

CREED *(Presider begins each section.)*

WE BELIEVE IN God,/ creator of an unfinished world,/ who invites us to join in creating,
to build a kindom of justice, love and peace.

WE BELIEVE IN Jesus,/ the word of God,/ who became human like us;/ who became poor with the
poorest;/ who spoke the truth,/ preached justice/ and was put to death for doing so;/ who
was raised to life by the glory of God/ and now offers us death-defying life.

WE BELIEVE IN the Spirit of God,/ alive in this world,/ bringing order out of chaos,/ unity out of
strife,/ and life out of death.

WE BELIEVE IN the Church,/ the community and friendship to which we are called/ so that we
might model to the world/ the peaceable kindom of God./ Amen

Creed

We believe in God the creator and Father
of all things that are or ever were.

We believe that Jesus Christ

is the light of God in the world
That he was born as a man of peace
to redeem us from sin

to show us the way of love

to remain with us to help us love, and

That he is resurrected and lives among us
not just in our brother but also in a
real presence

in the church which we are.

We that the Spirit of God guides and
guards our holy community

That this Holy Spirit keeps each of us
from sin and despair

Helps us in our doubts

And will bring us to a life most full of God.

from Dec. 27, 1970 ~ baptismal liturgy

CREED

Profession of Faith

**(Taken from a NOVA 1970's Liturgy
with Bob Hovda presiding)**

We believe in God

**In the mystery of transcendent purpose, meaning,
Judgement in and over life.**

**We believe in Jesus, the Christ, son of God,
Transparent witness to divine grace,**

Whose life through death is saving for us all.

We believe in the Spirit

**And we will risk the dangers of living by the Spirit
Rather than by the law,**

**In the Catholic church, community of reconciliation,
Sign of human oneness**

Toward the future that God wills.

This is our faith. This is the faith of the church.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

**(Approved by the Second General Synod of the
United Church of Christ held in Oberlin, Ohio
July 5-9, 1959)**

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:**

**He calls the worlds into being,
Creates man in his own image
And sets before him the ways of life and death.**

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**He judges men and nations by his righteous will
Declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,
He has come to us
And shared our common lot,
Conquering sin and death
And reconciling the world to himself.**

**He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit,
Creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ,
Binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues,
And races.**

**He calls us into his Church
To accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
To be his servants in the service of men,
To proclaim the gospel to all the world
And resist the powers of evil,
To share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
To join him in his passion and victory.**

**He promises to all who trust him
Forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
Courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
His presence in trial and rejoicing,
And eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. AMEN.

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH:

AND IN HIS ONLY SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR
LORD, WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY: HE SUFFERED UNDER
PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED, WAS BURIED,
AND DESCENDED INTO HELL: THE THIRD DAY HE
ROSE FROM THE DEAD, ASCENDED TO HEAVEN, AND IS
SITTING ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER:
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 EVERLASTING LIFE. AMEN.

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

All. We believe in one God,
the almighty God,
Creator of heaven and earth.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only son of God,
eternally begotten,
God from God, Light from Light,
True God from True God.
Begotten, not made,
one in being with the Creator,
through whom all things were made.
For all of us and for our salvation
Jesus came from heaven:
By the power of the Spirit
He was born of Mary and became a human being.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered, died and was buried.
On the third day He rose
in fulfilment of the Scriptures;
He returned to heaven
and lives with God.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and His kingdom will never end.
We believe in the Spirit, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from God, creator and redeemer.
Together they are worshipped and glorified.
The Spirit 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.

Almighty Lord, we praise you for this world, the potent wonder locked in plant and stone.

IN FIBRE AND IN ORE, FROM STILL UNFOLDING CELL AND ALLOYED STEEL WE CLAIM YOUR SKILL. BE PRAISED!

We praise you for the symmetries of space, where energy and matter mesh in time.

IN SPECULATION WE PROCLAIM DELIGHT, AND BUILD IN ALL OUR TOWERS OUR CAREFUL TRUST. BE PRAISED.

We praise you for the history of man, for joy and pain that dance in steps of change.

