



**THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**ACTS 1:1-5**  
**01-10-21**

**All = bold sections – read together**

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

*Sung together = italics*

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light.

**Reflect**

Thomas Torrance: There is no separate activity of the Holy Spirit in revelation or salvation in addition to or independent of the activity of Christ, for what he does is to empower and actualize the words and works of Christ in our midst as the words and works of the Father. *Communion with the Trine God*

**Welcome**

Good Morning! May you experience this morning be gezellig! Some of you are familiar with this word. It is a Dutch favorite and it is untranslatable to English but carries the idea of good, pleasant, cozy, a friendly experience, general togetherness. Being together with friends over good food and drink is gezellig! Running into hostility from an old enemy is ungezellig! Covid-19 is ungezellig! A coffee café is gezellig. A dentist office is not! Gathering together as the body of Christ is meant to be gezellig!

**May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance this morning.**

**Call to Worship** – Psalm 40 – TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

Note what God has done for David and then note what David's response to God is.

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I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

**Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

**I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.**



As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me! For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me.

**Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me! Let those be put to shame and disappointed altogether who seek to snatch away my life; let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt!**

Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, "Aha, Aha!" But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

**As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!**

**Song** – Is He Worthy -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-c6pl6CaiD0>

*Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)*

*Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)*

*But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (We do)*

*Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)*

*Is all creation groaning? (It is)*

*Is a new creation coming? (It is)*

*Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)*

*Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?*

*Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?*

*The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave*

*He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave*

*Is He worthy? Is He worthy*

*Of all blessing and honor and glory?*

*Is He worthy of this?*

*He is*

*Does the Father truly love us? (He does)*

*Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)*

*And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves? (He does)*

*Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?*

*Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?*

*The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave*

*He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave*

*From every people and tribe (People and tribe)*

*Every nation and tongue (Every nation and tongue)*

*He has made us a kingdom and priests to God*

*To reign with the Son*

*Is He worthy? Is He worthy*



*Of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?  
Is He worthy of this?*

*He is, He is  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?  
He is, He is  
He is worthy, He is worthy  
He is*

### **Christ Candle** – China (from Open Doors World Watch List 2020)

We light the Christ candle as a visible sign of God’s presence with us; that he has come as light into a world of darkness. We light the Christ candle to remind ourselves that Jesus is the light and that in him we become light too. We are never a light on our own. The light we have and can offer to others is the light of Jesus of Nazareth. May we be God’s light in 2021.

Jesus of Nazareth said that to be a Christian means to be maltreated for his name’s sake (Matthew 5:11) and the apostle Paul said that “everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12). Mistreatment as a disciple of Jesus is not a matter of *if* but a matter of *when* and a matter of *degree*. Hope is a vital aspect of being a disciple of Jesus. This is especially true under heavy persecution. In America, the land of religious freedom, we have it pretty easy in that there is minimal outright persecution against Christians. **May we make the most of our religious freedom to honor Christ and give credible and coherent witness to him! At the same time, may we be aware of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who don’t share the same freedom that we do. The 23rd place that is most challenging to be a disciple of Jesus is China.**

Of the 1.5 billion people in China, 97 million are Christians (6.5%). China is an agnostic, communist state. China wants to “sinicize” every religious ideology in the country – meaning, to make beliefs, including Christianity, fall in line with their interpretation of communism. This means a steady drip of pressure, where the government increases surveillance, control and restrictions of believers. If churches or pastors are deemed to be too outspoken or political, they can be monitored or even imprisoned. Additionally, the decision to follow Jesus comes at a high cost for Christians in western China who come from ethnic groups where Islam or Buddhism are the dominant faiths.

Prayer Points: Pray for the church in China as it adjusts to constantly tightening restrictions of religious freedom. Pray for Christians in ethnic minorities who have followed Jesus out of Islam or Buddhism. Pray they would find strength and fellowship. Pray that Christ will reveal Himself to government officials who seek to control the church.

