**Sermon Notes - Nicene Creed: ‘God – Father and Creator’**

**‘We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**‘A perfect community of creative love’**

During times of significant disagreement within the church the creeds were drawn up to make clear what were essential beliefs so that false teaching could be more easily identified.

* How does what we believe affect the way we act?
* The Apostle’s creed starts with the singular, ‘I believe’ but the Nicene creed starts with the plural, ‘We believe’. Why might that be significant?
* In a time when worship of a multiplicity of gods was part of culture and society, how significant (counter cultural) would it be for a non-Jewish person to state publicly a belief in a single God? What risks might that carry?
* In this long credal statement the very first tenet of belief identifies God as ‘Father’. What does that suggest to you?
* Look up Matthew 6:3-15 how many times does the word, ‘Father’ occur? How does that contribute to our understanding of the nature of God and what Jesus taught and demonstrated?
* Read Psalm 8:1-4. How does David’s reflection in this psalm contribute to the big picture of who God is?
* God invites us, his beloved creation, to participate with him in His ‘perfect community of creative love’. What does that mean for our relationships within the church and our responsibility for the world He created?
* Read Psalm 139:13-16. What does that suggest to you of the intimacy of God, (Father and Creator) and his love and desire for you?
* What difference does that make to how you daily relate to God?

**Pray for one another, that we may plumb new depths in our understanding of God’s love for us.**

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