**The Nicene Creed**

A creed means a statement of belief. The most famous Christian creed is the Nicene Creed which was first drawn up in 325 AD at a place called Nicaea (now in Turkey) where there had been a gathering of people from all over the Christian world. All Christians believe in the Nicene Creed and in fact, it could be said that the Nicene Creed is a test of what makes somebody a Christian (in terms of their beliefs); those who believe it are Christians and those who believe only part of it (or none of it) are not Christians.

The small superscript numbers are line numbers for your convenience. The word ‘catholic’ in line 16 means ‘worldwide’ not ‘Roman Catholic’. The Council of Nicaea was a gathering of all types of Christians and not just ones who followed the Pope so they believed in one holy ‘catholic/worldwide’ Church. Notice the belief in the Trinity, which is outlined in detail. These words are read out in churches across the world every week.

‘We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, 5not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day 10he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]\*. With the Father and 15the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.’

\*The words ‘and the Son’ were not original but were added later by the Western Church. In the eastern churches the words in square brackets are not used.