IN MYTH WE FIND YOUR PRESENT FACE AND ECHOES OF GLAD TRUMPETS STILL TO SOUND. BE PRAISED!

We praise you for our Saviour, Jesus Christ, your Son. He was all innocence. He taught and healed and lifted lives to song.

THEN HE WAS MURDERED, AND WE SHARE THE BLAME. HE ROSE TO RULE. HE HAS RESTORED US, WE ARE WHOLE AGAIN. BE PRAISED!

We praise you for the Spirit's holy fire, come first to comfort, then to fill with power.

~~WE FIND HIM IN THE BRIGHT CRY ON OUR LIPS, PROPHETIC LOVE, AND PRAYER THAT STIRS AND GERMINATES WITHIN. BE PRAISED!~~

We praise you for the nation of your love, the good news passed and strong hands clasped within the Church.

IN SPITE OF THE SCHISMS YOU HAVE WILLED US ONE, WE FIND YOUR BODY IN OUR CORPORATE LIFE. BE PRAISED!

We praise you for our burial with Christ, born through long waters of your love, in love to breathe again.

WE FIND WE ARE FORGIVEN: BLITHE AS LEAVES ON TREES AT WATERSIDE, AS CARELESS AND AS FREE. BE PRAISED!

We praise you for our minds, our differences, our curious faces, and our bodies, running, kneeling, clasped in love.

IN ALL THAT'S VITAL WE FIND YOU. WE ARE OURSELVES: IT IS THAT SELF YOU FREE AND SAVE. BE PRAISED!

We praise you for the rising of the dead, the promise we are yours beyond our graves, and only now beginning one long song.

WE SEE THE BROKEN HEALED AND HOPE SLANT DOWN THE VIOLENT STREET, THROUGH MARKETPLACE AND FIELD OF WAR. LIFE IS YOUR GIVING, LORD, BE PRAISED! AMEN.

Confession of faith

NOVA:

I believe in the living God,
father of Jesus Christ our Lord,
our God, our almighty father.

He has created the world, all things
in his only beloved son,
the image and likeness of his glory.
Jesus, light of eternal light,
word of God, faithful, abiding,
Jesus Christ, our grace and our truth.

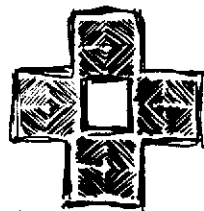
In order to serve this world of ours,
in order to share our human lot,
he became flesh of our human flesh.
By the will of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary
he became man, a man like this.

He was broken for our sins
and was obedient unto death
and gave himself upon the cross.
Therefore he has received the name
of the first born from the dead.
He is the man whom I shall resemble.

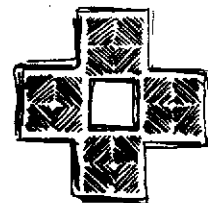
I believe in the power of the Spirit,
in the love of the father and the son
in the covenant of God with men,
in the Church, the body of Christ,
called together and sent forth
to do the work that he has done -
to enlighten and serve
and to bear the sins of the world
and to build up peace on earth.

I believe that we shall arise
from death with a new, undying body,
for he is the God of the living.
Amen. Come Lord Jesus, come.

Ed. Note: Recently at one of our liturgies, someone came up to me and mentioned that they had noticed that NOVA tends to skip the creed. They handed me this one as a suggestion for use when planners desire. Unfortunately, I cannot recall who gave it to me, so I thank you via this note!



WOMEN'S CREED



We believe in one God,

whose names are many, just as our names are many.

This God, in whom there is no time, hovers at creation, bringing all into being, no less our new-found selves.

We believe in Jesus, the Advocate of women and men, the face of God without discrimination. This Christ teaches us about love and reckless trust. We lean upon his heart to learn of wisdom and call it by the name Sophia.

We believe in the abiding company of God. This Breath of God is Holy. All our gifts are pieces of this God and we go forth inhaling grace and breathing it where tyranny has made its home.

We believe our mother, Mary, was first of grace-filled women.

Her FIAT teaches us to bend and embrace God's yes for us.

