

Statement of Faith

REAL GOD

THE HOLY TRINITY: We believe in the One, holy, loving, sovereign and eternal God, Who exists and has existed in all eternity as three Persons: the Father, the Son, (Who became incarnate by the Holy Spirit, of the virgin Mary, in the fully human and fully divine person, Jesus of Nazareth), and the Holy Spirit. We worship the one God in Trinity and the Trinity in unity, one God in three Persons, co-eternal in being and co-equal in divinity.

CREATION: We believe that God created the universe from nothing, and made human beings, male and female, in His image, to be in relationship with Him, to reflect His nature and to give Him glory.

HUMANKIND'S VOCATION: God gave humankind dominion over the earth, with the duty to be wise stewards of creation under His Lordship.

SIN AND THE EFFECTS OF SIN: God gave the first human beings free will to obey or disobey Him. By choosing to wilfully and knowingly disobey God's clear command, humankind sinned and came under God's righteous judgment. God is perfectly holy, and by sin humankind became separated from God, our Source of life. This disrupted God's perfect created order, bringing death and disunity into the world. All people sin and come under the judgment of God and, apart from God's grace, all people live in this state of spiritual death, with no way to save themselves.

GOD'S REVELATION: Because of God's great love and mercy, He reached out to us, revealing Himself and His plan to reconcile all of creation to Himself, through His Son, Jesus

SALVATION: By His death on the cross, Jesus paid the price for our sin and disobedience. God then raised Him to life, defeating the power of sin and death forever. Jesus ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling as the sovereign King over all creation. He will come again to judge the living and the dead, and to renew and restore all of creation in His glory. In His mercy and grace, God offers forgiveness of sin and new life to all those who come to Him in repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, Who is the only way to the Father, and eternal life in God's presence. This revelation comes to us through the Bible, which is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

REAL CHURCH

We believe in the universal and local church. St. Aidan's embraces the sacramental, charismatic and evangelical expressions of life together as real church.

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH: The universal church is all people in all times and places, who believe in Jesus, have been spiritually born again and adopted into the family of God. The Holy Spirit unites the universal church, making us one body under Jesus' Lordship.

THE LOCAL CHURCH: The local church is the fellowship of believers in particular times and places, who gather as a community to worship God, to be instructed from the Bible, to grow in grace, to support one another in community, and to continue God's mission in the world. St. Aidan's embraces the sacramental, charismatic and evangelical expressions of life together as the real church.

SACRAMENTAL CHURCH: We affirm and practice the Biblical sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist (Communion), which were taught and commanded by our Lord Jesus.

MARRIAGE: We uphold the sanctity of Biblical marriage between one man and one woman.

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REAL CHURCH (cont.)

ARTICLES OF FAITH: We affirm the faith described in the Book of Common Prayer, the *39 Articles of Religion*, the *Solemn Declaration of 1893*, and the *Montreal Declaration of Essentials (1994)*.

CHARISMATIC CHURCH: In the charismatic, we believe in the living and active ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of individual believers and in the life of the Church. The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus, leads us into the truth, and guides us in God's will. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray, convicts us of sin, leads us to repentance, renews us in the life of Christ, and empowers us to defeat the attacks of Satan and the spiritual forces of evil. The Holy Spirit enables us to overcome temptation and to live holy lives in accordance with God's Word. We believe in the infilling of the Holy Spirit to empower us in bold witness for Christ, for the appropriate expression of the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the strengthening of the church in corporate worship and for personal edification, and to equip us for service.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH: In the evangelical, we affirm the authority of the Bible and the importance of mission.

THE BIBLE: We affirm the theological and narrative unity of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that the whole Bible is the Holy Spirit-inspired Word of God, written through human authors, and is complete, reliable, and authoritative in our individual lives and in the life of the church.

MISSION: We endeavour to follow the commission Jesus gave to all his followers to share the Good News of salvation in Him alone, and to continue His work in the world by caring for the needs of the poor, sick, and imprisoned, by working for peace and justice, and by caring for the natural world.

REAL LIVES

NEW LIFE: We believe that everyone who declares Jesus is Lord and believes from the heart that God raised Him from the dead, is saved, given new life in Christ, and given the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit.

PERSONAL COMMUNION WITH GOD: The Holy Spirit draws believers into personal communion by a real and ongoing relationship with God, and helps us become more like Jesus.

OBEDIENCE: We are called to respond to God's great love and mercy by obeying His commandments, which Jesus summarized in the two great commandments: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbours as ourselves, thereby bringing glory to God.

EMPOWERING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: In order to live in this relationship, to have this life of faith and to grow in holiness, we rely on the work of the Holy Spirit as described above in the charismatic expression of real church.

SANCTIFICATION AND MISSION: We affirm the importance of consistently engaging with God through the personal and corporate spiritual disciplines of worship, prayer, and Bible study. Through these, God transforms us into the image of Christ and equips us for lives of faithful service, bearing the fruit of righteousness in the form of good works and sharing the Good News of the Gospel.



Real God, Real Church, Real Lives
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