

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;¹
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic² church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

1 See Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 44; Canons of Dort, 2.4.

2 "Catholic" means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (Belgic Confession, art. 27; Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 54).

Visitors at the Lord's Supper

We are delighted you have joined us to worship the Lord today. We hope and trust that the Lord will richly bless you as we call upon His name together. At the conclusion of our service, we are celebrating the "Lord's Supper," or "communion." In 1 Corinthians 11:27-29, the apostle Paul issues a strong warning: "Whoever...eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord...Anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself." For this reason, throughout history, out of love and concern for those present in the congregation, churches have developed some kind of guidelines regarding who would be welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper.

If you wish to partake with us today, you must either 1) be a professing member, not currently under church discipline, of a fellow URCNA congregation; or 2) have received from our pastor or one of our elders, before the worship service today, specific permission to partake. A pastor or elder is available in the sanctuary foyer within a half-hour before the service to grant such permission. You may also call the church office during the week at (909) 986-9889 to contact one of them. We realize you may not have been aware of these guidelines in time to speak with one of us before the service today. Please know that we appreciate your patience with us until we have the opportunity to come to know you better as a like-minded believer, and to ensure that we share the biblical understanding of the Lord's Supper.

If it turns out that we are yet unable to commune together, please also know that we are not saying that you are not our brother or sister in the Lord, nor are we saying that you would be partaking in an "unworthy manner" or "eating and drinking judgment on yourself" if we did commune together. But given the weightiness of the apostle Paul's warning, we sense a responsibility even to err on the side of caution. Please feel free to speak with our pastor or any of our elders about these matters, as we would be happy to try and answer any questions you may have.

Ontario United Reformed Church

205 East Philadelphia Street, Ontario, CA 91761

(909) 986-9889 www.ontariourc.org

September 13, 2020 ~ 10:00 AM



We welcome each person who has gathered here today. What is most important, what we want to share with you, what gives us comfort and strength, is that even in strange times, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

If you are visiting today and would like more information about why we follow and worship Jesus, please visit www.ontariourc.org, or send us an email at pastor@ontariourc.org.

This morning, Pastor Adam preaches from 1 Corinthians 12 & 13, about the 'communion of the saints,' from our 'Heidelberg Catechism for Today' series. How does, how can our church community look different from the world communities? What role do we each play in this, so that Jesus will draw others to himself through us (and grow us by them)?

At the end of the service, we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or communion. Please read the guidelines printed on the back cover of the bulletin regarding those who wish to partake with us; thank you for respecting these guidelines.

Tune to 88.3 FM if you would like to participate in the service this morning from the parking lot in your car.

~ 10:00am Service ~

Call to Worship

*Votum

*God's Greeting

***Song of Praise & Hope- "The God of Abraham Praise"**

The Holy Law

Prayer of Confession

The Holy Gospel- The Apostles' Creed

Forgiveness of Sins

Pastoral Prayer

***Song of Preparation- Psalm 122**

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A # 55

Scripture- 1 Corinthians 12 & 13

Sermon- "The Communion of the Saints"

***Song of Application- "How Good and Pleasant Is the Sight"**

Lord's Supper

Offering [via the "Tithely" app on your smartphone, or on the web;
or mail a check to the church office, or drop it in the
office slot today]

*Benediction

***Doxology- from "Praise the Savior Now and Ever":**

*For his favor, praise forever
unto God the Father sing;
praise the Savior, praise him ever,
Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; thro' Christ's merit
He doth us salvation bring.*

Preaching: Rev. Adam Kaloostian
Pianist: Dave Gadbois

**Indicates the congregation will stand, as able.*

Church Announcements

The Wednesday evening reading and study of the book of Hebrews continues this week. We'll be online together this Wednesday, September 16th at 7:30pm with the same basic Zoom info: Meeting ID 960 1266 9696, password 081021. If you need help getting on Zoom or have any other questions, please email pastor@ontariourc.org. This week we will read the back half of Hebrews chapter ten- there are a couple of often confusing and often misunderstood verses in there- it will be interesting to think through them.

