

# The Essentials We Believe- St. Michael's Church Nth Carlton

(These points seek to summarize key beliefs. The Vicar and Vestry of St. Michael's affirms the creeds and articles of the Anglican Church as set out in the Anglican Book of Common Prayer)

## 1. About God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. God has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:26,27;3:22, Psalm 90:2, Matthew 28:19- 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Cor. 13:14

## 2. About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He rose from the dead on the third day to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return to consummate His Kingdom and to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1: 1-5) 14:10-3 0; Hebrews -4:14, 15; 1 Cor. 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-1 1; I Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13.3

## 3. About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God and is present in the world to make all people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. The Spirit also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation and provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Spirit gives every believer gifts for the building up of the Church.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; 14:16,,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12,, 3:16; Ephesians 1: 13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18.

## 4. About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors- under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of authority for Christian belief and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth in all that it affirms and contains all that is necessary for salvation.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 1: 13; Psalm 119:105,160; Proverbs 30:5

## **5. About The Creation and Humanity**

The created world reflects God's glory but is separate from God. It is upheld and sustained by Him. People are made in the image of God to be in relationship with Him, and to be like Him in character. People are the crowning work of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are disobedient towards God. This is called sin. This disobedience separates people from God and distorts their relationship with one another and the rest of creation.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23- Isaiah 59:1,2.

## **6. About Salvation**

We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's way of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's consequences. Salvation is God's free gift of eternal life with Christ to us, but we must accept it. Eternal life has been prepared for us before creation and God lets us know this mystery when we receive Jesus Christ into our life by faith and submit to His Lordship. When we turn from our self-ruled life, ask God for forgiveness and turn to Jesus in faith we receive the Spirit's guarantee of our inheritance. Romans 6:23; Ephesians 1:4, 8, 14 and 2:8,9- John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

## **7. About Assurance of Salvation**

Our Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. The Word of God, the work of Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit assure us of our salvation and free us from living with the fear of condemnation and judgement. The Christian is called to grow in faith, obedience and holiness of life, but our relationship with God through Christ is maintained by the grace and faithfulness of God.

John 10:29, 2 Timothy 1: 12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10,14:1 Peter 1:3-5

## **8. About The Future**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the guarantee that we will also be resurrected. When Christ returns, those who believe in Him will be raised in a new and glorified body to eternal life with God. Those who have rejected Christ will be raised to judgement for their sins and will be separate from God in eternity

Revelation 20 & 21, 1 Corinthians 15, John 5:1-29, Matthew 25:31-46, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10, John 3:16, 1 John 2-25, 1 John 5:11-13, Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:15, Matthew 8:8, Matthew 25:41,46