

## *Statement of Faith*

### **God and the human race:**

We hold that the Lord our God is one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and that He fulfils His sovereign purposes – in creation, revelation, redemption, judgement, and the coming of His Kingdom, by calling out from the world a people united to Himself and to each other in love.

We acknowledge that though God made us in His own likeness and image, conferring on us dignity and worth, and enabling us to respond to Him, we are members of a fallen race; we have sinned and come short of His glory.

We believe that the Father has shown us His holy love in giving Jesus Christ, His only Son, for us, while through our sinfulness and grief we were subject to His wrath and condemnation; and has shown His grace by putting sinners right with Him, when they place their trust in His Son.

We confess Jesus Christ as Lord and God; as truly human, born of the virgin Mary; as Servant, sinless, full of grace and truth; as only Mediator and Saviour, dying on the cross in our place, representing us to God, redeeming us from the grip, guilt and punishment of sin; as Victor over Satan and his forces, rising from death with a glorious body; being taken up to be with His Father, one day returning personally in glory and judgement to establish His Kingdom.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgement; who makes the death of Christ effective to sinners, declaring that they must turn to Christ in repentance, and directing their trust toward the Lord Jesus Christ; who through the new birth makes us partake in the life of the risen Christ, and who is present within all believers, illuminating their minds to the grasp of Scripture, producing in them His fruit, granting them His gifts, and empowering them for witness in the world.

### **The Scriptures:**

We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures are God breathed, since their writers were moved from God by the Holy Spirit; therefore they are fully trustworthy in all that they affirm, and are our highest authority for faith and life.

### **The Church and its Mission:**

We recognise the Church as the body of Christ, held together and growing in Him; both as a total fellowship throughout the world and as the local congregation in which believers gather.

We acknowledge the commission of Christ to proclaim the Good News to all people, making them disciples and teaching them to obey Him.

We acknowledge the command of Christ to love our neighbours, resulting in service to the Church and society; in seeking reconciliation for all with God and their fellows; in proclaiming liberty from every kind of oppression; and spreading Christ's justice in an unjust world.