



**THE
GOD
WE LOVE**

THE NICENE CREED

Trinity Church Brighton

2026

CONTENTS:

The Nicene Creed.....	Page 3
Week 1: God the Father.....	Page 4
Week 2: Jesus Christ, God the Son.....	Page 8
Week 3: The Incarnation.....	Page 12
Week 4: Jesus' Death.....	Page 16
Week 5: Jesus' Resurrection & Ascension.....	Page 21
Week 6: The Holy Spirit.....	Page 25
Week 7: The Church.....	Page 29
Week 8: The Return of Christ & New Creation.....	Page 33
Final Reflections.....	Page 36

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 was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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.

WEEK 1: GOD THE FATHER

Sermon notes...

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,

My one thing:

1. Reflect on the sermon. What was your one thing?

2. Read and reflect on John 17:20-26 together.

This remarkable passage is about Jesus praying for us! It is a vivid picture of the relationship between the Father and the Son, and how we are invited into it.

Use the following COMA approach to discuss the passage:

a) **Context:**

Where are we up to in John's account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and how might that be significant?

b) **Observation:**

How does Jesus describe his relationship with the Father?

What does Jesus pray for our relationship with the Father?

How does Jesus describe the role he plays in that relationship?

c) Meaning:

What does this passage teach us about what God is like?

From this passage, what does it mean for us to be included in the relationship between the Father and the Son?

d) Application:

What does this passage teach us about how we can know God?

What does this passage say is the goal of us knowing God?

3. Psalm 148:

This is a psalm of praise which praises God as creator, almighty God and deliverer. There is more going on with this psalm than a casual reading might suggest, and knowing the context is helpful to appreciate this.

a) Read the psalm together. You might like to read it one verse each around the group. What stands out to you?

b) Watch “The Bible Project – Psalm 148” video at <https://bibleproject.com/videos/psalm-148/>.

c) How can we better incorporate praise for our creator into our lives?

WEEK 2: JESUS CHRIST, GOD THE SON

Sermon notes...

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:

My one thing:

1. Reflect on the sermon. What was your one thing?

“Christians sometimes have shallow, immature or ‘1-dimensional’ beliefs about who Jesus is.” Do you agree/disagree? Why?

2. Read and discuss Colossians 1:15-20.

a) Observation:

What stands out to you in this passage?

What are we told about Jesus’ nature and identity?

What are we told about his works and actions?

What is the central idea or theme in this section?

b) Meaning:

How might this passage help answer the question, “Is Jesus fully God, a bit like God or sort of God?”

What other parts of scripture can you think of that also help answer these questions? (eg John 1:1-3, 5:16-27, 10:30 and Hebrews 1:1-4)

Exercise option: Spend 5 minutes in groups of 2-3 to come up with dot point responses to the Jehovah’s Witness on your doorstep who says “Jesus is not fully God. There is only one Jehovah”.

c) Application / Reflection:

What would change about Christianity (and our life as disciples) if Jesus *wasn't* really, fully God?

From this passage, list the reasons why Jesus is worthy of our love and worship?

WEEK 3: THE INCARNATION

Sermon notes...

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 was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and

My one thing:

1. Reflect on the sermon. What was your one thing?

2. Read and discuss Philippians 2:1-11.

- a) In verses 6-11, Paul is quite likely referencing a very early hymn. However, begin by reflecting on v1-5. What is the purpose of Paul quoting this hymn about Christ?
- b) Read through v6-11 again and discuss what it is saying about Jesus and the incarnation. What does it say about:
- Jesus' divinity?
 - Jesus' humanity?

- The “journey” of Jesus?

- The character and work of God?

c) What are the implications for us and our lives? Consider:

- What we learn about God’s character and how we relate to him.
- How the incarnation informs how we’re called to live in v1-5.

3. Read and discuss Psalm 8.

a) What is God being praised for?

b) Consider v4-5. What is it saying about humanity?

c) How does the incarnation affect our understanding of this psalm and our praise of God?

WEEK 4: JESUS' DEATH

Sermon notes...

he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became 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;

My one thing:

1. Reflect on the sermon. What was your one thing?

We're going to consider the death of Jesus in four steps:

- 1. The place of judgment in God's covenant with his people.*
- 2. Old Testament expectations of God's judgment.*
- 3. How this shapes our understanding of the Cross.*
- 4. How this impacts us today.*

2. The place of judgment in God's covenant with his people.

When God entered a covenant with ancient Israel, he promised to use them as His chosen means for bringing blessing and salvation to all nations (Gen 12, Ex 19 etc). Under the terms of the covenant, God promised to bless his people and make them a blessing so long as they trusted in Him. But He also promised to judge them for their sin if they rejected Him and broke this covenant relationship.

Quickly skim the following passages and note how this 'covenantal judgement' is described.

- Deuteronomy 28:25-31

- Deuteronomy 31:16-18

- Leviticus 26:18-22

3. Old Testament expectations of God's judgement.

Quickly skim the following passages and note how they describe the experience of God's judgment.

- Psalm 22:1-20

- Isaiah 13:9-13

- Joel 2:28-32

4. How this shapes our understanding of the cross.

a) With this Old Testament background in mind, read Matthew 27:27-56. How does Matthew highlight the connections between Jesus' suffering on the cross and God's judgment for sin?

b) How does this Old Testament background give greater richness to these well-known passages:

- John 3:16-18

- Galatians 2:20

- Ephesians 2:3-4

5. How this impacts us today.

a) Romans 8:1 boldly proclaims, “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” How does viewing Christ’s death through the lens of God’s covenant help us understand what this means for us?

b) How does this help us understand the need for others to trust in Jesus too?

c) What have we learned about the God we love?

