



ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

What We Believe

St. Philip's is an evangelical parish in the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina. Our worship, which is steeped in The Book of Common Prayer, is intended first and foremost to glorify God in Jesus Christ, and we stand in that theological tradition which owes a debt of gratitude to the great reformers of the English Reformation. With them, we ascribe to the following:

STATEMENT OF FAITH

A belief in the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; three distinct Persons co-equal in Glory and co-eternal in majesty and of one substantial Godhead, such that there are not three gods but one God.

A belief in the Holy Scriptures as divine revelation, inerrantly inspired, (theopneustos) by God, carrying the full measure of His authority, containing all things necessary to salvation, and to be submitted to in all matters of faith and practice of life.

A belief in the One Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ, who in His person is both fully God and fully man; of one substance with the Father as regards His Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards His manhood.

A belief in the perfect obedience of Christ, His true and actual suffering, His substitutionary and atoning death on the cross, and His bodily resurrection and ascension as the only means given for our salvation and reconciliation with God.

A belief in faith alone as the only grounds for the merits of Christ being imputed to us for our justification before God (justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone).

A belief in the consummate return of Jesus Christ in glory to judge the living and the dead, and a belief in the bodily resurrection of the dead and their entrance into either eternal damnation or everlasting blessedness.

A belief in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church as those souls that have been redeemed entirely by the work of Christ and called out of bondage into freedom, out of darkness into light, out of error into truth, out of death into eternal life.

A belief that the visible Church is best organized under the historic and biblical offices of Bishop, Presbyter, and Deacon; and that the Church exists to worship the Triune God and to lift up the Savior Jesus Christ before all people through the faithful preaching and teaching of the Gospel, through prayer, and through the faithful administration of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion or the Eucharist).

A belief in the historic Nicene and Apostles' creeds of the Church as accurate representations of the essence of the Christian faith, and in the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Anglican Church as a coherent and concise expression of Anglican doctrine.

Further:

We believe Christians are called beyond mere church membership to the lifelong journey of discipleship, learning to faithfully live what God has revealed about us (Matthew 7:24-29, Mark 8:34-36, Galatians 5:22);

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of St. Philip's Church.

We believe all people are created in the image of God, who wonderfully and immutably creates each person as genetically male or female. These two distinct complementary genders reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is in conflict with this created-ness and is inconsistent with our beliefs;

In the Church, we believe marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in Holy Matrimony, a single, exclusive, lifelong union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25; Mark 10:1-9). This covenanted relationship signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, reconciling and re-uniting two complements.

God's good intention for us is that sexual intimacy is to occur only between a man and a woman who have entered into this marriage covenant. (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.) For the blessing and protection of the bond of marriage, our families, and particularly our children, God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage (as previously defined as being between a man and a woman);

Because God is the one who has ordained and ordered marriage according to His good purposes, the Parish will only recognize and solemnize a marriage that is between a man and a woman. Further, the clergy and staff of this Parish shall only serve in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. The facilities and property of the Parish shall only host weddings between one man and one woman;

Finally:

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible is the trustworthy Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of humankind. For purposes of the Parish, in faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Bishop is the final interpretive authority on matters of doctrine and their application;

In order to preserve the function and integrity of the Parish as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to both parishioners and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Parish in any capacity, or who serve as leaders, agree to abide by this Statement of Faith. (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22.);

We celebrate and stand for the unchanging truth of the gospel as centered in the grace of Jesus Christ, in the gift of biblical revelation, and the moral vision expressed in historic, Anglican Christianity.

The foregoing Statement of Faith was adopted by unanimous Resolution of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church at a duly called meeting of the Vestry held on April 3, 2018.