**Jesus is the Light. We are a light. Shine His light!**

### **Song** – Be Thou My Vision -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7lF16s>

*Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light  
Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord*



*Thou my great Father, I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one  
Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart  
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art  
High King of Heaven, my victory won  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all*

**Song** – Yet Not I But Christ In Me -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zundjUFazfg>

*What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to His  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me  
The night is dark but I am not forsaken  
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay  
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing  
For in my need, His power is displayed  
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me  
Through the deepest valley He will lead  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me  
No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven  
The future sure, the price it has been paid  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave  
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated  
Jesus now and ever is my plea  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me  
With every breath I long to follow Jesus  
For He has said that He will bring me home  
And day by day I know He will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus*



*All the glory evermore to Him  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
All the glory evermore to Him  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

*When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

### **Centering Prayer** –

Heavenly Father, may we who are merely inconvenienced by this pandemic remember those whose life or livelihood are at stake.

**May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.**

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making the rent.

**May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.**

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go.

**May we who are losing our margin of money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.**

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

**As indifference and hostility rise in our country, let us choose love.**

During this time when we are not physically wrapping our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### **Offering** – Ripon Christian

Since 1928 Ripon Christian has been providing students with excellent academic training for a wide range of careers and higher educational levels, while at the same time offering opportunities and encouragement for significant spiritual growth. The heart of their mission is to prepare Christian leaders for the 21<sup>st</sup> century who will joyfully live out their faith in a sovereign God while humbly serving those around them as Jesus of Nazareth did.

**We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.**

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

### **Youth Celebration**

As we enter into the beginning of 2021, we are reminded again this morning of how Covid-19 has impacted our youth. This week, we lament the loss or significant alteration of activities our youth



normally had the opportunity to participate in -- from sports to ag shows to arts performances and more. The frustrations and disappointments can run deep as many expectations were not met. Take a moment to pray for our youth and the significant impact of this pandemic on them.

### **Scripture Reading** – Acts 1:1-5

We begin a new series today called, The Acts of the Holy Spirit. This series will, as the title indicates, draw our attention to the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. However, this does not mean we are leaving Jesus of Nazareth behind. Never! We will see that the Holy Spirit continues the work and mission of Jesus of Nazareth by applying Jesus' saving work and empowering and equipping Jesus' disciples to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. It is the Holy Spirit that unites us with God – Father and Son too. We will also be learning what the beginning of the Church of God looked like and operated – what did it focus on and why? And, what does that mean and look like for us today? Was it only descriptive of what happened then and not for us today or was it prescriptive and meant for us today or some of both? It will challenge us to “be the Church” today; to be the body of Christ in the world today, to demonstrate the love of Christ and to share the hope that we have verbally through accurate but improvised gospel telling and through acts of charity and love towards others.

These first five verses are introductory verses that link this book to the Gospel according to Luke. Luke is the author of both and they were both written to the same person (or audience). The book of Luke was about the Acts of Jesus of Nazareth while the book of Acts is about the acts of the Holy Spirit. Again, they are inextricably tied together. One cannot properly and biblically understand one without the other. We have spent a lot of time and effort training ourselves to understand and see the narrative and dramatic nature of scripture and that we are active participants in the divine drama (theodrama) today. This drama and narrative can be thought of holistically in five acts or five chapters respectively. While the Gospel according to Luke focused on what we have called R3 (R1 = Reigning; R2 = Rebelling; R3 = Redeeming; R4 = Renewing; R5 = Restoring), The Acts of the Holy Spirit focuses on R4, renewing. God's kingdom has actively entered into this world in Jesus of Nazareth who finished God's saving work through his perfect life, substitutionary death and resurrection from the dead. Now (to this day) the Holy Spirit is applying that finished work in building the Church, or house of God as we saw last week, bringing renewal through the sign and foretaste of the already present but not yet fully consummated kingdom of God.

### **Gospel Message** – The Promise of the Holy Spirit

This past summer, on our trip to Michigan and back, we were able to stop and visit with a few dear friends that we had not seen in quite a while (years). What a joy and delight it was to catch up and hear what was going on in their lives. It was also good to share memories and relive past times together that helped build the friendship to what it is today. While we meant to stay in touch with them, before we knew it, a lot of time had slipped by with only short interactions on social media or through email. We were connected but the intentionality in deepening the relationships was lacking. In the same way, Christians can become “out of touch” with the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They can interact with the Holy Spirit like a friend rarely seen – appreciated but not really a part of their regular life. There may have been an early focus but then a slow drift away or maybe there was not much connecting of being a disciple of Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit to start with. In some ways, the Holy Spirit can become a “fifth wheel” in our discipleship life. The wheel is always there but it is not noticed until pointed out or needed. This is unfortunate and dangerous for the disciple of Jesus



Christ because the Holy Spirit is the regenerating, uniting, empowering, sanctifying and equipping Spirit of Jesus of Nazareth and the Father. And, the Holy Spirit is the one who Jesus promised would come after him and that it was good for him to go away so that the Holy Spirit could be to the people of God. Pause a moment and reflect on what you know about the Holy Spirit.

