

## Creeds and Affirmations of Faith

*based on New Patterns for Worship and Common Worship  
and authorised for use under the Canons of the Church of England.*

### **The role of creeds**

It is important for our unity in the catholic faith that any creeds used are not private or local compositions, but ones that are recognized by the wider Church. However, in Morning and Evening Prayer and in both Order One and Order Two Holy Communion the Creed may be omitted on weekdays, so omitting it clearly does not make the service invalid in some way! Public recitation of the Creed has not always been an essential part of the Church's worship. A Service of the Word allows for the occasional substitution of one of the Affirmations of Faith for the Creed. Some of these are already set to music, and one of them is the specially-commissioned hymn paraphrase of the Apostles' Creed, 'We believe in God the Father' by Timothy Dudley-Smith. There is no provision for the use of any other credal hymn as a substitute, and where one is used on a Sunday it might well follow one of the shorter Affirmations of Faith.

### **Creeds**

The Apostles Creed is the recommended Creed for Morning and Evening Prayer. It is in a simpler form with a personal application (I believe). The Nicene Creed is the recommended Creed for Holy Communion. It is in a corporate form (We believe) as Communion is Corporate.

However either can be used or the Athanasian Creed (from BCP) or an authorized Affirmation of Faith as given below may be used. Suitable words of introduction or conclusion (such as 'Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit') to the Creed or Affirmation of Faith may be used.

### **E 1 The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**E2 The Nicene Creed may be used responsively as follows**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
**A// maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,

**A// God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,**  
 begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

**A// Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
 was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
 and was made man.

**A// For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**  
**he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

**A// he ascended into heaven**  
**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**  
**and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

**A// the Lord, the giver of life,**

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

**A// With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.**

He has spoken through the prophets.

**A// We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**A// We look for the resurrection of the dead,**  
**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The text of the Nicene Creed which omits the phrase 'and the Son' in the third paragraph may be used on suitable ecumenical occasions. See Common Worship, p140.

The other authorized texts of the Nicene Creed are printed in the Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion – Order One (Traditional Language) and Order Two (Common Worship, p.213 and 234).

**The Apostles' Creed**

The origin of the Apostles' Creed is the profession of faith made at baptism. This association may have implications for the occasion when it is used at Holy Communion.

**E3 Apostles Creed in Modern Language**

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

I believe 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 the Father,  
 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.

(or)

**E4 Apostles Creed in Traditional Language**

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.

He descended into hell;  
 the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
 from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;  
 the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed may also be used in the following form

**E5 Responsive Apostles Creed**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**AII I believe 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 the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**AII 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 Athanasian Creed**

The authorized form of the Athanasian Creed is given in BCP:

Whosoever will be saved: before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholick Faith. Which Faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled: without doubt he shall perish everlastingily. And the Catholick Faith is this:

That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;  
Neither confounding the Persons: nor dividing the Substance.  
For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son: and another of the Holy Ghost.  
But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one: the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.  
Such as the Father is, such is the Son: and such is the Holy Ghost.  
The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate: and the Holy Ghost uncreate.  
The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible: and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible.

The Father eternal, the Son eternal: and the Holy Ghost eternal.  
And yet they are not three eternals: but one eternal.  
As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated: but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible.  
So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty: and the Holy Ghost Almighty. And yet they are not three AlUITties: but one Almighty.  
So the Father is God, the Son is God: and the Holy Ghost is God.  
And yet they are not three Gods: but one God.  
So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord: and the Holy Ghost Lord.  
And yet not three Lords: but one Lord.  
For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity: to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord;  
So are we forbidden by the Catholick Religion: to say there be three Gods, or three Lords.

The Father is made of none: neither created, nor begotten.  
The Son is of the Father alone: not made, nor created, but begotten.

The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son: neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons: one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other: none is greater, or less than another; But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together: and co-equal.

So that in all things, as is aforesaid: the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved: must thus think of the Trinity.

Furthermore it is necessary to everlasting salvation: that he also believe rightly the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right Faith is that we believe and confess: that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God, of the Substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds: and Man, of the Substance of his Mother, born in the world; Perfect God, and Perfect Man: of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting; Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead: and inferior to the Father, as touching his Manhood.

Who although he be God and Man: yet he is not two, but one Christ; One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh: but by taking of the Manhood into God; One altogether, not by confusion of Substance: but by unity of Person. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man: so God and Man is one Christ.

Who suffered for our salvation: descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, he sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty: from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies: and shall give account for their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting: and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.

This is the Catholick Faith: which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

## Authorized Affirmations of Faith

In addition these Affirmations of Faith are also authorized.

### E6

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### E7

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**All We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,  
the only Son from before time began;  
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**All fully God and fully human;  
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,  
as human he is less than the Father.

**A// Although he is both divine and human  
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,  
but by taking humanity into God;

**A// truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,  
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being  
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**All The Word became flesh and lived among us; we have seen his glory,  
the glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.  
from the Athanasian Creed**

#### E8

**A// We believe in God the Father,  
God almighty, by whose plan  
earth and heaven sprang to being,  
all created things began.  
We believe in Christ the Saviour,  
Son of God in human frame,  
virgin-born, the child of Mary  
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,  
like a lamb to slaughter led,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
he descended to the dead.  
We believe in Jesus risen,  
heaven's king to rule and reign,  
to the Father's side ascended**

till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit;  
in one Church, below, above:  
saints of God in one communion,  
one in holiness and love.  
So by faith, our sins forgiven,  
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,  
we shall rise with him in glory  
to the life that knows no end.

(May be sung to any 87.87. or 87.87D. tune.)

#### E9

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**A// Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.**

Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

cf Philippians 2.6-11

#### E10

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**A// Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles:  
this we have received, and this we believe. Amen.**

cf 1 Corinthians 15.3-7

## E11

We say together in faith

**A// Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:

**A// for by his will they were created  
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:

**A// for with his blood, he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**A// the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'**

Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

cf Revelation 4.8,11; 5.9; 22.17, 20

## E12

Let us declare our faith in God.

**A// We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3

## E13 A Corporate Renewal of Baptismal Vows

This is for the corporate renewal of baptismal vows. It should only be used with due notice and proper preparation no more than once or twice a year. You can find it in New Patterns for Worship. Only use this with the permission of your Minister.

## E14 Affirmation of Commitment

This Affirmation of Commitment may be used after an authorized Creed or Affirmation of Faith

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**A// With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil and,  
whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**A// With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example  
the good news of God in Christ?

**A// With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,  
loving your neighbour as yourself?

**A// With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,  
by prayer for the world and its leaders,  
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

**A// With the help of God, I will.**

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