

An Open* Pilgrim Creed

We believe that our God is pure, perfect Love:
an unfathomable, indivisible Trinity -
immortal Father, everlasting Son, and eternal Holy Spirit,
in mutual, unbroken communion.

We believe that, in love, God created all things:
everything out of nothing -
the visible and invisible, the heavens and the earth,
all things good in their order.

Creation is infused with the energising Spirit of God:
it is alive with growth and for change -
all flora and fauna, along with sun, moon and stars,
are dynamically interconnected.

We uphold that human beings are made in God's image:
the highpoint and custodians of creation -
this honour bestows dignity upon all of humanity,
and lends purpose to every good endeavour.

While affirming creation's good order, we concede these anomalies:
the existence of evil and malevolent powers -
a wickedness has infiltrated and ruptured creation,
a corruption not of God's causing.

Influenced by such evils, we've rebelled against our Creator:
spurning God's rule and good order -
we chose what is wrong and broke the covenant of love,
so God's image in us is misshaped.

We believe our wilful dissent has caused us to die:
a spiritual death which our bodies soon follow -
this was God's provisional sentence upon his high creation,
who dove headlong into wreckage and ruin.

We believe in a fair, future reckoning by our holy God:
wrongs will be righted and wickedness ended -
each of us will be accountable for our deeds, good and bad,
in proportion to the light we were given.

**Open to debate, interpretation & personalisation.*

Nonetheless, we are assured, God is loath to condemn:
preferring mercy over retributive punishment -
no matter how far we've strayed nor how grave the sin,
God invites us Home each by name and for healing.

Yet God's care overflows, should we answer yes or with no:
an expression of His wholesale affection -
His sun rises on the evil as well as on the good,
His rain falls on both the gallant and tyrant.

So, the universe resounds with the Song of the Divine:
sung for every tribe, tongue and nation -
God's momentous powers and qualities are by Creation intoned,
but we do not readily respond with true worship.

Nevertheless, God progressively revealed His will and His ways:
by guiding the truth-trajectory of the Bible -
through its canonical books, comprised of Old and New Testaments,
Divine wisdom is varyingly expressed.

The Bible was composed by ancient people moved by the Spirit:
and bound by their cultures and customs -
it tells their stories of God's dealings with a world loved and lost,
and the reconciling of creation to its Creator.

We believe that Abraham's calling to obey, love and trust,
was a founding narrative for Israel, the nation -
he left his old life behind, walked by faith not by sight,
and it was credited to him as righteousness.

And, God chose Abraham's descendants to receive divine favour:
through this family would all nations be blessed -
though not always faithful *this* will forever be their boast:
from the Jews was our Jesus descended.

We believe the Word of God is personified in Jesus the Christ:
being fully God and fully human uniquely -
the Father loved the world so much that He gave His own perfect Son,
to save all upon repentance and belief.

When He walked in the world, Christ was God here with us:
embodying deep truth and full grace -
Jesus freed the oppressed, gave sight to the blind
and proclaimed the good news of God's favour.

We believe that the Cross was embraced by our Christ:
the supreme demonstration of co-suffering Love -
having shared our humanity, Jesus died in our place,
to remove sin-debt, felt-guilt and self-shame.

We believe that, in power, Christ was raised up to life:
never to die again -
so Jesus vanquished death and the malevolent powers,
way-making the path of full living.

So, God declared Christ Jesus to be 'Lord over all':
Whose reign brings love, justice and peace -
His Kingdom rescues, renews, restores and reclaims,
repairing to God what was broken.

Now there is no other Name by which we will be saved:
all our hopes trace through Jesus alone -
He has ensured by the Cross *and* by His Crown,
full salvation; past, present and future.

We believe in the mighty Holy Spirit of God:
God's personal, indwelling Presence -
Who empowered Christ during His life here on earth,
and is promised to us for the same.

We believe in the transformative power of God:
by which we are growing for good -
being changed for the better, we live to love, serve and bless,
and be on mission with God where He sends us.

We believe Jesus has called us to go and make disciples:
who are saved by grace, through faith -
we are made agents of God's Kingdom and, filled with the Spirit,
seek to embody Christ's example and teachings.

We believe that Christ's teachings inform the whole of our lives:
there is no 'sacred' and 'secular' division -
the Lordship of Christ is holistic and wholesome,
every day being redeemed for His glory.

We believe that Christ-followers should meet regularly together:
each belonging to the broad Church of God -
we are bound together in love and to worship our Lord,
offering hearts, souls and minds with best strength.

The Church is mystically amalgamated with Jesus, the Christ:
a holy union held fast by the Spirit -
one faith, one baptism, one Lord and Father over all,
bread and wine the food of Communion.

And we believe that Christ Jesus is building His Church:
upon the foundation of her apostles and prophets -
each church and all churches are to manifest God's Kingdom,
one living temple of faith, hope and love.

We anticipate hostility towards the Church and the Kingdom:
a war principally spiritual in nature -
we will stand for what's right and fight the good fight,
using only weapons divinely enabled.

So, we believe in the power of faith-filled prayer:
of interceding with words and in Spirit -
we pray for Christ's people, for leaders and nations,
and the mobilisation of more on God's mission.

We are assured and expectant of Christ's ultimate victory:
the overcoming of every resistance -
all enemies assailed, the Kingdom prevails,
next, a new earth with new heaven.

Until then, we await the return of our Lord:
as foretold at His time of ascension -
when the faithful and forgiven, alive or departed,
will be united in Love and reward.

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