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The Aicene Creed

A CONCISE INTRODUCTION TO THE ECUMENICAL CREED OF NICEA, ITS **ROOTS AND DEVELOPMENT WITH THE** MUSICAL NOTATION FOR USE IN THE **DIVINE OFFICES OF THE ARMENIAN**



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Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America



ABOUT THE CREED

A creed is an expression of confession of Faith, recited to proclaim one's beliefs. The word *creed* originates from the Latin word *credo* which means *to believe*. In the early church there were many different forms of the Christian confession of faith (creeds) which were originally used in relation to Baptism.

Before being baptized, the individual had to state what he or she believed. The earliest Christian creed probably took the form of confessing that Jesus is the Christ, Messiah, and that the Christ is Lord. By publicly confessing the belief, the person could be baptized into Christ, dying and rising with Him into the new life – of God's Kingdom – in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As time passed, different places adopted different statements, all professing the identical Faith yet using varying forms and expressions with different degrees of detail and emphasis. These credal forms usually became more detailed and elaborate in those areas where questions about the Faith arose.

WHEN DID THIS ALL OCCUR?

In the year of Our Lord 325 the first Ecumenical Council was held at Nicea. At this meeting of 318 bishops and hierarchs of the Church, blessed by the Holy Spirit, the Confession of Faith of the Christian Church was formulated. Thus it took its name from the place at which it was formulated; *THE NICENE CREED.* It was used as the common confession of Faith symbolizing unity in belief.

The *NICENE CREED* was placed in the Divine Liturgy in the year 473 A.D. by the Patriarch of Antioch, Peter named "The Fuller". It found its place in the Armenian Liturgy during the late 5th century about 485 A.D. under the Catholicos Saint Hovhannes Mantagouni. It exists to this day in the same form in its entirety and unmodified.

WHEN DO WE INTONE THE CREED?

The creed is intoned by the deacons and all the faithful after the chanting of the Holy Gospel, in order to set the minds of the faithful straight concerning the truths contained in the scriptures. They are guided in their lives, as members of the Church, by these truths. Therefore as the faithful recite the creed they renew their act of confession of Faith in the teaching of the Church, by humbly submitting themselves to the requirements and responsibilities of that belief, with all its implications.

During the Divine Liturgy, the Nicene Creed should be intoned by all the faithful as an expression of Faith and as a sign of unity. This is shown by the posture of hands. The palms of the hands are placed together with fingers closed and pointing outward. The right thumb should be clasped over the left.



THE ANATHEMA

After the faithful have intoned the *Nicene Creed* the Deacon then reads aloud the "anathema". This brief statement simply declares that those who do not profess that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are divine, the Holy Church denounces. The Armenian Church is the only church which formally declares the "anathema" of the 318 Holy Fathers who formulated the creed in her Divine Liturgy.



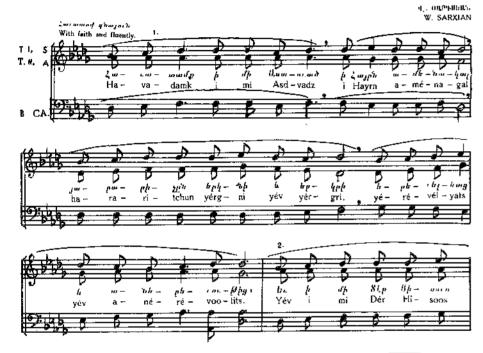
SOME IMPORTANT IDEAS TO REMEMBER ABOUT THE CREED

- 1. We believe in One God who created the whole world and all things.
- 2. God became man in the person of Jesus Christ in order to save mankind.
- 3. It was by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in the bosom of the Father for all eternity that Christ was born of the Holy Virgin Mary.
- 4. Christ was crucified, buried and rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. By this act representing all of humanity, He overcame the power of death and He gave salvation to all mankind.
- 5. Christ will come again in the same body to judge us.
- 6. On judgement day Jesus the Christ will call all of us who have repented to eternal life in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Prepared by: Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian and Deacon Arthur T. Sabounjian

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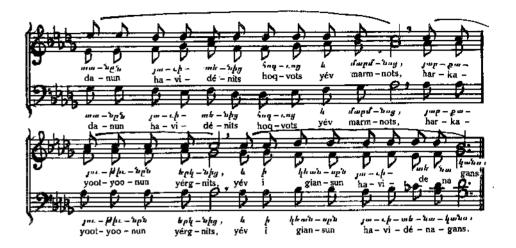
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We believe in one God,/ the Father almighty,/ maker of heaven and earth,/ of things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,/ the Son of God,/ begotten of God the Father,/ only-begotten,/ that is of the substance of the Father.

God of God,/ light of light,/ very God of very God,/ begotten and not made;/ of the self-same nature of the Father,/ by whom all things came into being in heaven and on earth,/ visible and invisible;

Who for us/ men/ and for our salvation came down from heaven/ and was incarnate,/ was made man,/ was born perfectly of the holy virgin Mary/ by the Holy Spirit;

By whom he took body,/ soul/ and mind and everything that is in man,/ truly and not in semblance.

He suffered/ and was crucified/ and was buried/ and rose again on the third day/ and ascended into heaven with the same body/ and sat at the right hand of the Father.

