

Statement of Faith  
Immanuel Church Knoxville

**The Triune God.** We believe in one<sup>1</sup> God who eternally exists<sup>2</sup> in three Persons: the Father,<sup>3</sup> the Son,<sup>4</sup> and the Holy Spirit.<sup>5</sup> These Persons are equal in every divine perfection.<sup>6</sup> God is perfect in holiness,<sup>7</sup> wisdom,<sup>8</sup> power<sup>9</sup> and love.<sup>10</sup> He is the Creator of all things,<sup>11</sup> and he sustains<sup>12</sup> and sovereignly rules over them.<sup>13</sup> He is worthy to receive all glory and honor.<sup>14</sup>

**Revelation.** We believe God has graciously revealed his existence and power in creation,<sup>15</sup> and he has supremely revealed himself in his Son, Jesus.<sup>16</sup> We believe God is also a speaking God who has inspired the words of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments.<sup>17</sup> These writings are the Word of God.<sup>18</sup> They are without error in the original manuscripts<sup>19</sup> and have complete authority in all matters of faith and conduct.<sup>20</sup>

**Creation of Humanity.** We believe God created human beings, male and female, in his own image.<sup>21</sup> As children of God,<sup>22</sup> people were created to love God<sup>23</sup> and enjoy fellowship with him.<sup>24</sup> As his representatives on earth, humans were made to glorify God<sup>25</sup> through their care and governance of creation,<sup>26</sup> their love for one another,<sup>27</sup> their portrayal of the union between Christ and his Church in the marriage of man and woman,<sup>28</sup> and their fruitfulness.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 15:11; 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; 6:4-5; 32:39; 1 Kings 8:60; Isaiah 44:6-8; 45:5-6, 14, 21-22; 46:9; John 17:3; Romans 3:30; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; James 2:19.

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 21:33; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 40:28; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 9:14.

<sup>3</sup> John 13:3; 20:17; Romans 1:7; 15:6; 1 Corinthians 15:24; Philippians 2:11; James 1:27; 2 Peter 1:17; Revelation 1:6.

<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1, 18; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Colossians 1:19; 2:9; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:3, 8-10; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 5:20.

<sup>5</sup> Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Hebrews 9:14.

<sup>6</sup> Colossians 1:15; 2:9; Isaiah 9:6; John 10:30; Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:23; Matthew 28:19; Genesis 1:1-2; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Ephesians 4:4-6; Philippians 2:5-6; Acts 5:3-4.

<sup>7</sup> Exodus 15:11; Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:26; Joshua 24:19; 1 Samuel 2:2; Ps 22:3; 99:3, 5, 9; Isaiah 6:3; 57:15; 1 Peter 1:16; Revelation 4:8; 15:4.

<sup>8</sup> Job 12:13; Romans 16:27; Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:28.

<sup>9</sup> Genesis 17:1; Psalm 147:5; Jeremiah 32:27; Isaiah 40:28; Revelation 19:6.

<sup>10</sup> 1 John 4:8-10, 16.

<sup>11</sup> Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 40:26, 28; 45:18; Jeremiah 10:12; John 1:3; Acts 4:24; 14:15; 17:24; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2; 11:3; Revelation 4:11; 10:6; 14:7.

<sup>12</sup> Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3.

<sup>13</sup> Psalm 103:19; Daniel 4:35; Matthew 10:29-30; Romans 11:36.

<sup>14</sup> 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 4:11.

<sup>15</sup> Psalm 19:1-6; Acts 14:17; Romans 1:19-20.

<sup>16</sup> John 1:1; Hebrews 1:1-2; Revelation 19:13.

<sup>17</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16.

<sup>18</sup> John 10:35; 2 Peter 3:16.

<sup>19</sup> Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; John 10:35; 17:17; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18.

<sup>20</sup> 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; 10:35; 20:31; Acts 20:32; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.

<sup>21</sup> Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-2; 9:6; James 3:9.

<sup>22</sup> Acts 17:29; Luke 3:38; Job 12:10.

<sup>23</sup> Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27.

<sup>24</sup> Genesis 3:8; Revelation 21:3.

<sup>25</sup> Isaiah 43:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31.