She knew God by the power of the Breath of God. This union brought forth Jesus. We continue breathing Jesus into spaces evil tries to restrict.

For our sake, and for our brothers, Jesus suffered and died.

He dies again when we seal our eyes against our planet's cries.

On the third day his body and his spirit blended in uncharted ways.

He was new, yet others recognized him. The finality of death could not erase him, nor touch us later when our time has come.

He ascended to the bliss called heaven, where he waits for us.

He tells us to rejoice when we are lacking, to pray for those who cause us pain. We begin to live in paradox, preparing for the time when valleys shall be filled and mountains leveled.

Sophia will return in radiance to judge all living and all dead.

She will assemble us as flowers in the field, to winnow weeds and jewels. We will adorn her wreath forever.

We believe the truths our mother-Prophets whispered:

You are delight to God.

Your life reflects God's face.

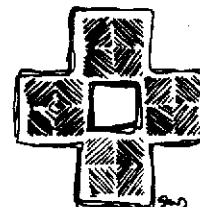
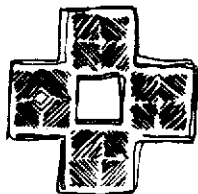
You are countersign to warfare.

We rejoice to be alive.

We pledge our gift of kindness to a world supporting harshness.

We forgive and are forgiven.

We look ahead for the day when we can pray this way aloud.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

All. We believe in one God,
the almighty God,
Creator of heaven and earth.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only son of God,
eternally begotten,
God from God, Light from Light,
True God from True God.
Begotten, not made,
one in being with the Creator,
through whom all things were made.
For all of us and for our salvation
Jesus came from heaven:
By the power of the Spirit
He was born of Mary and became a human being.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered, died and was buried.
On the third day He rose
in fulfillment of the Scriptures;
He returned to heaven
and lives with God.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and His kingdom will never end.
We believe in the Spirit, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from God, creator and redeemer.
Together they are worshipped and glorified.
The Spirit 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.

FAITH ALIVE.

At a recent gathering of Catholics here on the East coast, this creed was proclaimed:

**We believe in God
creator of an unfinished world
who invites us to join in creating
to build a kindom of justice
love and peace.**

**We believe in Jesus
the Word of God
who became human like us
who became poor with the poorest
who spoke the truth
preached justice
and was put to death for doing so;
who was raised to life by the glory of God
and now offers us death-defying life.**

**We believe in the Spirit of God
alive in this world
bringing order out of chaos
unity out of strife
and life out of death.**

**We believe in the Church
the community and friendship
to which we are called
so that we might model to the world
the peaceable kindom of God - AMEN.**

CREED : Prayer of Hope

We ask you God to increase and strengthen hope in us. Make us always build on You and your faithfulness and always hold fast, without despair. Make us to be of this mind and attitude. Then, O god, we will have the virtue of hope. Then we can set about, courageously, the task of conducting our lives and we can be animated by the confidence that we are not working in vain. With hope we can work in the knowledge we are working to our salvation and the salvation of others.

Help us to recognize that He is our mediator with you. Help us to house Him so that He may live in us and enlighten us in the way of the cross and suffering.

If we have these gifts, we are rich. For in hope and with grace, we find You. And finding You, we find the power of life.

Our Faith: We come here as the family of God, gathering around the table of the Word, the Bread, the Cup, to proclaim the vision of faith we share. We believe in God the Creator, Author of life and Giver of all good gifts. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, who was born into the human family as God with us and who died and rose that we might be members of God's body. We believe in the Holy Spirit, source of wisdom and strength, who ever shares the life of Jesus with us. We believe in the church, God's pilgrim people, called to be a sign of God's goodness and loving mercy to all the families of nations. We believe in God's loving plan for community; we believe in our vision of unity, sharing, and service; we proclaim everywhere and always that Jesus is Lord.

A Creed

We believe in God, the Father, whose love is almighty.

He is Creator of heaven and earth;
of our universe with all its secrets;
of this earth on which we live
and of the stars to which we journey.

He knows us from all eternity;
he never forgets that we are made of dust
and that one day we shall return as dust to the earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the well-beloved Son of God.
Out of love for us he chose to share our history and life..

