



God is love and love lives here!

600 North Houston Lake Blvd., Centerville 31028

(478) 953-3090

www.thewellatcenterville.com

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8:30a-12:30p

Rev. Tommy Odum

pastortommy@thewellatcenterville.com; 478/397-9491

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Hey Church! We are continuing in our study of the Apostles Creed this week with our affirmation of Jesus Christ. Following last week's message, as promised, I'd like provide an article from Westminster Theological Seminary discussing God the Father. I hope this helps you throughout our series and gives a little more food for thought.

<https://faculty.wts.edu/posts/the-apostles-creed-part-3-i-believe-in-the-holy-spirit/>

The Apostles' Creed, Part 1: I Believe in God

March 01, 2010

by SANDY FINLAYSON

When we say the Apostles' Creed in worship, we are joining with Christians around the world who have said these words for at least 1,500 years. J. I. Packer has called the Apostles' Creed "a power-point declaration of the basics of the Christian message—in other words, of the gospel itself." [1] Packer's statement may seem odd to some. There are people who would argue that the Creed expresses unwarranted certainty. Cornelis Venema observes:

Ours is an age which prizes as a virtue the attitude of open-mindedness or broad-mindedness. We praise the person who is willing to consider a variety of viewpoints, who does not too hastily commit himself to one over the other.... Conversely, we are suspicious of those who are confident about what they believe and confess it to be true. [2]

While we would not want to identify with those who advocate uncontrolled open-mindedness, many evangelicals are suspicious of saying the Apostles' Creed repeatedly. Couldn't such repetition lead us to say the words just for their own sake? In addition, we may be concerned that since the Creed is not inspired, it should not be given undue prominence. It wasn't written by the Apostles, and it isn't in the Bible. So why study it?

There are a number of answers to this question. First, the Apostles' Creed embraces the biblical worldview that God's truth can be known, believed, confessed, and acted upon. Second, it reflects the truth of the Bible and is an excellent summary of what Christians believe. Third, the Apostles' Creed and other confessions are safeguards against heresy. They tell us what is true, which helps us know what is not true. Fourth, the Apostles' Creed is an excellent teaching tool, which can be used to instruct those who are new to the faith.

While the Apostles' Creed does not cover all points of doctrine, you cannot be a believer in Jesus Christ if you cannot say that you believe what is taught in the Creed. In this series of articles, we will briefly survey where the Creed came from and then look at each of the main points of doctrine it covers.

For well over a thousand years, Christians in Western Europe knew and said the Creed in Latin, which begins *Credo in Deum*, "I believe in God." Historians are in general agreement that the Apostles' Creed originated as a simple statement of faith that Christians were required to recite when they were baptized and received into the church. Evidence for this may be found as early as A.D. 150. In subsequent centuries, the Creed was expanded until it reached the form in which we now have it. In the eighth century, during the time of Charlemagne, the final form of the Creed was fixed.

It is helpful to remember that the idea of *confessing* and *telling others* what you believe is biblical. In Deuteronomy 6:4–7, the children of Israel were told to confess that the Lord is one. They were to teach this confession to their children and talk to them about it. The book of Psalms contains examples of confessions of faith (see, e.g., Pss. 9:11; 66:16; 96:2). Jesus told his disciples to confess their faith: "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I

Scripture and Sermon:

John 1:1-5

"Creed: Jesus Christ"



New Concerns

Family of Jon Love
Don & Sharron Schall
Carol Graham
Kitty Barfield

Continue Prayers for:

Family of Lance Rowland
Karen Carter
David Shad
Kathy Blanchard
Family of Sonny Watson
Paul Black
Pam Jordan
Robert Harney
Lance Rowland
Jon, Elizabeth, Blair Love
Carla Johnsen
Janet Hester

Warren McDow
Christa Avret
Michael & Jennie Walston
Warren McDow
Betty Byrd
Leon Hudson
Mary Prater
Jim & Mary Leary
Virginia Eadie
Bill Reedy
Sarah Mayer
Cary Martin
Mac McNeal
James McNeal
Our Country, Leaders, Military

also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32–33).

The Creed is divided into three parts. It begins by confessing belief in God the Father. The second paragraph contains seven affirmations that deal with the person and work of God the Son. The third paragraph contains four affirmations, beginning with God the Holy Spirit and then moving to the church, salvation, and the Christian's hope.

The first affirmation of the Creed confesses belief in the Trinitarian God. The fact that we confess God the Father reminds us that "God is the Father of the Only Begotten Son who lives eternally with the Son in the Communion of the Holy Spirit."^[3] This is the same Trinitarian expression found in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:16–20).