<sup>26</sup> Genesis 1:28-30; 2:15-20.

<sup>27</sup> Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27.

<sup>28</sup> Ephesians 5:22-32; Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:6; 1 Corinthians 6:16-7:5; 11:11-12.

**The Fall.** We believe humanity was created sinless,<sup>30</sup> but through the transgression of the first man, Adam, that original blessedness was forfeited.<sup>31</sup> As a result, all of creation is subjected to futility,<sup>32</sup> and apart from God's gracious intervention,<sup>33</sup> all human beings are now alienated from God,<sup>34</sup> corrupted in every aspect of their being,<sup>35</sup> and condemned to death.<sup>36</sup>

**The Plan of God.** We believe God from eternity past determined in grace to save sinners<sup>37</sup> and to redeem for himself a people<sup>38</sup> from every tribe, language, people, and nation.<sup>39</sup> He has also promised to restore his fallen creation.<sup>40</sup> We believe God so loved the world that he gave his only Son and sent him into the world that the world might be saved through him.<sup>41</sup> God desires all people to be saved,<sup>42</sup> and in love, he commands and implores them to repent and believe in the Gospel of Jesus.<sup>43</sup>

**The Gospel of Christ.** We believe the Son, moved by love and in obedience to the Father,<sup>44</sup> became flesh.<sup>45</sup> Jesus is fully God and fully human, one Person in two natures.<sup>46</sup> He was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.<sup>47</sup> He lived a sinless life,<sup>48</sup> was crucified,<sup>49</sup> arose on the third day,<sup>50</sup> and ascended into heaven.<sup>51</sup> On the cross, he bore the penalty for sin<sup>52</sup> and reconciled to God all who believe.<sup>53</sup> By his resurrection, Jesus was vindicated by his Father,<sup>54</sup> broke the power of death,<sup>55</sup> defeated Satan,<sup>56</sup> and brought everlasting life to all his

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<sup>29</sup>Genesis 1:28; 9:1.

<sup>30</sup>Genesis 1:27, 31.

<sup>31</sup>Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22.

<sup>32</sup>Genesis 3:17; Romans 8:20.

<sup>33</sup>Matthew 7:17-18; John 3:3, 5; 6:44, 65; Romans 8:7-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14.

<sup>34</sup>Colossians 1:21; Ephesians 2:12.

<sup>35</sup>Genesis 6:5; Psalms 58:3; 130:3; 143:2; Ecclesiastes 7:20; 9:3; Isaiah 1:6; 64:6; Jeremiah 13:23; 17:9; John 8:34; Romans 1:18-3:20, 23; 8:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 4:17-19; Titus 1:15; James 3:2; 1 John 1:8, 10.

<sup>36</sup>Isaiah 59:2; Romans 1:18; 5:16, 18; 6:23; 8:6, 10.

<sup>37</sup>Matthew 9:13; Ephesians 1:4-14.

<sup>38</sup>Titus 2:14.

<sup>39</sup>Revelation 5:9; 7:9-10.

<sup>40</sup>Acts 3:21; Romans 8:20-21; Revelation 21:1.

<sup>41</sup>John 3:16-17.

<sup>42</sup>1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:23, 32.

<sup>43</sup>Acts 17:30; 20:21; 2:38; 19:4; Mark 1:15; Matthew 4:17; Luke 5:32; Luke 13:3, 5; Luke 24:46-47

<sup>44</sup>John 5:30; 6:38; 8:28-29; 14:31; 15:10; Hebrews 10:5-7.

<sup>45</sup>John 1:14.

<sup>46</sup>Romans 1:3-4; 9:5; Philippians 2:7; Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14.

<sup>47</sup>Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Galatians 4:4.

<sup>48</sup>Matthew 26:39-43; Luke 12:50; John 6:38; 18:11; Romans 5:19; Philippians 2:7-8; Heb 5:8; 10:5-7; John 8:29, 46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5.

<sup>49</sup>Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18:28-19:42; Acts 3:13-15; 4:27-28; 13:28; 1 Timothy 6:13; Luke 3:1; 13:1.

<sup>50</sup>Matthew 28; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24; John 20-21; Act 10:41; 1 Corinthians 15.

<sup>51</sup>Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11.