Matters for Prayer

Please pray for **two URCNA churches in the areas where wildfires are burning**: Rev. Quentin Falkena, of Cornerstone Christian Church in southern Oregon, reports: "one couple from our church lost their home; at least two families from the nearby OPC church lost their homes; another fire popped up pretty close to our home, and for the second time in less than 24 hours we're ready to evacuate." Rev. Todd Joling, of Immanuel's Reformed Church of Salem, Oregon, reports: "We have a few evacuated and one couple lost their home."

Rev. Bill Green, URCNA missionary in San Jose, Costa Rica, requests prayer: for the many who have lost their jobs in Costa Rica due to the COVID related downturn in the economy; for additional financial support for the Christian school as many parents are not able to afford tuition; and he gives thanks that the work in the print shop has continued over the last months, and several new books have been published.

Prayer of Confession- "Almighty, eternal God, we pray that in your infinite mercy, you will graciously look upon us, and bring us the goodness of union with your Son, through your Holy Spirit. Will you forgive us for our sinful shortcomings, and restore us, that we may follow Jesus day by day? Help us then joyfully to bear our cross, and may we cling to Jesus in true faith, firm hope, and ardent love. Comfort us in your grace, we pray, Amen."

“The God of Abraham Praise”

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of Everlasting Days and God of love.
Jehovah! Great I AM! by earth and heav’n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name, forever blest.

The God of Abraham praise, at whose supreme command
From earth I rise and seek the joys at his right hand.
I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and pow’r,
And him my only portion make, my shield and tow’r.

He by himself hath sworn, I on his oath depend;
I shall, on eagles’ wings upborne, to heav’n ascend.
I shall behold his face, I shall his pow’r adore,
And sing the wonders of his grace forevermore.

The goodly land I see, with peace and plenty blest,
A land of sacred liberty and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
And trees of life forever grow, with mercy crowned.

There dwells the Lord our King, the Lord of Righteousness,
Triumphant o’er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace.
On Zion’s sacred height his kingdom he maintains,
And glorious with his saints in light forever reigns.

The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!” they ever cry.
Hail, Abraham’s God and mine! I join the heav’nly lays;
All might and majesty are thine, and endless praise.

Psalm 122

I was filled with joy and gladness when they said with one accord,
“Let us make our pilgrim journey to the house of God the LORD.”
O Jerus’lem, O Jerus’lem, we are standing in your gates;
We are standing in your gates.

As a city bound together in Jerusalem designed.
There, by law, the tribes ascending thank the LORD in praise combined.
Thrones of David, thrones of David, there for royal justice stand;
There for royal justice stand.

Pray for peace, the peace of Zion: “Prosper those who love you well!
Peace be in your walls forever; safety in your towers dwell!”
Peace and safety, peace and safety in Jerusalem abound;
In Jerusalem abound.

For the sake of my companions, for my brothers, I will say:
“May God’s peace abide within you!” For temple’s sake I pray.
For the LORD’s house, for the LORD’s house I will ever seek your good;
I will ever seek your good.

How Good and Pleasant Is the Sight

How good and pleasant is the sight
when brethren make it their delight
to dwell in blest accord;
such love is like anointing oil
that consecrates for holy toil
the servants of the Lord.

Such love in peace and joy distills
as o’er the slopes of Hermon’s hills
refreshing dew descends;
the Lord commands his blessing there,
and they that walk in love shall share
in life that never ends.

How good and pleasant is the sight
when brethren make it their delight
to dwell in blest accord;
the Lord commands his blessing there,
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Heidelberg Catechism Q & A

Q.55 What do you understand by “the communion of saints”?

A. First, that believers one and all, as members of Christ the Lord, have communion with him and share in all his treasures and gifts.¹ Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.²

1 Corinthians 12 & 13 (English Standard Version- ESV)

12 Now concerning¹ spiritual gifts,² brothers,³ I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves⁴ or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts,⁵ yet one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers?

Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,^[a] but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;^[a] ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.