

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OASIS Class: "Testimony: Vocabulary of Faith"  
[4-11-2021]

**We talk about who God is in positive terms (who God is, *cataphatic* theology) and negative terms (who God is not, *apophatic* terms). For example, God is forgiving (*cataphatic*). God is not capricious (*apophatic*).**

**Scripture teaches us that God is the Creator of and sovereign over all. God is Triune, a relational God, described as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. While God is beyond all we can say or know, God reveals God's self in ways we can understand through the witness of Scripture, the person of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.**

### **Almighty God**

God describes God's self as Almighty. We read that nothing is impossible for God. God acts and speaks through ordinary (the burning bush) and extraordinary (a talking donkey) means. God does not allow human limitations to restrict how God works. There is no limitation to God's power and reign; God is the beginning and the end. God is Creator of all that is, seen and unseen. There is nowhere we can go where God is not present with us. Nothing and no one is forsaken by God.

### **Creator God**

God is relational, entering into covenants with human beings and working in conjunction with God's self in the Trinity. God sends the Son not to condemn the world, but to save it. The Son, God incarnate, God with us, reflects most fully who God is. We look to Jesus to reveal the character and will of God (saving, life-giving, merciful, forgiving, justice-bringing, servant, sacrificing, on the side of the vulnerable, seeking out the lost). The Holy Spirit provides human beings with insight, wisdom and knowledge of God's character, will and words. Further, the Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Advocate.

### **God's Providential Care**

Throughout Scripture, God says that provisions will be made for God's people. God will never abandon God's people. Manna will come each morning in the desert. Prophets will be sent to correct and guide those whom God has chosen and called. God names, claims and cares for creation. Perhaps the best summary of this trait of God comes in Psalm 139, when the psalmist declares that there is nowhere that God is not present: "I come to the end – I am still with you" (verse 18).

### **God's Loving Kindness**

God's care for us is marked by loving kindness. The care God provides for God's people is characterized by patience, attentiveness, goodness and compassion. God's care is not mere basic necessities, but generous and tender. Often this is expressed in Scripture as God loving us like a good parent cares for a precious child. Biblical stories such as the welcoming home of the prodigal son reveal the character of God's loving kindness. Before the son speaks a word, the father runs out to meet him and throws him a party. Such is the God we worship.