

## **The Confession of Belhar: Excerpts for the Christian Year**

from *Call to Worship* 49.1 ([pcusa.org/calltoworship](http://pcusa.org/calltoworship))

### Season of Advent, Season of Christmas, Epiphany of the Lord

We believe that God has entrusted the church  
with the message of reconciliation  
in and through Jesus Christ.  
We believe that the church is called  
to be the salt of the earth  
and the light of the world.  
We believe that the church is called blessed  
because it is a peacemaker.  
We believe that the church is witness  
both by word and by deed  
to the new heaven and the new earth  
in which righteousness dwells.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

### Time after Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord

We believe that the unity  
of the people of God  
must be manifested and be active  
in a variety of ways:  
that we share one faith, have one calling,  
are of one soul and one mind;  
have one God and Father,  
are filled with one Spirit,  
are baptized with one baptism,  
eat of one bread and drink of one cup,  
confess one name,  
are obedient to one Lord,  
work for one cause, and share one hope.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

### Time after Epiphany, Transfiguration of the Lord

We believe that the church must together  
come to know the height and the breadth  
and the depth of the love of Christ.  
We believe that together we are built up  
to the stature of Christ, the new humanity.  
We believe that we must together  
know and bear one another's burdens,  
thereby fulfilling the law of Christ.  
We believe that we are called  
to admonish and comfort one another;  
to suffer with one another  
for the sake of righteousness;  
to pray together;  
and together serve God in this world.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

### Ash Wednesday

We believe that, for God,  
pure and undefiled religion  
is to visit the orphans  
and the widows in their suffering.  
We believe that God wishes to teach the church  
to do what is good and to seek the right.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

### Season of Lent

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation  
is made manifest in the church  
as the community of believers  
who have been reconciled with God  
and with one another.

We believe that unity is, therefore,  
both a gift and an obligation  
for the church of Jesus Christ.  
We believe that,  
through the working of God's Spirit,  
it is a binding force,  
yet simultaneously a reality  
which must be earnestly pursued and sought:  
one which the people of God  
must continually be built up to attain.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

### Maundy Thursday

We believe that the unity of the people of God  
must be manifested and be active  
in a variety of ways:  
in that we love one another;  
that we experience, practice, and pursue  
community with one another;  
that we are obligated to give ourselves  
willingly and joyfully  
to be of benefit and blessing to one another.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

### Good Friday

We believe that the unity of the church  
must become visible  
so that the world may believe  
that separation, enmity, and hatred  
between people and groups is sin  
which Christ has already conquered,  
and accordingly that anything  
which threatens this unity  
may have no place in the church  
and must be resisted.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

### Season of Easter, Ascension of the Lord

We believe that God's  
life-giving Word and Spirit  
has conquered the powers  
of sin and death,  
and therefore also  
of irreconciliation and hatred,  
bitterness and enmity,  
that God's life-giving Word and Spirit  
will enable the church to live  
in a new obedience  
which can open new possibilities of life  
for society and the world.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belbar*

### Day of Pentecost

We believe that the unity of the church  
can be established only in freedom  
and not under constraint;  
and that the variety of spiritual gifts,  
opportunities, backgrounds, and convictions,  
as well as the various languages and cultures,  
are, by virtue of our reconciliation in Christ,  
opportunities for mutual service  
and enrichment,  
within the one visible people of God.  
We believe that true faith in Jesus Christ  
is the only condition for membership  
in this church.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belbar*

### Trinity Sunday

We believe in the triune God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
who gathers, protects,  
and cares for the church  
through Word and Spirit.  
This God has done  
since the beginning of the world  
and will do to the end.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belbar*

### General Use / Time after Pentecost

We believe that God is the one  
who wishes to bring about justice  
and true peace among people.  
We believe that God,  
in a world full of injustice and enmity,  
is in a special way  
the God of the destitute,  
the poor, and the wronged.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belbar*

### General Use / Time after Pentecost

We believe that God  
brings justice to the oppressed  
and gives bread to the hungry.  
We believe that God  
frees the prisoner  
and restores sight to the blind.  
We believe that God  
supports the downtrodden,  
protects the stranger,  
helps orphans and widows,  
and blocks the path of the ungodly.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belbar*

### General Use / Time after Pentecost

We believe that the church  
must witness against and strive against  
any form of injustice,  
so that justice may roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an  
ever-flowing stream.  
We believe that the church  
as the possession of God  
must stand where the Lord stands,  
namely against injustice  
and with the wronged.  
We believe that in following Christ  
the church must witness against  
all the powerful and privileged  
who selfishly seek their own interest  
and thus control and harm others.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belbar*

### All Saints' Day

We believe in one holy,  
universal Christian church,  
the communion of saints  
called from the entire human family.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belbar*

### Christ the King / Reign of Christ

We believe that Jesus is Lord.  
To the one and only God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be the honor and glory  
forever and ever.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belbar*