

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

We are a prayerful, Bible-teaching, evangelical church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city and the world. We are a member of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. We seek to be a biblically faithful and orthodox church within the Anglican Way of following Jesus.

Are you new? Get connected!

Are you interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? Email info@messiahchurch.ca or call **613.235.0596**. Also check out our website at messiahchurch.ca.

Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am Service. For Nursery, you are welcome to <http://messiahchurch.ca/wp-admin/link-manager.php> bring children to the north side of the lobby before or during the service. For Sunday School, children are invited to "follow the cross" during the third worship song.

The Offering Plate

If you are visiting, please feel free to let the plate go by. If you would like to donate, please make cheques out to "**Church of the Messiah**." If you prefer to donate online, go to www.canadahelps.org, then search "Church of the Messiah Ottawa."

Financial Update - Operating Fund

	JAN - JUL ACTUAL	JAN - JUL TARGET
Offering	\$153,025	\$184,479

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rector

Rev. Canon George Sinclair

Worship Leader & Young Adults Leader

Jeremiah Smith

Administrative & Communications Manager

Amy van Hemmen

Ministry Interns

Jeremy Giles & Daniel Gilman

Wardens:

Dick Butler, Gary Graber, John Rayson
Shannon Ripley, Karl Ruban, Dana Scherf

Creeds & Baptism

Dear Friends,

Does the Nicene Creed teach baptismal regeneration? In other words, does the creed teach that if someone is baptized they are automatically born again (regenerated)? To be even more precise, is the creed saying that if you baptize a baby, then the baby is born again and does not have to come to saving faith? The simple answer is "no." This is not what the creed is telling us we must believe.

First of all, remember that the creeds are trying to clarify some key points of what the Bible teaches. The Bible talks of salvation a great deal. It is very clear that the Bible teaches of our need to "repent and believe" the good news that God has provided "the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." The Bible does not teach that the mere ritual of Baptism saves.

Secondly, remember that the creed was written in the Fourth Century. It was written to deal with current and persistent controversies. Most of the creed focuses on the person of Jesus and His place in the Trinity. The Nicene Creed was not written to deal with questions about baptismal regeneration. We cannot read the Nicene Creed in light of later controversies.

The third point is similar. It is clear that the church in the Fourth Century practiced both infant and adult baptism. It is also clear that they believed one should only be baptized once. However, the controversy over adult versus infant baptism, and the legitimacy of re-baptizing adults who had been baptized as an infant - this controversy developed twelve centuries after the Nicene Creed was written, so we should not read the Creed as if it is commenting on the issue of infant / adult baptism.

Fourthly, in the New Testament, "Baptism" is talked of in three different ways. First, there is the Baptism of John the Baptist. This was part of John's ministry which prepared the way for Jesus. Second, there is the physical act of Baptism after Pentecost. This is the act of Baptism instituted by Jesus as part of the great commission in Matthew 28. The Ethiopian church and the household of the Philippian jailer were baptized. Third, there is Baptism as a symbol of how salvation works. We are immersed in the saving work of Jesus. "Baptism" is an image of "drowning" and hence of death. In salvation, we are united with Jesus and die with Him and are made alive in Him. So the creed is telling us Jesus came "for our salvation" and we need to be united with Him, immersed in Him, to have our sins put away and live with Jesus. The creed talks of Baptism in the third sense.

George +