He is to come with the same body and with the glory of the Father/ to judge the quick and the dead;/ of whose kingdom there is no end.

We believe also in the Holy Spirit,/ the uncreate and the perfect;/ who spake in the law and in the prophets and in the Gospels;/

Who came down upon the Jordan,/ preached in the apostles and dwelt in the saints.

We believe also in only one catholic and apostolic (holy) Church;/

In one baptism with repentance for the remission and forgiveness of sins;

In the resurrection of the dead,/ in the everlasting judgement of souls and bodies,/ in the kingdom of heaven/ and in the life eternal. Havadamk i mi Asdvadz, / i Hayrn amenagal, / hararichun yergni yev yergri, / yerevelyatz yev anerevootitz.

Yev i mi Der Hisoos Krisdos,/ Hortin Asdoodzo,/ dzunyalun hAsdoodzo Hore,/ Miadzin/ aysinkun heyootene Hor.

Asdvadz hAsdoodzo,/looys i looso,/ Asdvadz jushmarid,/ hAsdoodzo jushmarde,/ dzunoont yev voch araradz.

Nooyn inkun i bunootene Hor, / vorov amenayn inch yeghev hergins, yev i vera yergri, / yerevelik yev anerevooytk.

Vor haghakus mer, / martgan, / yev vasun mero purgootyan ichyal i hergnitz, / marmnatzav, /martatzav, / dzunav gadarelabes i Maryama Surbo Goosen, / Hoqvovn Surbov.

Vorov ear marmin,/hoqi,/yev mid,/ yev zamenayn vor inch e i mart,/ jushmardabes yev voch gardzyok.

Charcharyal/khachyal,/taghyal,/herrort avoor harootzyal,/ yelyal i herginus novin marmnovn,/ nusdav unt ajme Hor.

Qalotz e novin marmnovun yev parok Hor,/ i tadel uzgentanis yev uzmeryals,/ voro taqavorootyanun voch qo vakhjan.

Havadamk yev i Soorb Hoqin,/ haneghun yev i gadaryalun,/ vor khosetzav horenus yev i marqares yev hAvedarans.

Vor ejn i Hortanan, karozyatz harakyalsn, yev bunagetzav i soorbsun.

Havadamk yev i mi miayn/ unthanragan yev arakelagan soorb Yegeghetzi. I mi mugurdootyoon habashkharootyoon/i kavootyoon yev i toghootyoon meghatz;

I harootyoon merelotz, | i tadasdanun havidenitz hoqvotz yev marmnotz, | harkayootyoonun yergnitz | yev i giansun havidenagansn.

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Եւ ապա ասեն զնիկիական Դաւանունիւնն ի լման.

Հաւատամբ ի մի Աստուած, ի Հայրն ամենակալ, յարարիչն երկնի եւ երկրի, երեւելեաց եւ աներեւութից։

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Եւ ի մի Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոս, յՈրդին Աստուծոյ, δնեալն յԱստուծոյ Հօրէ՝ միածին. այսինքն յԷուԹենէ Հօր:

Աստուած յԱստուծոյ, լոյս ի լուսոյ, Աստուած նը2~ մարիտ յԱստուծոյ նշմարտէ, ծնունդ եւ ոչ արարած։ Նոյն ինքն ի քնունենէ Հօր, որով ամենայն ինչ եղեւ յերկինս եւ ի վերայ երկրի, երեւելիք եւ աներեւոյնք։

Πρ յաղագս մեր` մարդկան, եւ վասն մերոյ փրկուβեան իջեալ ի յերկնից, մարմնացաւ, մարդացաւ, ծնաւ կատարելապէս ի Մարիամայ սրբոյ կուսէն Հոգւովն Սըրբով:

Αρπվ ζωπ մարմին, śnąp եւ միտ, եւ զամենայն որ ինչ է p մարդ, δշմարտապէս եւ nչ կարծեօք։

2ωρչարհալ, խաչհալ, Թաղհալ, յերրորդ աւուր յարուցհալ. ելեալ ի յերկինս նովին մարմնովն, նըստաւ ընդ աջմէ Հօր։

Գալոց է ՆովիՆ մարմՆովՆ եւ փառօք Հօր, ի դատել զկեՆդաՆիս եւ զմեռեալս. որոյ ԹազաւորուԹեաՆՆ ոչ գոյ վախնաՆ։

ζωιωտωմը եւ ի Սուրը Հոգին, յանեղն եւ ի կատարեալն. որ խօսեցաւ յօրէնս եւ ի մարզարէս եւ յԱւետարանս:

Πρ էջն ի Յորդանան. քարոզեաց յառաքեալսն եւ բընակեցաւ ի սուրբսն։

Հաւատամը եւ ի մի միայն ընդհանրական եւ առաքելական սուրը Շկեղեցի։

h մի մկրտունիւն յապաշխարունիւն, ի քաւունիւն եւ ի նողունիւն մեղաց։

h յարունիւն մեռելոց. ի դատաստանն յաւիտենից հոգւոց եւ մարմնոց. յարքայունիւնն երկնից, եւ ի կետնսն յաւիտենականոն:



By Order of His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

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