<sup>52</sup>Isa 53:10; Ephesians 5:2; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 9:26.

<sup>53</sup>Romans 5:1-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:20.

<sup>54</sup>Acts 3:15; 4:10; 17:31; Romans 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:10.

<sup>55</sup>1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Hebrews 2:14-15.

<sup>56</sup>John 12:31; 16:11; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8.

people.<sup>57</sup> By his ascension, he has been forever exalted as Lord<sup>58</sup> and is seated at the right hand<sup>59</sup> of God the Father as our Advocate.<sup>60</sup> We believe that salvation is found in no one else.<sup>61</sup>

**The Justification of Sinners.** We believe that Christ, by his obedience and death, fully discharged the debt of all those who are justified.<sup>62</sup> By his sacrificial death on the cross, he bore in our place the punishment due us for our sins.<sup>63</sup> By his perfect obedience, he satisfied the just demands of God on our behalf.<sup>64</sup> By grace through faith this righteousness is credited to all who trust in Christ alone for their acceptance with God.<sup>65</sup>

**The Power of the Holy Spirit.** We believe this salvation is applied to his people by the Holy Spirit.<sup>66</sup> Sent by the Father and the Son,<sup>67</sup> the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus<sup>68</sup> and is present with and in all believers.<sup>69</sup> He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment,<sup>70</sup> and by his powerful and mysterious work, he regenerates and renews spiritually dead sinners.<sup>71</sup>

**The Church.** We believe that all who have been saved now belong to the family of God,<sup>72</sup> the Church.<sup>73</sup> Christ is the head of the Church,<sup>74</sup> and all regenerated persons are members.<sup>75</sup> The Church is distinguished by her gospel message,<sup>76</sup> her sacred ordinances, her discipline,<sup>77</sup> her great mission,<sup>78</sup> and, above all, by her love for God<sup>79</sup> and neighbor.<sup>80</sup>

**Christian Living.** We believe God's justifying grace must be connected to his sanctifying work.<sup>81</sup> This should result in a life that is separate from sin and set apart to God.<sup>82</sup> He commands

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<sup>57</sup>Romans 4:24-25; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:12-57; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Ephesians 2:5-6; 1 Peter 1:3.

<sup>58</sup>Acts 2:36; Philippians 2:9-11.

<sup>59</sup>Luke 22:69; Acts 2:33-34; 5:31; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22.

<sup>60</sup>Romans 8:34; Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-15; 5:5,10; 6:20; 7:25-26; 8:1; 9:11,24; 10:21-22; 1 John 2:1.

<sup>61</sup>Acts 4:12.

<sup>62</sup>Romans 5:9; 8:1.

<sup>63</sup>Romans 5:15-19; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

<sup>64</sup>Romans 3:21-5:1; 5:9; Galatians 2:15-16; 3:8, 11, 24

<sup>65</sup>Romans 4:5; Ephesians 2:4-5, 8.

<sup>66</sup>Romans 5:5; Ephesians 2:22; Romans 8:11; John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; Acts 2:33; 1 Corinthians 15:45; 2 Corinthians 3:17.

<sup>67</sup>John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7.

<sup>68</sup>John 16:14; cf 15:26; Acts 5:32; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 John 4:2.

<sup>69</sup>John 14:16-17; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19.

<sup>70</sup>John 16:8-11.

<sup>71</sup>John 1:13; 3:3-8; Ephesians 2:1-6; Col 2:13; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.

<sup>72</sup>John 1:12; 1 John 3:1-2; Ephesians 1:5; 2:19; Galatians 6:10.

<sup>73</sup>Matthew 16:18; Acts 8:3; 9:31; 1 Corinthians 10:32; 11:22; 12:28; 15:9; Galatians 1:13; Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:10, 21; 4:4; 5:23-25, 27, 32; Philippians 3:6; Hebrews 12:23.

<sup>74</sup>Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16; 5:23.

<sup>75</sup>Ephesians 4:1-6.

<sup>76</sup>2 Peter 1:12; Jude 3; 1 Timothy 3:15; 2 Timothy 1:14. Acts 2:42.

<sup>77</sup>Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2:6-8; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15.

<sup>78</sup>Matthew 28:19-20.

