

Let us say what we believe

By [Tom Johnson](#)

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David Heim's [recent post](#)

reminded me of how the creed is introduced in worship in the last two churches where I've belonged. Immediately after the sermon the pastor says, "Let us say what we believe" or "Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene [or Apostles] Creed." Then we all stand and say what we believe.

At both churches, the pastors are sometimes unorthodox or even just plain weird. But to the consternation of my evangelical friends, who would never attend anything but a "Bible-believing," gospel-preaching church, I don't think this matters much. I grew up in Baptist fundamentalism. In college, I jumped around from church to church looking for the best preachers, for sound Bible teaching persuasively delivered by "men of God." I frequently heard the same few favorite texts from Paul, John and Revelation.

Now, however, I go for the whole liturgy, steeped in the gospel. With other believers, I worship God, confess sins and pray for the world. I am fed the bread of life and cup of salvation.

No matter how good or bad, how orthodox or unorthodox the sermon is, I stand and say,

We
believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. . .
.We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ. . . .We believe in the Holy
Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

The creed keeps our
faith centered on the most important things: the Trinity, the gospel,

the Eucharist and the scriptures, mediated by the lectionary of the entire canon.

Preachers should be faithful to the word of God. But the cure of souls is not limited to the medicine of their message.