



St. James' Cathedral Catechism Program
Wednesday nights, March 4 to April 8, 2020
from 6:00-8:15pm in Room 305 of the Cathedral Centre (65 Church St.)

Week-by-week in church services around the world, Christians recite two of the oldest texts of our liturgical tradition - preceded only by the Bible itself – in the Apostles' and Nicene creeds.

The Nicene Creed has its roots in two of the early Church councils in 325 and 381 CE, professing a belief in the three parts of the Trinity and an allegiance to the Church that bears Christ's name. The much shorter Apostles' Creed was developed earlier, in the 2nd century, and has its own history as a baptismal confession.

But what are these creeds, and what role do they play in an active, lively faith?

The creeds are a statement of what we as Christians believe, but they're not merely the "Terms and Conditions" of membership. They're much more: **the creeds are statements of faith that invite us ever into a deeper understanding of our faith.** They are a touchstone for our shared faith with Christians across the world.

In this year's Catechism program, **I Believe...: The Road of Faith**, you're invited to pray, reflect and learn how these ancient texts are more than just statements of belief. As we study these words, we'll find anew that the creeds are the road map for our faith, and not just the toll-bridge at the beginning.

We'll be reading Rowan Williams' book *Tokens of Trust*, which will invite us into a reflection on the rich mysteries of faith the creeds represent: the mystery of God dwelling in us; the mystery of God holding us together in Christ's church; and the mystery of the Holy Spirit creating and re-creating the world.

For new Christians, those seeking baptism, and for those further along the road who want to reconnect with their faith -- all are invited and welcome.

Dates and Topics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Companion Theologian</u>	<u>Supper</u>
Mar 4	<i>God & Trust</i>	Chapter 1: <i>Who can we trust?</i> Apostles' Nicene Creeds	Pete Enns	Provided
Mar 11	<i>Creation & Love</i>	Chapter 2: <i>The Risk of Love</i> Genesis 1:1 – 2:4	Kallistos Ware	Potluck
Mar 18	<i>God in Body & Spirit</i>	Chapter 3: <i>A Man for All Seasons</i> John 1:1-18, Luke 1:26-38,	Brené Brown	Provided
Mar 25	<i>Salvation & Re-creation</i>	Chapter 4: <i>The Peace Dividend</i> John 18-20, Romans 6	James Alison	Potluck
Apr 1	<i>Belonging: Word & Sacrament</i>	Chapter 5: <i>God in Company</i> 1 Corinthians	Danielle Shroyer	Provided
Apr 8	<i>Heaven & Home: God's Kingdom</i>	Chapter 6: <i>Love, Actually</i> Matthew 13, Luke 15	Brian McLaren	Potluck
Apr 9	Maundy Thursday	Catechists to assist with Holy Thursday liturgy, as available		
Apr 11	Easter Vigil	Pray over baptismal service		

Reading List

The Holy Bible (any translation)

Use any paper copy, or visit [Oremus Bible](http://bible.oremus.org) (bible.oremus.org) for an online Bible.

Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Belief by Rowan Williams, 2006

Will be provided (for free) as part of program.

Course Practices

This program is intended as preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism and for Confirmation and Reception into the Anglican Communion. The Catechism class is an open and affirming space (LGBTQ+ friendly). We will begin every meeting with prayer, and then have supper, reflection, and the educational session.

Participants will be asked to complete selected readings from the Bible and assigned chapters from *Tokens of Trust* each week. We will focus on building community together and creating a safe environment for questions, exploration, and mutual discovery. Participants will also be asked to sign up to bring part of our light supper on the second, fourth, and sixth weeks. On the sixth and final week, catechists will assist with the Maundy Thursday liturgy. The series will conclude with the liturgy of Holy Saturday (the night before Easter), and the celebration of Baptisms, Renewal of Vows and Receptions into the Anglican Communion.