

## **WEEK TWO: GOD AS FATHER AND ALMIGHTY**

**The Incompatible Pair...the Creed holds together 2 paradoxical images of God: God as Father and God as Almighty, linking the love of God and the power of God, as two parts of a whole.**

**Why we call God Almighty...all Jews/Christians believe God to be all-powerful. God must be ALMIGHTY or else God wouldn't be God but just another part of creation. There is nothing outside of God's power. God never ceases to be ALL-POWERFUL but wanted to be known for more than HIS POWER. God preferred to be KNOWN and LOVED rather than FEARED. God is as close as an infinite God can be with mortals. God wants to be known, but not in ways that overwhelm us or take our freedom to love him freely. He allows SPACE, gaps that only we can fill.**

**REVEALED RELIGION...mystery is an essential part of faith and God won't remove it. He isn't DIRECTLY PRESENT to us; we only know God INDIRECTLY. No human can find God. There is no way FROM US TO GOD; the only way is from God to us. We NEED HELP. We got HELP. In Christ, God FOUND US. Christianity is a revealed religion: God made himself known!**

**I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY. THE ONE WHO TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO MAKE HIMSELF KNOWN.**

**Why we call God "Father"...affirming God's power DEMANDS OUR RESPECT; calling God FATHER evokes OUR LOVE. The Creed asks us to keep in balance GOD'S NEARNESS/TRANSCENDENCE. When Jesus called God, "FATHER" or "ABBA" in Aramaic, it upset Jews because they were trained never to PROFANE GOD'S NAME. He was messing with TIME-HONORED TRADITIONS but the message he had come to deliver was that God was ACCESSIBLE, not aloof.**

**WHO WE ARE, WHOSE WE ARE...when we say, WE BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, it is a weekly reminder of WHO/WHOSE WE ARE! We are HIS CHILDREN, not GENETIC ACCIDENTS or RANDOM AFTERTHOUGHTS in a chaotic universe, but unique and gifted DESIGNS of a MASTER DESIGNER.**