The first five verses in Acts 1 are introductory and serve primarily to connect the soon to be sent Holy Spirit with Jesus of Nazareth who had begun his work in the previous book of Luke (the Gospel according to Luke) and now continues it through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in disciple's lives. So this morning, we will spend our time in introducing the book of Acts and the particular focus by Luke on the Holy Spirit as evidenced by his mentioning the Holy Spirit directly two times in these five verses. Pause a moment and reflect on what kind of relationship you have with the Holy Spirit. What you noted above was what you knew about the Holy Spirit. Some may have only cited intellectual knowledge. But what about experiential?

The book of Acts was written by the physician, Luke. Luke was a friend and co-missionary with the apostle Paul on his third missionary tour and was the only one who stayed with Paul when he was in prison in Rome for the last time. Luke is mission minded. He wrote not only the book of Acts but the gospel book named after him, Luke. This two-volume set was written specifically for Theophilus, someone Luke befriended and shared the gospel of Jesus with and is now sharing his continued work through the Holy Spirit and the establishment of the Church. His aim was to bring "certainty" to what Theophilus had been taught about Jesus by providing an orderly and eyewitness (verifiable) account of the gospel of Jesus of Nazareth. He now is showing that Jesus is alive and well and working and active and present through the Holy Spirit.

Let's walk through these first five verses. Luke is packing a lot into them to lay the foundation for the rest of the book and what we might anticipate as his focus points. The first verse addresses the fact that Luke the physician had already written one book, the gospel according to Luke and now had written another. The first book "dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach". Two things here. First is that this book starts off with Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus will still be front and center as he always will be but now, he is sharing the spotlight with the holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. The gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news of his perfect life, his sacrificial death, his resurrection and his teachings and acts will still be central. Second, it says "began." This is important as it suggests that Jesus of Nazareth is still at work; that this second volume will continue documenting his work. And indeed, that is what is happening here. We will see that Jesus is working through the Holy Spirit to build his house, the Church. This is the dramaline or storyline of R3 – Redeeming and it extends actively into today, 2021. The final piece of information in this verse is that Luke is writing to a person, Theophilus. We don't know who he was but he was probably an important official as Luke calls him "most excellent" in his gospel according to Luke. What is important is to realize his purpose is evangelistic. He is intentionally drawing up two documents so that Theophilus might be certain of what just took place with Jesus of Nazareth and what it meant and how he might respond to it (this will become even clearer in this book). The name Theophilus means "beloved by God." This is you and I too and so we can read this book personally as one who is beloved by God because of his amazing grace and love.

Verse two brings a bit more clarity to verse one. Luke says he chronicled Jesus of Nazareth's life in book 1 up until his ascension into the clouds. Luke will chronicle this again in the verses we will look at next



week and it serves to bridge the two books and unite them together. It says that he was taken up (ascended) after “he had given commands through the Holy Spirit.” Right here we already see the uniting of God’s work in Jesus of Nazareth through the Holy Spirit. This is not surprising. We dealt with this in the book of Matthew when Jesus was baptized and the Holy Spirit came upon him in the visible form of a dove so that people could see that something spiritual was happening. The Spirit then leads Jesus Christ into the desert where he faced the temptations of the Devil and then began his ministry of three years. Our text says it was, “through the Holy Spirit” that Jesus commanded the disciples. In a generalistic way, it is the Holy Spirit who carries out the work of Jesus of Nazareth who is doing the will and work of the Father. This Luke says was directed toward the apostles who are referred to a “chosen.” This reminds us that we are disciples today not on our own accord but because of God’s sovereign election and calling us to be his children. These words and actions of Jesus of Nazareth and the Holy Spirit will be sweet and nourishing and beautiful aroma to them. To others, the non-elect they will not. May these words in the book of Acts, God’s words be sweet and nourishing and beautiful to you that you may grow in your discipleship, better share the hope you have and demonstrate the love of Jesus more readily and regularly.