The first affirmation states three things. First, it states that God is our Father. While the analogy between God our Father and human fathers isn't perfect, there are some helpful similarities. God cares for his children in the same way that a good human father cares for his (Matt. 7:9–11). Children bear some resemblance to their fathers, and so we are told in Genesis 1:26–27 that man is made in the image of God. Human fathers have authority over their children, and so God has authority over us.

Of course, where there are broken families with absentee fathers, the image of God as Father may not be instinctively helpful. But Alister McGrath has pointed out that "the analogy of God as Father indicates what human fathers ought to be like. The same care, compassion and commitment God shows toward us are meant to be reflected in the attitude of human fathers toward their children."^[4]

Second, the Creed affirms that God is almighty. Romans 13:1–2 tells us that God is the source of all authority and that we must submit to those whom God places in authority over us. Because God is almighty, he is capable of doing what appears to us to be impossible. This does not mean that he will ever act inconsistently with his character, but it does mean that he is capable of doing things above all that we can ask or even imagine. We are also taught that because God is almighty, he is also totally reliable. We can be unreliable at times because of our sinfulness and the flaws in our character. Our word can't always be trusted, but God's can be.

Third, the Creed affirms that God is the Creator, the maker of heaven and earth. The universe didn't come into being by random chance, but by the word of God's power. We are living in a day when many people try to rule God out of creation, and the creed reminds us that this is not an option for us.

There are a number of positive implications for us in believing that God is the Creator. First, the creed is reminding us that there is a distinction between God the Creator and we who are created. There is, therefore, a clear distinction between the Creator and the creature. This distinction reminds us that we are made in God's image and not the other way around. None of us would want to endorse the view that God is just a projection of what we think he should be. But all too often we fall into that trap.

Second, we are taught here that since God has created the heavens and the earth, he has given it to us to be stewards of creation. To quote Packer again, "We serve God by using and enjoying temporal things gratefully, with a sense of their value to him their Maker and of his generosity in giving them to us."^[5] It's all too easy to dismiss tree huggers and environmentalists as the lunatic fringe who confuse the creation with God, and worship what is created rather than the Creator, but it is important that each of us take responsibility for how we relate to what God has created and live in a responsible way toward what he has given us.

Third, the reality of God the Creator helps us to deal with a world that can at times be very difficult to live in. There are times when we can feel alone and frightened by what we experience. From one point of view, we are mere specks in a vast universe, but we are far more than that. God has created us in his image, and he has provided redemption for us through his Son. We aren't alone in the world. God is present and active.

This first affirmation of the Creed has pointed us to the true and living God, who is our Father, who is almighty, and who has created and continues to sustain everything that exists. In the second part of this series, we will look at the seven affirmations about Jesus Christ: who he is, what he has done, and what he will do in the future.

Keep The Faith,
Pastor Tommy

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

- 🌸 *In memory of Sonny Watson* by Larry & Janice Walker, Marlan & Jane Nichols, Terry & Barbara Horton, Issues and Answers SS Class, Brenda Craw & Paul Smith, Jim & Barabra Hilliard, Betty Byrd, J.O. & Lynn Miller
- 🌸 *In memory of Betty Estep* by Brenda Craw & Paul Smith, J.O. & Lynn Miller
- 🌸 *In memory of Ann Stafford*, books from Miss Ann's estate were donated to the library of The Well at Centerville

Young at Heart

Young at Heart will meet in the Fellowship Hall Friday, January 26 with lunch from 12 noon-1p and Bingo from 1p-3p. Everyone is welcome, so come on and join us!

Finance Report for January 21
Operating Budget..... \$7,585.00
Family Promise..... 70.00
Food Pantry..... <u>255.00</u>
Total..... \$7,910.00
Worship Attendance
137
Sunday School
49

Volunteers Needed, Please!

If you love to hold babies, teach toddlers and children, please let Katie know so she can hug your neck and sign you up. You will be blessed!