WEEK 5: JESUS' RESURRECTION & ASCENSION

Sermon notes...

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,

My one thing:

1. Reflect on the sermon. What was your one thing?

2. What significance does the resurrection of Jesus have in the following passages? What stands out to you or challenges your assumptions?

- Acts 2:29-33

- Romans 1:1-4, 4:23-25

- 1 Corinthians 15:17-20

- 1 Peter 1:3-5

- Acts 17:29-31

3. What do the following passages teach us about where Jesus is now and what he has been doing since his resurrection?

- Matthew 28:18-20

- Acts 1:1-11

- Ephesians 1:18-23, 3:16-19, 4:7-13

- Titus 3:3-7

- Hebrews 1:1-3, 7:23-8:2

4. What difference might this make if this week...

...a colleague ridicules you for your Christian faith?

...you receive a life-threatening medical diagnosis?

...you stumble in serious sin?

...a friend asks you how you maintain hope in such a chaotic world?

WEEK 6: THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sermon notes...

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge

My one thing:

1. Reflect on the sermon. What was your one thing?

2. Read and discuss Romans 8:15-17.

a) Observation:

What stands out to you in this passage?

What is the tone of this passage?

What are we told about the identity of the Spirit and the work of the Spirit?

Is there a central idea or theme in this passage?

b) Meaning:

How might this passage help answer the question: “What does the Holy Spirit do in the life of believers?”

How does Paul describe the difference between someone who belongs to Christ and someone who doesn’t?

What does adoption into God’s family mean? Why is this a good thing?

c) Application:

Where in your daily life does the “mind of the flesh” interfere? (think habits, desires, thought patterns, pressures etc)

How does being adopted by God challenge your insecurities, fears or doubts?

What are you thankful for about the Holy Spirit's work in your life?

What could you ask Him to help you in?

WEEK 7: THE CHURCH

Sermon notes...

worshipped 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

My one thing:

1. Reflect on the sermon. What was your one thing?

We're going to reflect on church from three perspectives: a God-ward focus, a one-another focus and an outward focus.

2. A God-ward focus:

Read these three passages and consider the following questions:

Hebrews 13:15-16

Ephesians 5:18-20

Romans 12:1-2

a) What does it mean to praise and honour God together as the church?

b) What could it look like for us at Trinity Brighton to have this sort of God-ward focus? What do we need to change?

3. A one-another focus:

Read Colossians 3:12-17 and consider the following questions:

- a) How should we treat each other as brothers and sisters, fellow members of God's household?
- b) How is this related to the God-ward focus of the church in the previous question?
- c) What could it look like for us at Trinity Brighton to have this sort of one-another focus? What do we need to change?

4. An outward focus:

Read these three passages and consider the following questions:

Matthew 28:18-20

1 Peter 2:11-12

John 13:34-35

a) How do these passages describe the way the church is to relate to the world?

b) What could it look like for us at Trinity Brighton to have this sort of outward focus? What do we need to change?

WEEK 8: THE RETURN OF CHRIST & NEW CREATION

Sermon notes...

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

baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen

My one thing:

1. Read John 5:19-30.

a) What does Jesus teach us about his relationship with the Father?

b) What does Jesus teach us about the future?

c) What insight does this give us into the God we love?

2. Read 2 Peter 3:1-18.

- a) What 'wholesome thinking' do you think Peter wants to stimulate through this chapter?
- b) How does this description of the future highlight both God's mercy, justice and power?
- c) What does this passage say about how we should live today in light of this future?

FINAL REFLECTIONS...

We have covered a lot of ground as we've unpacked the Nicene Creed over these eight weeks.

1. How has your understanding of God deepened?

2. Where have you seen more of his majesty and beauty?

3. Can you identify some way that God has challenged you:

a) to speak differently?

b) to act differently?

c) to pray differently?

4. Think of one person you would like to know the God we love.

What can you do to help them know God better? Take some time to pray for them now.

FURTHER RESOURCES

There is so much you could read and listen to on this topic! Here are just a few to consider:

Undeceptions Podcast is a great resource. They've got a couple of really good episodes related to the Nicene Creed:

- <https://undeceptions.com/articles/did-constantine-shape-christianity-at-the-council-of-nicaea/>
- <https://undeceptions.com/podcast/nicene-creed/>

The Nicene Creed by Kevin DeYoung. In a concise and readable format DeYoung explores the history, meaning and importance of the Nicene Creed.

Knowing God by JI Packer. This book is a classic, and for good reason! Although it's not directly connected to the Nicene Creed, it is tremendously helpful in considering how we know what we know about God – in a profoundly devotional way.

In Light of the Son by Andrew Moody. A short but engaging book about the impact of seeing everything in light of the Father's love for the Son.

Made Man by Craig Hamilton. A deeper dive into the intricacies of God remaining God while becoming fully man: what happened, why it happened, how it happened, and what's happening now.

The Cross of Christ by John Stott. Another classic, this remains at the top of the list of books on the topic.

Raised with Christ by Adrian Warnock. This is a great overview of the resurrection – Jesus' and ours. It's both intellectually stimulating and deeply encouraging.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit by Phillip Jensen. A recent publication by an Australian author, this is both deep and rich while being very readable and practically grounded.

Gathered Together by Karl Deenick. An overview of what the Bible says about what church is, and what it looks like to be a part of it.