The next verse summarizes the forty days after Jesus’ death (“suffering”) and resurrection from the dead up to the time he ascended into the clouds. The text says that he “presented himself alive” to them. Luke is emphasizing the miraculous fact that Jesus of Nazareth was dead but now is alive. Yes, he was crucified and he died and he was in the grave for three days. But that is not the end of the story. His is alive!! And as Luke indicates, that was only the “beginning” of his work. Yes, his salvific work had been finished on the cross, a perfect life was lived and his suffering and sacrificial offering as the perfect spotted Lamb was accepted and complete for the saving of his people. But he is not kicking back, basking in his glory on a job well-done in heaven. No, he is showing up, the resurrected Jesus of Nazareth to people in a convincing manner. The word for “proofs” is a powerful Greek word that emphasizes a certain conclusion can be drawn from the facts of what just happened. Despite the fact that everyone knows people don’t rise from the dead, the facts prove that Jesus of Nazareth really did. And not raised back to life to die again like Lazarus, but raised to life to never die again – life after life after death. It had and has never been done except by Jesus of Nazareth and it promised to those chosen by him as his disciples, including us today. Luke is convinced of what he saw. He knows what he saw. He is convinced that others knew what they saw. 1 Corinthians 15:5-7 describes most fully what happened in these “proof presentations” of the risen Jesus of Nazareth. It says,

“....that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

The resurrected Jesus of Nazareth appeared to a host of different people, including an astounding 500 people at one time! Paul makes the explicit point that Luke alludes to – the vast majority of these people are still alive. In other words, you can go ask them yourself if you want to. Don’t just take my word for it, go ask the people who saw it themselves. They will tell you the same thing. Jesus of Nazareth, we don’t know how, but he really is alive and present and speaking about the kingdom of God!! It’s important to note that this is what Jesus spoke on – the kingdom of God. This was important to Jesus. Is it important to you? We spent a lot of time on the kingdom of God when we were going through Matthew. What do you recall about Jesus’ teachings on the kingdom of God? Maybe take a





look back at Matthew and refresh your memory after finishing this extended liturgy.

Next, Luke notes in passing that Jesus ate with them! The words for “while staying with them” are idiomatic and literally mean “ate salt with them.” It was an expression of being with them but also included eating and dining with them! Think about that for a moment. Resurrected King Jesus doesn’t shove his authority and power down their throats or hover above them and look down upon them in all his splendor (which he could). No. He settles in quietly with them over food and drink in a common and unpretentious setting! They could get a good look at him and really see and know that it was Jesus of Nazareth. A key point is that Jesus of Nazareth did not return spiritually but bodily, with his resurrected body. He was still flesh and blood! Now the point that Luke was getting to through this passing detail was for them to wait. Wait! ... What? ... Wait? Yep. The first thing the newly forming Church was to do was to wait. They were to remain in Jerusalem until the “promise of the Father” that they had heard from Jesus himself would come. Waiting is a key discipline for disciples of Jesus who live by faith between promise and fulfillment. Remember last week the theme of promise and fulfillment we saw in 1 Kings 5 regarding the Davidic covenant and that God would build a house through a son of King David. This too is promise and fulfillment and it is actually a part of that very covenant promise made 1000 years prior (and now 3,000 years ago through the Church being built today by Jesus of Nazareth through the Holy Spirit). So this was planned. A promise is a plan. God is not winging his pulling off of redemptive salvation. He knows exactly what he is doing ... and when and how. The plan of salvation is intact. We can trust God’s plan for us. We can trust in his sovereign work of salvation and work of building his Church today. How often are you aware of being an active participant in God’s unfolding plan today? What might you do to help yourself be a better “rememberer”?

BTW – have you noticed the trinitarian introduction that Luke provides? Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all explicitly mentioned. Luke is showing that the Triune God is active in the saving of his creation and his chosen people and that each has a role to play that is unique from the other. In general, theologians have summarized it this way: The Father is the initiator. The Son is the accomplisher. The Holy Spirit is the consummator. In other words, The Father is the author and originator of the plan. Jesus is the one who does the hard lifting of accomplishing the plan with his life, death and resurrection and the Holy Spirit is the one who bring the plan of salvation to a completion, to its desired end. Being active participants in R3, we are a part of the story/drama in which God is actively bringing things to their desired end and purpose! Pretty cool, huh!!

