



THIS WEEK'S ALTERNATE CREED:

THE HISPANIC CREED

We believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of the heavens and the earth;
Creator of all peoples and all cultures;
Creator of all tongues and races.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord,
God made flesh in a person for all humanity,
God made flesh in an age for all the ages,
God made flesh in one culture for all cultures,
God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit
Through whom God, incarnate in Jesus Christ,
Makes his presence known in our peoples and
our cultures;
Through whom God, Creator of all that exists,
Gives us power to become new creatures;
Whose infinite gifts make us one people:
the body of Christ.

We believe in the Church universal because
it is a sign of God's Reign,
Whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues
Where all the colors paint a single landscape,
Where all tongues sing the same praise.

We believe in the Reign of God – the day of the
Great Fiesta!
When all the colors of creation will form a
harmonious rainbow,
When all peoples will join in joyful banquet,
When all tongues of the universe will
sing the same song.

And because we believe, we commit ourselves:
To believe for those who do not believe,
To love for those who do not love,
To dream for those who do not dream,
Until the day when hope becomes reality.
Amen.

WEEK 5

THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE GIVER OF LIFE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Focus: Exploring the role of the Holy Spirit and the Church in the Nicene Creed

Key Themes: The Holy Spirit as the Giver of Life, the procession of the Spirit, and the Four Marks of the Church

I. Opening Prayer & Introduction

- A. Recite the Hispanic Creed.
- B. Review
- C. Acts 2:1-17

II. The Holy Spirit in the Nicene Creed

A. "We believe in the Holy Spirit"

1. Scripture Passages: John 14:26, Romans 8:26-27, Acts 2:1-4
2. The Holy Spirit in the Council of Constantinople (381 AD)
3. Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
4. Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

B. "The Lord, the Giver of Life"

1. The Spirit's role in creation (Genesis 1:2) and new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)
2. The Holy Spirit as the one who sustains and sanctifies believers

C. "Who proceeds from the Father" (*Filioque Controversy*)

1. Original wording: "proceeds from the Father"
2. Later Western addition: "and the Son" (*Filioque Clause*)
3. Theological debate between Eastern and Western Christianity
4. *Perichoresis*: The mutual indwelling of Father, Son, and Spirit

D. "Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified"

1. How the early Church's worship reflected belief in the Spirit
2. The Holy Spirit in prayer, sacraments, and worship

E. "Who has spoken through the prophets"

1. The Spirit's role in inspiring Scripture (2 Peter 1:21)
2. Prophecy and the Spirit's continued work in the Church

III. The Four Marks of the Church —

"We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church."

- A. **One:** The unity of the Church despite denominational differences (John 17:20-23)
 1. Call toward Unity, love, and mutual accountability, Augustine says, "Schism is worse than heresy."
 2. Truth wins: The *contra mundum* principle, "then it is Athanasius against the world."

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and 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 worshiped 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.

*universal

3. Love wins: Unity is love, John 13: 3: By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Pastor Ellah of Nigeria to Geoffrey at GC, “Connectionalism is just another word for love.”
 4. Spiritual Unity(gnostic) is not enough
 5. Episcopal Polity
 6. Methodist Connectionalism and the Trust clause
- B. Holy: The Church’s call to holiness (Hebrews 2:14-17, Ephesians 5:25-27)
1. Set apart for a purpose
 2. Saints and Sinner
 3. Holiness comes from grace
- C. Catholic: Meaning (*kata-holic*)”universal”, “according to the whole”—the Church exists for all people, everywhere
1. Whole Space – Global/General-Not National/Ethnic/Tribal
 2. Whole Time – Across Time/Communion of the Saints
 3. Whole Kosmos – Big picture people
- D. Apostolic: Rooted in the teachings of the apostles and apostolic succession
1. Apostolic Teaching
 2. Bishops as successors to the apostles
 3. Laying on of Hands/Succession
 4. Wesleyan Understandings(Elder based process. Greek Orthodox Bishop Erasmus of Arcadia for back-up, and Ecumenical Developments with Episcopalians)

IV. Reflection & Discussion

A. How does our understanding of the Holy Spirit shape our faith?

B. How can we live out the Four Marks of the Church today?

V. Closing Prayer and Nicene Creed