

**LAKE ROAD CHAPEL  
BASIS OF FAITH**

**GOD**

There is one God who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is unchangeable in His holiness, justice, wisdom and love. He is the Almighty Creator, Saviour and Judge who exercises His sovereignty in sustaining and governing all things according to His will for His own glory.

**THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless human life in complete obedience to the Father. He taught with authority and all His words are true. On the cross, He suffered and died in the place of His people, bearing God's punishment for their sin, redeeming them by His blood. He rose from the dead in that very body that had been placed in the tomb. He ascended into heaven where He is exalted as Lord of all. He intercedes for His people in the presence of the Father.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply His work of salvation. He convicts sinners, imparts spiritual life and gives a true understanding of the Bible. He indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ. He builds up the Church and empowers its members for worship, service and mission.

**THE HUMAN RACE**

All men and women, being created in the image of God, have inherent and equal dignity and worth. Their greatest purpose is to love, worship and obey God. As a result of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, our first parents, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted and all men and women, by birth, are hostile to God and under His just condemnation as guilty sinners, deserving of eternal punishment. They are spiritually dead and unable to save themselves. Every person needs to be born again, forgiven and reconciled to God in order to know and please Him.

**SALVATION**

Salvation from the guilt, penalty and power of sin is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. It has been accomplished solely by the work of Jesus Christ in his perfect life and substitutionary death on the cross when he satisfied the demands of divine justice. It is offered to all in the gospel. Before the creation of the world God in His love chose absolutely and unconditionally in Christ those who would be saved. Those whom He has chosen He calls, granting them repentance and faith, and imputes to them the righteousness of Christ. All who believe in Christ are justified by faith alone, reconciled to God, adopted into His family and receive eternal life. It is the church's calling and privilege to proclaim the good news of salvation to all people.

**BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Baptism and the Lord's Supper have been given to the Church by Christ:

**Baptism** is a symbol of cleansing from sin and union with Christ in His death and resurrection but does not impart spiritual life. All believers should be baptised because Christ has commanded it, not because it is necessary for salvation.

**The Lord's Supper** is a regular commemoration of Christ's sacrifice for sin offered once for all His people. It involves no change in the substance of the bread and wine. All its blessings are received by faith.

**THE BIBLE**

God has revealed Himself in the Bible which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the word of God. It is without error and fully reliable not only when it speaks of salvation, its own origins, values and religious matters but also when it speaks of history and the cosmos. The Bible is sufficient: nothing is to be taken from it, nor added to it by traditions of man or so-called revelations of the Spirit. It contains everything necessary for salvation and life. It is the only authority in matters of faith and practice.

**THE CHURCH**

The universal Church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong. It is made visible in local churches, which are congregations of believers who are committed to God and each other in love for the worship of God, for the preaching of His Word, for pastoral care and discipline, for administering baptism and the Lord's Supper, for evangelism and for serving those in need. The unity of the body is expressed within and between local churches by mutual love, care and encouragement. Fellowship between churches exists only where there is a shared faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**THE FUTURE**

The Lord Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly, in power and glory, at the end of time. He will raise the dead and bring salvation and judgement to completion. The wicked will suffer eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God in the new heavens and the new earth, from which evil, suffering and death will be excluded, and in which He will be glorified for ever.