

Name

# Student Journal

## Apostles' Creed



This booklet is meant to help you “Go Deeper” in reflecting on what you believe as you prepare for your Confirmation. You may find this as a helpful resource to bring with during your Faith Conversation with a pastor or staff.

## Confirmation Requirements

### Attendance

Confirmands are expected to attend youth programming at least 10 times per semester.

### Baptism

Confirmands need to have been baptized prior in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

### Conversation & Creed

Confirmands recite the Apostles’ Creed and explain why they believe it in their 1-on-1 Conversations with a pastor or staff

# Apostles' Creed

[what we believe]

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

I believe in **Jesus Christ, his only Son**, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the **Holy Spirit**, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# The Apostles' Creed: Overview

The word Creed comes from the Latin word *credo*, meaning “I believe.” The word *credo* appears three times in the Apostle’s creed: “I believe in God the Father...,” “I Believe in Jesus Christ...,” “I believe in the Holy Spirit....”

The Apostle’s Creed summarizes the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and how it highlights three proofs that Christianity is true.

## “I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth”

The Bible starts with four small but massively profound words in Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning, God...” Think about that. Before you were born, before the universe began, before everything, God was.

God is the only uncreated Creator. Everything else is creation.

## “I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord”

Jesus is fully God and fully human. He fulfilled every prophecy ever written about Him.

## “I believe in the Holy Spirit”

When you become a Christian, you experience the Holy Spirit filling you. You experience the burden of your sins being lifted off your shoulders. You experience the bond of being welcomed into God’s family. And one day, you’ll experience heaven itself.

This is the Personal Proof. Once you’ve experienced the Holy Spirit, you know He’s true.

**Creation** proves God the Father. **Resurrection** proves God His Son. **Personal experience** proves God the Holy Spirit. God the Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our prayer is that the Apostle’s Creed anchors you in knowing who God is, and Who He’s calling you to be.

Go Deeper:

What do you believe? What do you still have questions about?

# The Apostles' Creed: Article One

## First Article of the Creed: Creation

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

God is the only uncreated Creator. Everything else is creation. You have a mom and a dad, who had parents, who had parents, and so on. Everything that begins has a cause. Science tries to trace the origins of everything back as far as possible. The leading scientific theory suggest the universe is expanding from a fixed point in the past, a big bang. The universe began. But how?

Dr. Robert Zastrow, a former director at NASA's Goddard Institute, observed: "The essential elements in the [scientific] and biblical accounts are the same." It's as if everything all of a sudden was spoken into existence with a single word. How did everything all of a sudden come from nothing? There has to be something that created everything—there has to be Someone.

That's the **Creation Proof**. Creation exists, therefore a Creator exists.

But who is this Creator? To find out, we have to read further. The Bible continues... Genesis 1:27, "God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

God created us with free will, the ability to follow Him or flee from Him into sin. In Genesis 3, the first humans, Adam and Eve, fled, and we've been fleeing ever since.

Deuteronomy 1:31: "The Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son."

Onward into the Old Testament, God gave His children prophecies, foretelling a day when God would enter our world as a human Himself. He would live the sinless life they never could, die the death our sin deserved, and rise again to restore our relationship with God. All this, because He loves us.

Go Deeper:

What does the first article of the creed mean to you?

Write an example from a time you took time to appreciate God’s creation:

# The Apostles' Creed: Article Two

## Second Article of the Creed: Redemption

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died again to judge the living and the dead.*

### “I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord”

All of human history is recorded by the day God came to earth. For example, if it's the year 2020, it's because of Jesus' birth was 2020 years ago. Jesus is fully God and fully human. He fulfilled every prophecy ever written about Him.

### “He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary”

...fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

### “He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell”

...fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 53:5, “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” Jesus really died. John 19:34, “One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.”

### “On the third day He rose again”

...fulfilling the prophecy in Psalm 16:10, “You will not abandon Me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your Faithful One see decay.” That's because the resurrection is a historical fact. We have hundreds of eyewitnesses, pagan historical records, four gospels, and a news report written within months of Jesus' death.

That's the **Resurrection Proof**. Jesus really rose from the dead; therefore, He really is Who He says He is, and really did what He said He'd do.

### “He ascended into heaven”

...fulfilling the prophecy in Psalm 68:18, “You ascended on high...that you, Lord God, might dwell there.



**“and is seated at the right hand of the Father”**

...fulfilling the prophecy in Psalm 110:1, “The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’”

**“He will come again to judge the living and the dead”**

1 Peter 4:15 says we “will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.” Jesus fulfilled every prophecy written about his first coming. Since history repeats itself, it’s safe to say he’ll fulfill every prophecy about his second coming. God’s people knew God as Father and Son, but Jesus promised even more...

**Go Deeper:**

What does the second article of the creed mean to you?

Who is Jesus to you?

# The Apostles' Creed: Article Three

## Third Article of the Creed: Sanctification

*I believe in the **Holy Spirit**, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

### “I believe in the Holy Spirit”

Jesus promised in Acts 1:8, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” And true to His Word, that’s exactly what God did. In Acts 2, all the believers were together in one place for Pentecost. Suddenly, a violent wind from heaven filled the whole house and the Holy Spirit filled each one of them. Peter preached the gospel and around three thousand more people became followers of Jesus that same day. Thus, the church was born.

### “The holy Christian (or \*catholic) Church, the communion of saints”

The church was never a building. The church is a people, a people belonging to God. 1 Peter 2:9, “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” The church is holy because Jesus made us holy, not by our works but by Jesus’ finished work on the cross. The church isn’t the people who show up on a Sunday morning. It’s the people who’ve placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Have you heard someone say “holy catholic Church” instead of “holy Christian church?” That’s ok. The word “catholic” means universal, every Christian from every denomination, every continent, every century. We’ll spend eternity with Christians from the mountains of Asia and the deserts of Africa. We’ll spend eternity with believers who died a thousand years before we were ever born, and believers who won’t be born for another thousand years, if Jesus hasn’t returned yet.

As Hope, we don’t want to confuse people, so we say, “holy Christian church,” but we mean the same thing. The church is every Christian, everywhere, from every century. The church is the communion of saints because we commune together. We gather together. And we share three things in common...

## “The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting”

We are forgiven fully and we forgive each other fully. Colossians 3:13, “As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” We have a new life, and one day we’ll have a new body. Philippians 3:20-21, “Our citizenship is in heaven... And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” We have a new family, and one day we’ll have a new home. Revelation 21:1-4 “I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” When you become a Christian, you experience the Holy Spirit filling you. You experience the burden of your sins being lifted off your shoulders. You experience the bond of being welcomed into God’s family. And one day, you’ll experience heaven itself.

### Go Deeper:

What does the third article of the creed mean to you?

Where have you seen the power of the Holy Spirit at work in your life?

