

#### What We Believe

### **Scripture**

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible, authoritative Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 4:12; John 20:30-31)

#### God

We believe there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalms 90:2; Matthew 28:19; Luke 1:35; 1 John 5:20; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

#### **Jesus Christ**

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ (Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-2, 10:30; 14:9; Colossians 1:15-20); in His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35), sinless life (Hebrews 4:15), miracles (John 2:11; John 10:38), atoning death through His shed blood (Romans 3:23-26; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Colossians 1:13-14, 22; 1 John 1:7; Hebrews 10:19-22), bodily resurrection (Matthew 28:6; Acts 2:23-24; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:4), ascension to the right hand of the Father (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 8:1), and future personal return in power and glory (Act 1:11; Titus 2:13)

### Mankind

We believe mankind was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), to be like Him in character, the supreme object of God's creation. Mankind is marred by a disposition of disobedience toward God called sin which separates one from God. (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3)

### **Salvation**

We believe salvation is a gift of God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9) received through repentance of sin (Acts 2:38) and by faith in Jesus Christ as one's personal Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9). Through this acceptance one becomes a child of God (John 1:12), through the Holy Spirit Christ comes into one's life (Romans 8:9; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 4:15), sins are forgiven (1 John 1:9; 1 John 2:2), new life in Christ begins (2 Corinthians 5:17; John 10:10b), and eternal life with Christ is assured (Luke 23:42-43; John 3:16; John 11:25-26, 14:2-3, 17:3).

# **Holy Spirit**

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a life pleasing to God.

(Romans 8:13; 1 Cor. 6:19; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:30, 5:18)

### Church

We believe all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are members of the body of Christ, the one true Church universal (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 3:6), and that spiritual unity is to be expressed among all believers with acceptance and love for one another (Ephesians 4:1-4). The local Church is a group of believers, each gifted by the Holy Spirit with spiritual gifts for service to others (1 Corinthians 12:7-11), who gather as a community of faith for worship, prayer, instruction, encouragement, mutual accountability, and as a witness to the world, making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20).

### **Baptism**

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ has set forth the ordinance of believer's baptism as an outward testimony of one's belief in Christ.

(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41)

#### Communion

We believe communion (the Lord's Supper) is an ordinance given to all believers by Jesus Christ to remember His sacrifice for us and to symbolize the new covenant. The elements of bread and fruit of the vine are symbols of Christ's broken body and shed blood. Communion is not a means of salvation, but rather a proclamation of one's faith in Christ's atoning work on the cross until He returns.

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

# Marriage

We believe God ordained marriage to be the union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24) in a covenant relationship (Matthew 19:6) where they are committed to each other in steadfast love, devotion and marital fidelity (Ephesians 5:21-30; Exodus 20:14) as representatives of Christ's love for His bride, the Church (Ephesians 5:25; Revelation 19:7-8). Sexual intimacy is only acceptable within the covenant relationship of marriage (Hebrews 13:4).

# **Christ's Second Coming**

We believe in the imminent personal return of Jesus Christ, appointed by God the Father to judge the living and the dead (Acts 10:42; Luke 12:40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 9-10; Titus 2:11-14), granting eternal life to those who belong to Jesus Christ and subjecting those outside of Christ to God's eternal wrath (John 5:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Revelation 20:11-15).

For details on the governance of our church, read our **Constitution and Bylaws**.