

WHAT WE BELIEVE

PENNINGTON PARK CHURCH

As a church and its people joined together in covenant membership, we affirm these beliefs together. We believe they represent the core elements of biblical teaching and orthodox faith. We ask members to affirm these beliefs and agree not to teach otherwise.

The Bible: We believe that the entire Bible is the inspired Word of God, written by men as sixty-six unified and yet diverse books, inerrant in the original manuscripts, sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do, and the final authority for all matters of faith, practice, and life. It is completely true and trustworthy. We believe both the Old and New Testament tell one unified, wonderful story of God's plan of redemption to save a people to himself and dwell with them forever. Both testaments reveal God to humanity so he can be rightly known, worshipped, and followed. The Father speaks to us by his Spirit through the Word, which centers on the revelation of the person and work of Jesus. (John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3, 19-21)

God: We believe there is one true God, that the living God is triune, eternally existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that these three are equal in nature, power, glory, attributes, and perfection; and that this God is the Creator and Ruler of all things, our gracious Redeeming God, and is the center of our worship. (Genesis 1:1-2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Chronicles 16:23-25; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20; John 1:1-3)

God the Father: We believe in God the Father who sovereignly rules over all he created, continues to care for and sustain in providence all that exists, and hears and answers our prayers. God is Father in truth of those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He fully adopts believers into his family and cares for us as a perfect, loving, omniscient Father who knows what we need and what will glorify God. (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 115:3; Daniel 4:35; Matthew 6:9; John 17:2; Ephesians 1:3, 11; Romans 8:15-17)

God the Son: We believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in whom salvation is found; that the eternal Son was conceived by the Holy Spirit, took on human flesh, being born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, revealed God in flesh, redeemed sinful humans, and that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, the only mediator between God and man. (Matthew 1:23-25; Philippians 2:5-7; Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:15)

God the Spirit: We believe in the Holy Spirit, a Divine Person, equal with the Father and Son and of the same substance and nature, who glorifies the Father and the Son, convicts the world of sin, regenerates hearts, indwells all believers, seals believers unto the day of redemption, gives gifts to men and women, and guides believers in obedience to the truth. (John 16:8, 13-15; Romans 8:13-14; 1 Corinthians 12:7-14; Ephesians 1:13-14; Titus 3:5)

Creation of Humanity: We believe that humans, male and female, were created in the image of God and without sin. As God's image-bearers, mankind is the crowning work of creation and every human life is sacred, valuable, and of great dignity and worth. Mankind was made to walk in fellowship with their Creator, reflecting and representing God by caring for and stewarding creation to his glory and for its good. We believe that God created humans distinct but complementary as male and female and ordained marriage to be a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman who unite in one flesh to reflect God's glory.

(Genesis 1:26-28; 2:23-24; Psalm 8:5-8; Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:22-33)

Sin: We believe that though Adam and Eve were created as innocent people, through Adam's sin humanity fell, becoming alienated from God, inherited a sinful nature, and experienced corruption that touches every aspect of our humanity (mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, relational). We believe all have sinned against God, stand condemned before him and under the judgment of physical and spiritual death, that in ourselves we are incapable of turning to God and saving ourselves, and so stand in desperate need of reconciliation and restoration to God by God. The fall of man also fractured God's good world, bringing brokenness, pain, sickness, death, strained relationships, tragedy, and suffering into every area of creation and humanity. However, we do not believe sin has the final word but that Jesus came to restore all that was lost, including both humanity and all of creation.

(Genesis 1:26-28; 3:1-19; Romans 3:23; 5:12-21; 6:23; 8:18-21; Ephesians 2:1-12; Colossians 1:19-20)

Redemption: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, promised as the coming Messiah in the Old Testament, having lived a sinless life, sent out of love by the Father, offered Himself as a substitutionary atoning sacrifice; that his perfect blood shed for us is the only means of the forgiveness of sins; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. By his death and resurrection, Jesus defeated evil, sin, and death, and all who repent from their sin and believe in Him have eternal life.

(Isaiah 53:10; John 3:16; Romans 3:24-25; 5:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5; 2:24; Hebrews 2:14; 9:22)

Resurrection and Ascension: We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead as the guarantee of our resurrection, and in His ascension into heaven where he is exalted as Lord and enthroned in power at the right hand of the Father, where he rules all things, and where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate.

(Acts 1:9-11; 2:29-36; Romans 1:3-5; 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 20; Hebrews 7:25; 8:1; 9:24; I John 2:1-2)

Salvation: We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, that genuine faith involves turning from sin and to God, and that true faith in Christ and his redemptive work will be made evident by a life of repentance and godliness. We believe salvation is wholly the work of God and possible only through the substitutionary death of Christ for sinners; that through the Spirit's work of regeneration a person believes in Jesus, is united to him as our head and representative, declared righteous by God through Christ's righteousness, made a new creature with new spiritual life, set free from the dominion of sin, set apart to God, and made His beloved child through the wonderful gift of adoption. We believe God loses none who are truly his own but that he preserves them in faith, sealing them by the Spirit, and keeping them until the culmination of salvation at the future glorification where all believers in Christ will forever abide in righteousness, purity, and wholeness.

(John 6:39-40; Romans 6:3-11; 8:1; 10:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 21:1-5)

Sanctification: We believe that all those justified in Christ are also baptized with and indwelt with the Holy Spirit at conversion as part of the New Covenant promise, and that the Spirit sets us apart from sin and to God as holy, leads us into confession and repentance from sin, empowers our obedience to God and joy in God, equips us to sacrificially serve others, renews our minds and hearts according to truth, and transforms (sanctifying) us into the image of Christ throughout our earthly lives as we follow Christ and seek to grow through means such as Bible-reading, prayer, confession, thanksgiving, and gathering with believers.

(2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 6:1-11; 8:28-29; Heb. 8:8-12; 10:10; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:11-20)

The Church: We believe in the universal Church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a body of professing believers in Jesus Christ, baptized by immersion on a credible testimony of faith, under elders, gathering in one locality, and associated for worship, instruction, observance of the Biblical ordinances, service, mission, and fellowship. We believe through the Holy Spirit, Jesus equips every believer with spiritual gifts to be used for the good of the Church and world. We believe that the mission of the church is to glorify God by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples of all nations. We believe God calls his people to join themselves with other believers through membership in a local church, which includes regularly gathering together as believers on the Lord's Day.

(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2:42; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 2:19-22; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Peter 5:1-5)

The Ordinances: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ gave the local church two ordinances to regularly observe together: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that water baptism by immersion (where physically possible) of a believer into the name of the triune God signifies one's union and identification with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection. We believe that the Lord's Supper, or Communion, is the partaking of the bread and the cup by believers in remembrance of the death of Christ on our behalf; that it is to be observed until He returns.

(Matthew 26:26-29; 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32)

Last Things: We believe in the future, personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth in glory and the establishment of His kingdom forever. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, eternal punishment of the wicked, and the eternal joy of the righteous. We believe in the glorification of believers in Christ, the eternal dwelling of God with his people in the new heavens and new earth, where all sin and its devastating effects will be wiped away from the restored creation, where God's people will experience in Him the fullness of joy, love, and righteousness they were created for by God.

(Isaiah 25:6-9; 65:17; Matthew 16:27; Acts 1:11; 3:19-21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, 50-55; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Titus 2:13; Revelation 20:7-15; 21:1-9)