28
Natalie Vander Poorten
29
Ben Van De Water
30
Terry Barfield
Ben Satterfield
31
Harry Siemen, Sr.
1
Paula Williams
3
Mac McCullough



- ✓ 02-14-24- Ash Wednesday Service 6p
- ✓ 02-18-24- First Sunday of Lent
- ✓ 02-19-24- Office Closed
- ✓ 02-23-24- Church-wide Clean-up Day 8a-until
- ✓ 02-24-24- Church-wide clean-up Day 8a until
- ✓ 03-10-24- Daylight savings Time Begins
- ✓ 03-11-24- Finance Committee Meeting 6p
- ✓ 03-11-24- Administrative Council Meeting 630p
- ✓ 03-24-24 Palm Sunday
- ✓ 03-28-24 Maundy Thursday Service 6p
- ✓ 03-28-24 Prayer Vigil 6:30p til noon Friday
- ✓ 03-29-24 Good Friday Service 12 noon
- ✓ 03-31-24- Easter Sunday

Bible Reading Plan

Week of January 28th:

Sunday..... Isaiah 61
Monday..... Isaiah 64
Tuesday..... Matthew 1
Wednesday.... Matthew 2
Thursday..... Matthew 3
Friday..... Matthew 4
Saturday..... Matthew 5

Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry is February 14, 2024... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- Our Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday 9a-12 noon... Closet volunteers for 01-30-24 are Susan Glidewell, Sherrill Pinckney, Marilyn Outz
- Thank you for your generosity to the Open Door Clothes Closet. Each week we see more and more clothed and cared for because of your gifts of love. **Winter is here** and we will be in need of several items. If you're cleaning out your own closets or looking to donate items, please consider donating to the Clothes Closet. We also ask you to look for some of the specific items listed below as you are preparing for the change in season. Thank you again for all you do to support our ministry!
Winter clothes/coats/jackets/sweaters/hoodies/pants/shoes/socks/scarves/hats/gloves; linens/sheets/blankets/throws/comforters; towels/washcloths; personal needs items; toys.
- Workers are needed in the Clothes Closet Mondays and Tuesdays from 9a-12 noon.

Children's Church Training

There will be training on the new curriculum for Children's Church on Sunday, January 28 after the Worship Service. This will take place in the Fellowship Hall and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by January 21 so we know how much food we will need. ~~ Katie ~~

Church-Wide Clean-Up

Mark your calendars for the church wide clean up days February 23 and 24 at 8a- until each day. Come if you can, stay however long you can, any help is appreciated.


Family Promise

If anyone is interested in being a volunteer please contact J.O. or Lynn, this is a very blessed ministry of our church... check out their website at

<https://www.familypromisehoustonco.org/>

Apostles' Creed


I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator 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 into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into 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 Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.



Abundant Life!
A CELEBRATION BENEFITTING WESLEY GLEN

Join us for a fun night of
dinner and dancing
featuring the Grapevine Band and
13WMAZ Chief Meteorologist, Ben Jones!


SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024
5 PM
EDGAR H. WILSON CONVENTION CENTER
220 COLISEUM DR
MACON, GA 31217



SCAN TO REGISTER FOR YOUR
FREE TABLE AND BID ON
SILENT AUCTION ITEMS.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.WESLEYGLENMINISTRIES.COM
OR CALL 478-471-3711 EXT 103

Thank you to our sponsors!



the grapevine band
Emcee, Ben Jones

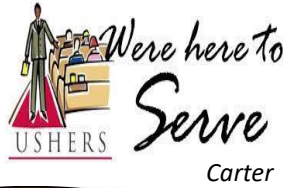
Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- January 28

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell
9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship



Greeters

10:30a Lynn Mayfield, Cynthia Boutwell

Communion Servers

Sabrina Williams, Sabrina Williams
Cheri Cox, LaWanna Porter



Finance Stewards

LaWanna Porter, Kathy Rutke, Hilda Rozier

Women at the Well

Assisting with Children

Sunday- January 28

Nursery- Joy Fleming, Laura
Children- Brenda Crow

Sunday- February 4

Nursery- Dawn, Laura
Children- Katie Odum



Monday- January 29

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Tuesday- January 30

9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Partners in Prayer

10:00a Yoga



Wednesday- January 31

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast

6:30p Choir Practice

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Thursday- February 1

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Yoga

5:30p Dulcimers

6:30p Handbells

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Friday- February 2

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday- February 3

7:30p . .Narcotics Anonymous



Sunday School at 9:15a

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class

Seekers
Issues & Answers
New Beginnings
Christian Fellowship
Youth
Pilgrims

Studies

Rob Bell
Matthew
Revelation
2 Corinthians
Fruitful Growth in Faith
On Hiatus

Teacher

LaWanna Porter
Katie Odum
Nancy Hudson
Don Schall
Eric & Gloria Nelson
Kathy Blanchard

4th Sunday

Church Shirt Sunday