The fifth verse contains the specifics of the fulfillment of the promise of the Father that Jesus of Nazareth told them. He said that while John baptized with water, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit “not many days from now.” So the big question is, what does baptized with or in the Holy Spirit mean? Well, we are getting a little ahead of ourselves here because we will cover that in detail when we get to it in the text – specifically chapter 2 and the Day of Pentecost – but in general, it means that while John’s baptism was more of a “preparatory” one, the baptism of the Holy Spirit would be a “participatory” one (Darryl Bock). It is one in which a person is united with the resurrected Jesus of Nazareth and the Father through the Holy Spirit in such a way that the person is regenerated (born-again or brought to new life from their sinful deadness), justified (made right) by Jesus and sanctified (shaped right) by the Holy Spirit so that they will not be judged as condemned when Jesus bodily returns again but as righteous and as God’s children forever with him. Okay, that is a theological



mouthful! Basically, it means that God is saving us by grace through faith and this is the finished or accomplished work of Jesus and the applying or actualizing work of the Holy Spirit. Not sure if that helped but what we will see is a focus in Acts of the Holy Spirit on His sanctifying (making more holy or godly or like Jesus) work in individuals and the Church.

It is R3, tales of renewing – the actualizing work of the Holy Spirit – that most directly places us squarely into the current, active and unfolding narrative and story of God. You and I are a continuation of what Jesus Christ accomplished for us and is accomplishing through the Holy Spirit who brings to life the plan of God to build his house and household into all eternity. Jesus of Nazareth made it possible for humanity and divinity to dwell together in peace once again. This is what has been called being in “communion” with God. Jesus of Nazareth made it possible for humanity and humanity to dwell together in peace once again. This has been called our being in “community” with each other. We will see this “dwelling in peace” with God and each other unfold in the book of Acts as God continues his making all things new in Jesus of Nazareth and through the Holy Spirit. Take comfort and courage that God’s plan is intact; that it is unfolding as planned, on schedule and it now includes you, I and CCRC!

May we not engage with the Holy Spirit as a fifth wheel or a distant friend we only visit on rare occasions. May the Holy Spirit be a daily, active part of our prayer and communion with God as we do life with him. May we be acutely aware of our every-moment participation in God’s unfolding drama today in the developing and nurturing of communion and community. Next week we will see that a major aspect of this life with Jesus through the Holy Spirit it to be his witnesses. We do this in the person and power of the Holy Spirit. How are you actively participating as a witness to Jesus of Nazareth in his unfolding divine drama today?

### **Communion Meditation**

Ephesians 4:5 says that we, as disciples of Jesus of Nazareth have “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” We declare that “one faith” with the professing of the Apostles Creed. This creed is not perfect nor does it summarize all of the “one faith” but it does a pretty good job and has been used by the Church across ecumenical lines (Roman Catholic and Orthodox) as well as the Protestant churches. Let’s say this together as we remember the Universal Church of God, of the house of true believers in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

*Professing:* (Apostles Creed)

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose and ascended to heaven**

**Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Proclaiming:* 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (Paraphrased)



On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, “this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, “this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”

**Remember and believe that the body & blood of Jesus was given & shed for the forgiveness of sins.**

**Song** – King of Kings -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of5lcFWiEpg>

*In the darkness, we were waiting  
Without hope, without light  
'Til from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfill the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt  
  
Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings  
  
To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake You died  
  
Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings  
  
And the morning that You rose  
All of Heaven held its breath  
'Til that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored  
  
And the church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel, shall not faint*



*By His blood and in His name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me, ohh  
Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

**Sending as Disciples of Jesus:**

We are focusing more on the active role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This sending emphasizes our calling and identity as witnesses to Jesus of Nazareth that we are empowered and equipped to do through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

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**We are sent out by God into the world as his witnesses. As we go may we know with our minds and believe with our hearts and confess with our mouths the gospel of Jesus Christ and his kingdom. And may we live in a manner worthy of that Good News at work, at home, at school and in our neighborhood to the glory of God and through the person and power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Notes – Pictures – Thoughts – Feelings – Action Steps – Questions**