<sup>79</sup>Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27; John 8:42; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 16:22; Ephesians 6:24; James 1:12; 2:5; 1 Peter 1:8; 1 John 2:15; 5:2-3

<sup>80</sup>John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; Romans 12:9-10, 13; 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 16:14; Gal 5:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9; Hebrews 13:1; James 2:8; 1 Peter 1:22; 2:17; 3:8; 1 John 2:7-11, 19; 3:10-18; 4:7-8, 11-12, 16-21; 2 John 5; Matthew 5:43-47; Luke 6:27-36; Romans 12:14, 17-21

<sup>81</sup>1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; John 17:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; John 14:15; Ephesians 2:10; James 2:14-26; 1 John 2:2-6, 9-11, 15-17, 19, 29; 3:3, 6-9, 14-15, 24; 4:7, 12, 16, 20; 5:4, 18.

believers to love him supremely and others sacrificially.<sup>83</sup> Christians are to live out their faith in growing, joyful obedience to the Word and Holy Spirit<sup>84</sup> and to progressively be changed into the likeness of Christ.<sup>85</sup> Growing Christians use their God-given gifts for the purpose of edifying the Church,<sup>86</sup> doing the work of the ministry,<sup>87</sup> and obeying our Lord's command to make disciples.<sup>88</sup>

**Baptism and the Lord's Supper.** We believe the Lord has committed two ordinances to the local church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.<sup>89</sup> We believe Baptism is the immersion of the believer<sup>90</sup> in water<sup>91</sup> in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.<sup>92</sup> We believe the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ to commemorate his death.<sup>93</sup> Both ordinances visibly and tangibly express the Gospel,<sup>94</sup> spiritually nourishing the believer and bearing witness to the work of our Savior.<sup>95</sup>

**The Restoration of All Things.** We believe in the personal, visible return of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>96</sup> He will return to judge the living and the dead<sup>97</sup> and to consummate his kingdom.<sup>98</sup> We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust - the unjust to judgment and eternal punishment in hell,<sup>99</sup> and the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth.<sup>100</sup> On that day, the Bride of Christ, composed of believers from all ages, will be presented faultless before God.<sup>101</sup> God will be all in all,<sup>102</sup> and his people will glorify and enjoy him forever.<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>82</sup>Romans 6:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:7.

<sup>83</sup>Matthew 22:37-39; John 15:12-13.

<sup>84</sup>Philippians 2:12; 4:4, 9; Colossians 2:6-7; Hebrews 12:1-2; Romans 12:2.

<sup>85</sup>Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 2 Corinthians 3:18.

<sup>86</sup>Ephesians 4:12, 16, 29.

<sup>87</sup>Ephesians 4:12.

<sup>88</sup>Matthew 28:19-20.

<sup>89</sup>Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

<sup>90</sup>Romans 6:3-5.

<sup>91</sup>Acts 8:36.

<sup>92</sup>Matthew 28:18-20.

<sup>93</sup>Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

<sup>94</sup>Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

<sup>95</sup>Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Galatians 3:27.

<sup>96</sup>Matthew 16:27; 24:44; 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:10; 1 John 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:7; 22:7, 12, 20.

<sup>97</sup>2 Timothy 4:1; John 5:22.

<sup>98</sup>1 Corinthians 15:24-28.

<sup>99</sup>Matthew 5:22, 29-30; 8:12; 10:28; 13:42; 18:8-9; 22:13; 23:15, 33; 24:51; 25:30, 41, 46; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 3:17; 12:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 2:17; Jude 13; Revelation 14:9-11; 20:11-15; 21:8.

<sup>100</sup>Isaiah 65:17, 22; Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:34; John 5:29; Romans 8:19-23; Hebrews 1:10-12; 1 Peter 3:22; 2 Peter 2:12-13; 3:11-13; Revelation 21:1-5; 22:3.

<sup>101</sup>Romans 8:17, 23-24, 30; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:7; 21:2, 9.

<sup>102</sup>1 Corinthians 15:28.

<sup>103</sup>Revelation 7:9-12; 19:1-8; 4:8-11; 5:8-14; 11:15-18; 15:2-4; 16:5-7; Revelation 21; Psalm 16:11.