Jesus' suffering and death for his people. We receive spiritual nourishment from Christ and recognise that we are not alone, but rather are in fellowship because we are one body. (Mt. 28.18-20; 1 Cor. 11.23-34; Ps. 34.8; Acts 2.38; Acts 22.16; Rom. 6.3-5; Tit. 3.5; 1 Pet. 3.21; Jn 6.53-57; 1 Cor. 10.17).
15. We believe in the present and continuing **ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church**. The Holy Spirit gives new life, and who is given as a seal to all who confess faith in Jesus. He works in us for our sanctification and empowers us to remain faithful in following Christ, that our lives are pleasing to God. He gives us unity as Christians and as brothers and sisters, his peace holds us together. The Holy Spirit gives a variety of spiritual gifts to the Church, in order to edify and authorise her. All gifts serve to strengthen the church and give glory to God. Such gifts are to be practiced in love and in accordance with God's Word. (Jn 3.5-8; Tit. 3.5; Eph. 1.13-14; Gal. 5.16-25; Rom 8.13-14; Eph. 4.3; Heb. 2.4; 1 Cor. 12.1-11, 1 Pet. 4.10-11; 1 Cor. 13.8; 1 Cor. 14.33.40)

## Creeds

We confess: these creeds are both reliable summaries of the doctrine of the Bible concerning our faith as Christians. At the same time, they are a symbol of the unity that we have with other churches and Christians, for together with them we confess the same faith. If you have questions about these creeds, please speak to us!

### The Apostles' Creed

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 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 God, the Father  
almighty;  
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.

### The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the 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,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God of true God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;

Who for us men, and for our salvation came  
down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and was made man,  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate.  
he suffered and was buried,  
On the third day he rose again  
according to the Scriptures,  
he ascended into heaven,  
and He sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And he shall come again with glory to judge  
both the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom shall have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
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 we believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the remission  
of sins.  
We look for the Resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.