

A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns in a dark blue color, framing the central text.

# **Profession of Faith**

**RCNZ**

## Profession of faith

*The minister shall invite those professing their faith to come forward.*

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, today we are privileged to hear the public profession of faith of \_\_\_\_\_ names. When they were baptised they received the sign and seal of God's covenant promises and were received into the church. Now they wish to share fully in the life of this congregation. So today they will publicly accept and confirm what was sealed in their baptism, confess with their mouth Jesus as Lord, and offer themselves to God as his willing servants.

*To those wishing to profess their faith:*

We thank God that he has worked in your hearts and has given you the desire to profess your faith.

In the presence of God and his people, we ask you to respond to the following questions:<sup>1</sup>

1. Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God, the supreme authority for doctrine and life, and that its teaching is faithfully summarised in the creeds and confessions of this church?
2. Do you humble yourself before God and repent of your sins, and do you joyfully trust in and love Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as your Lord and Saviour?
3. Do you accept the gracious promises of God sealed to you in your baptism and do you affirm your union with Christ and his church which your baptism signifies?
4. Do you resolve to forsake the world, put to death your old nature, and lead a godly life?
5. Do you promise to honour the office bearers of the church and, if you should become unfaithful in doctrine or life, submit to their admonition and discipline?

6. Do you desire to use the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you to build up the body of Christ?

*Answer:* I do, God helping me.

*Minister:* In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I now welcome you to all the privileges of full communion. I welcome you to full participation in the life of the church. I welcome you to its responsibilities, its joys and its sufferings.

I urge that you, by the diligent use of the means of grace, and with the help of God, continue in the profession you have just made. "May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."<sup>2</sup>

### ***Optional: The Apostles' Creed***

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary;  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell<sup>3</sup>  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

I believe a holy catholic<sup>4</sup> church, the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you that through your Word and Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ *names* have come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. May they never cease to wonder at what you have done for them in Christ, always giving thanks for what you continue to do in their hearts and lives by your Spirit.

Please carry on the good work you have begun in them. Help them to continue firmly in the faith and to bear witness to your love. May the Holy Spirit shape their lives so they become more holy and more like the Lord Jesus Christ. Help them to resist the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil. Take them, good Shepherd, into your care, that they may persevere to the end.

May we, with all your people, live together in the joy and power of your Holy Spirit and in the hope of the second coming of our Lord, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

<sup>1</sup> A response may be asked for after each question. Alternatively, the questions may be changed into statements and said by those professing their faith. Opportunity may also be given for them to testify to the grace of God in their lives.

<sup>2</sup> Hebrews 13:20–21.

<sup>3</sup> That is, on the cross Jesus suffered the agony of hell which our sins deserved (cf. Heidelberg Catechism Q. 44).

<sup>4</sup> That is, God's people through all times and places (cf. Heidelberg Catechism Q. 54).