



## STATEMENT OF FAITH

Real Hope Community Church embraces the beliefs and practices of historic Christianity, as expressed in ancient statements of faith such as the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

- **What we believe about the Bible:**

*The Scriptures are inspired by God, without error in the original writing, and authoritative for all matters of faith.*

- **What we believe about God:**

*We believe in one God, creator of the universe, perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, born of the virgin Mary. We believe that Christ shed his blood on the cross, dying for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that he rose bodily from the grave and ascended into heaven. We believe that salvation comes only through personal faith in Jesus Christ.*

*We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, equal with God the Father and God the Son. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells believers from the moment of salvation and empowers them for a life that glorifies God.*

- **What we believe about the Church:**

*We believe that all people who have genuinely placed their faith in Christ are part of the universal Church, regardless of denomination or organizational affiliation.*

The statements above and the content of the ancient creeds (see below) represent our non-negotiable essentials of faith. On secondary questions of theology and biblical interpretation that have been sincerely debated by men and women of faith, we allow room for differences of opinion. In all things, we strive for unity and give each other grace as God has given it so generously to us.

## APOSTLES' CREED

3<sup>rd</sup> CENTURY

*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 and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic<sup>1</sup> church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

*Amen.*

## NICENE CREED

4<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

*We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.*

*And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come.*

*Amen.*

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<sup>1</sup> The word *catholic* in both of these creeds comes from the Greek word *katholikos*, which means *universal*. Thus, the creeds are referring to the universal/global Church of all time, and not the Roman Catholic Church.