



# WHAT WE BELIEVE

## OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

### INTRODUCTION

As you go about finding a church home, it is important to know what Hopevale believes. There are many religious backgrounds represented among the people of Hopevale Church. Yet in our differences, it is necessary to find common ground in our faith.

While Hopevale is a non-denominational church unaffiliated with a particular religious body, we are not alone. We like to say that Hopevale Church is a small “c” local church that is part of the BIG “C” universal Christian church made up of all true believers in Jesus Christ around the world. We stand with the same church Jesus established at Pentecost and has continued on for the last 2,000 years. We also affirm the core beliefs of the Christian church expressed early in its history with statements like the Apostles’ Creed. We hold to the doctrine of the church recaptured with the Protestant Reformation, which stresses the centrality of Jesus and His saving work.

While not everything Hopevale believes is listed here, our foundational beliefs such as who God and Jesus are, God’s communication to us through the Bible, what church is all about, and what happens after death are. We pray that as you read them, you will grow in your understanding of them and your desire to know and follow Jesus with your life.

### WHAT WE BELIEVE:

**The Bible** – We believe the Bible to be the Word of God and our authority for living. We take the Scriptures seriously and use them in our personal study and corporate teaching. Every decision we make is brought under the authority of the Bible.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)*

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**God** – There is one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

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**Jesus Christ** – Jesus was (and is) God. Jesus came to earth in human form and He was the only person who has ever lived a righteously, perfect life. Because of that, Jesus' death on the cross is much more than just an inspiring example of sacrificial love, it is also the complete and sufficient payment for our sins that makes possible our reconciliation with God.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.  
This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37-39)

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**The Holy Spirit**– Person, God and co-equal with the Father and Son in all His attributes, and is sent by the Lord Jesus Christ from the Father to convict the world of sin. He is also meant to regenerate, in-dwell, guide and teach the believer as well as empower him to live in victory over sin.

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13)

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**Spiritual Death** – Man was created in the image of God. Man sinned and thereby incurred for himself and the whole human race not only physical death, but also spiritual death -- which is separation from God.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(Romans 6:23)

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**Jesus' Death**– Jesus died a substitutionary death on the cross for man's sins and by grace provides salvation for all who believe on Him, justifying them on the ground of His shed blood.

In Him, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

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**Resurrection**– Christ arose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven where He is now the believer's High Priest and Advocate.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

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**Christ's Return** – Our "blessed hope" is the personal and imminent return of Jesus Christ from Heaven, and that it will be viable and pre-millennial, and He will judge the living and the dead.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thess. 4:16-17)

**Salvation by grace through faith alone** – The only way we can personally experience the salvation and forgiveness God offers us is by His grace alone through our faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. There is no other way; our good deeds cannot earn the acceptance of God. It is this personal response of wholehearted faith and trust in Jesus alone that makes us a Christian as the Bible describes it. From there, our genuine faith then expresses itself through spiritual growth in good works and godly character.

For it is by grace you have been saved through faith - and not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

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**After Death** – There will be a bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust with a state of everlasting blessedness for the believers and a state of eternal punishment for all unbelievers.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thess. 4:16-17)

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**Church** – Consists of those who truly believe in Jesus Christ. Church is the body and bride of Christ, and its mission is to witness and disciple for Christ among the nations; also believes there are two ordinances: the Lord's Supper and Water Baptism (by immersion).

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.  
(Matthew 28:19-20)

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**Christian Life** – Separated unto God, conforming to the teachings of the Word of God, and dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

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