St Alfred's Anglican Church

Beliefs & Values



Beliefs

St Alfred's is an Anglican church and is therefore governed by the Bible and the 39 Articles (an Anglican statement of beliefs). We believe the creeds like the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed which show we are orthodox and Trinitarian in our beliefs.

God

There is only one God, who exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is the almighty and loving Creator, Saviour and Judge who sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will for his own glory.

The Bible

The Bible is God's inspired and life-giving Word which is sufficient for our knowledge of God and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

Humanity

All people are created in God's image and are called to love God with all their beings. However, all people are guilty of rebellion against God and human nature is thoroughly corrupted by sin. This makes everyone subject to God's righteous anger and condemnation.

Jesus Christ

God demonstrated his love for us by sending his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is both fully God and fully human. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. He died on the cross for us, rose from the dead, and in his resurrected body ascended into heaven where he is exalted as ruler over all.

Salvation

Salvation is entirely the gracious gift of God and cannot be earned or deserved. It is accomplished through the atoning death of our representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. By Christ's death God's anger is turned aside and we are redeemed from sin and death. This salvation is offered in the gospel and received by trusting in Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven by the Father and the Son. He enables people to turn to God, to trust in Jesus and to grow in faith. The Holy Spirit dwells in all those he has regenerated, giving them his spiritual gifts and growing in them the fruit of godliness.

The People of God

All who have been saved through the work of Christ are members of his church and united with one another. The people of God are built up by the teaching of God's Word (the Bible) and the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Future

One day the Lord Jesus Christ will return from heaven. He will welcome his people into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God and he will administer God's judgement on all who have not put their faith in him. Until that day the role of the Church is to proclaim the gospel and worship God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Marriage and sexual relations

At St Alfred's we uphold the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia that marriage is between a man and a woman, entered into voluntarily and intended to last until death. This is the view of marriage as seen in the Bible and in the Book of Common Prayer, A Prayer Book for Australia, and An Australian Prayer Book.

We welcome all people at St Alfred's recognizing that we are all made in the image of God as male and female (Genesis 1:27). God's grace and love are offered to every person through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ regardless of sex , age, ability, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Each of us is a sinner, forgiven and redeemed through the atoning death of Jesus on the cross. We welcome anyone who wishes to be part of the worshipping community of St Alfred's.

We believe that God calls all Christian believers to faithfulness in marriage and chastity in singleness. The Anglican code of practice called "Faithfulness in Service" requires that "Every church worker must maintain a commitment to faithfulness in marriage and chastity in singleness."

The 2022 Anglican General Synod defined "unchastity" to mean "sexual intimacy outside a marriage relationship, defined in the Book of Common Prayer as the union of one man and one woman, in accordance with Jesus' teaching about marriage in Matt 19:4-5."

Any questions about marriage or sexual relations at St Alfred's can be directed to the Senior Minister or one of the Associate Ministers.

Values

Our two Great Commitments are God and People (Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34)

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Christ

We value bringing honour to Christ. We value the saving work of Christ that has brought the church into existence. We believe that our life as individuals and as a community is based on the new life we have in Christ. Christ is the Head of the church. We value Christ as our model of how we should live our lives.

Spirit

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We value being led by God's Holy Spirit. We value the Holy Spirit's work in drawing people to faith, growing them in godliness, giving spiritual gifts, inspiring expressions of creativity, and growing the number of people being released into ministry. We value the Holy Spirit's inspiration of our corporate worship. We value the Holy Spirit's direction in areas of prayer, guidance and healing.

Bible

We value the Bible as God's Word. We value the regular exposition and application of the Bible. We value being trained to read and teach the Bible so that it is made intelligible and applicable to our whole lives.

Worship

We value the worship of God personally and corporately. We value services that use our Anglican heritage creatively to honour God and inspire us to serve him. We value a range of contemporary services designed to attract people of all ages.

Prayer

We value prayer and see it as the foundation of all the ministries and activities of our church. We believe that God hears and answers prayer and will grow us in godliness as we pray. We value prayer ministry as an expression of God's compassion and healing.

People

We value the equipping and releasing of people into ministry and mission. We value seeing individuals use their gifts so that the whole church is strengthened. We value the opportunities to use our gifts in small mid-week groups, in the wider community and in Sunday worship services.

Mission

We value introducing people to Jesus. We value sharing the truth that forgiveness, hope for the future and a new life in the present are all available in Jesus. We value showing the love of God through word, spirit and deed and looking for creative ways of incorporating people into the Christian community. We value working with other churches and Christian groups in local and overseas mission.

Community

We value belonging to a Christian community where we are known, cared for, nurtured in our faith and enjoy authentic friendship. We value having a community where we can use our gifts, serve one another and love one another. We value belonging to mid-week small groups where we experience this.

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