We believe that God wanted to be God-for-us in a human way.
He dwelt with us, a human among humans,
a light amid the darkness.
But the darkness did not grasp him.
We put him on the cross.
He died and was buried.

But he trusted in God's final word,
and was raised, once and forever,
telling us that he will prepare a place for us
in his Father's house, where he now lives.

We believe in the Holy Spirit
who is Lord and giver of life.
For the prophets among us he is power, fire and tongue.

We believe that we are a people on the way, pilgrims,
called and gathered to become one holy people of God;
we confess our liberation from the power of evil,
our commitment to act justly
and the courage to love tenderly.

We believe in eternal life,
in that love which is stronger than death,
a new heaven and a new earth.

And we declare our hope for a life with God and each other
forever and ever:
glory to God and peace for all peoples.

CREED -

We believe, O God, that all of life is your revelation to us, if we but have the eyes to see it, the ears to hear it, and the spirit to live it. We believe You are speaking to us in nature. We believe that You are revealing Yourself to us in Scripture, in dialogue, and in the reflections of quiet meditation. We believe that Your revelation to us is unfolding as we grow in knowledge of ourselves, as we plunge into the work to which we are called by our various talents, and as the course of our lives show us their marking and meaning as we take the journey home. We believe that you show yourself to us through all the others in our lives, those with whom we share the intimacy and warmth of family life and friendship, and those whose lives we know only through reading about their striving and sufferings. We believe that you create, renew, and strengthen us as we try to build a community of your people, coming together for comfort, challenge, and celebration. Finally, today, we look at our faith and pledge, as individuals and as community, to support each other in this faith, and then to go forth in service to those around us.

First Reading: "To Believe in God" by Joseph Pintauro and Corita Kent

- To believe in God is to get high on love enough to look down at your loneliness and forget it forever.
- To believe in God is to know the world is round, not flat and there is no edge of anything.
- To believe in God is to be a lily in the sun shower open wide to all the horizons of the sky at once catching wet and wild the wind and rain, even the futures from which they blew.
- To believe in God is to know the thing you are shall make you live and it will never make you do anything less.
- To believe in God is to build a bridge between yourself and everything worth being one with.
- To believe in God is to have the great faith that somewhere, someone is not stupid.
- To believe in God is to have somebody who knows you through and through and likes you still and all.
- To believe in God is to be one of those kids who just refuses to grow up and get older and older and die forever.
- To believe in God is to be able to die and not be embarrassed.
- Once we didn't know how to believe in a rocket ship or even a lawn mower. Make space in your brain for tomorrow's things.

A CREDO: for my relationships with others.

You and I are in a relationship which I value and want to keep. Yet each of us is a separate person with his own unique needs and the right to try to meet those needs.

I will try to be genuinely accepting of your behavior both when you are trying to meet your needs and when you are having problems meeting your needs.

When you share your problems, I will try to listen acceptingly and understandingly in a way that will facilitate your finding your own solutions rather than depending upon mine.

When you have a problem because my behavior is interfering with your meeting your needs, I encourage you to tell me openly and honestly how you are feeling.

At those times, I will listen and then try to modify my behavior.

However, when your behavior interferes with my meeting my own needs, thus causing me to feel unaccepting of you, I will tell you as openly and honestly as I can exactly how I am feeling, trusting that you respect my needs enough to listen and then try to modify your behavior.

At those times when either of us cannot modify his behavior to meet the needs of the other, thus finding that we have a **conflict-of-needs** in our relationship, let us commit ourselves to resolve each such conflict without ever resorting to the use of either my power or yours to win at the expense of the other losing.

I respect your needs, but I also must respect my own.

Consequently, let us strive always to search for solutions to our inevitable conflicts that will be acceptable to both of us. In this way, your needs will be met, but so will mine — no one will lose, both will win.

As a result, you can continue to develop as a person through meeting your needs, but so can I.

Our relationship can always be a healthy one because it will be mutually satisfying.

Thus, each of us can become what he is capable of being, and we can continue to relate to each other in mutual respect, friendship, love and peace.