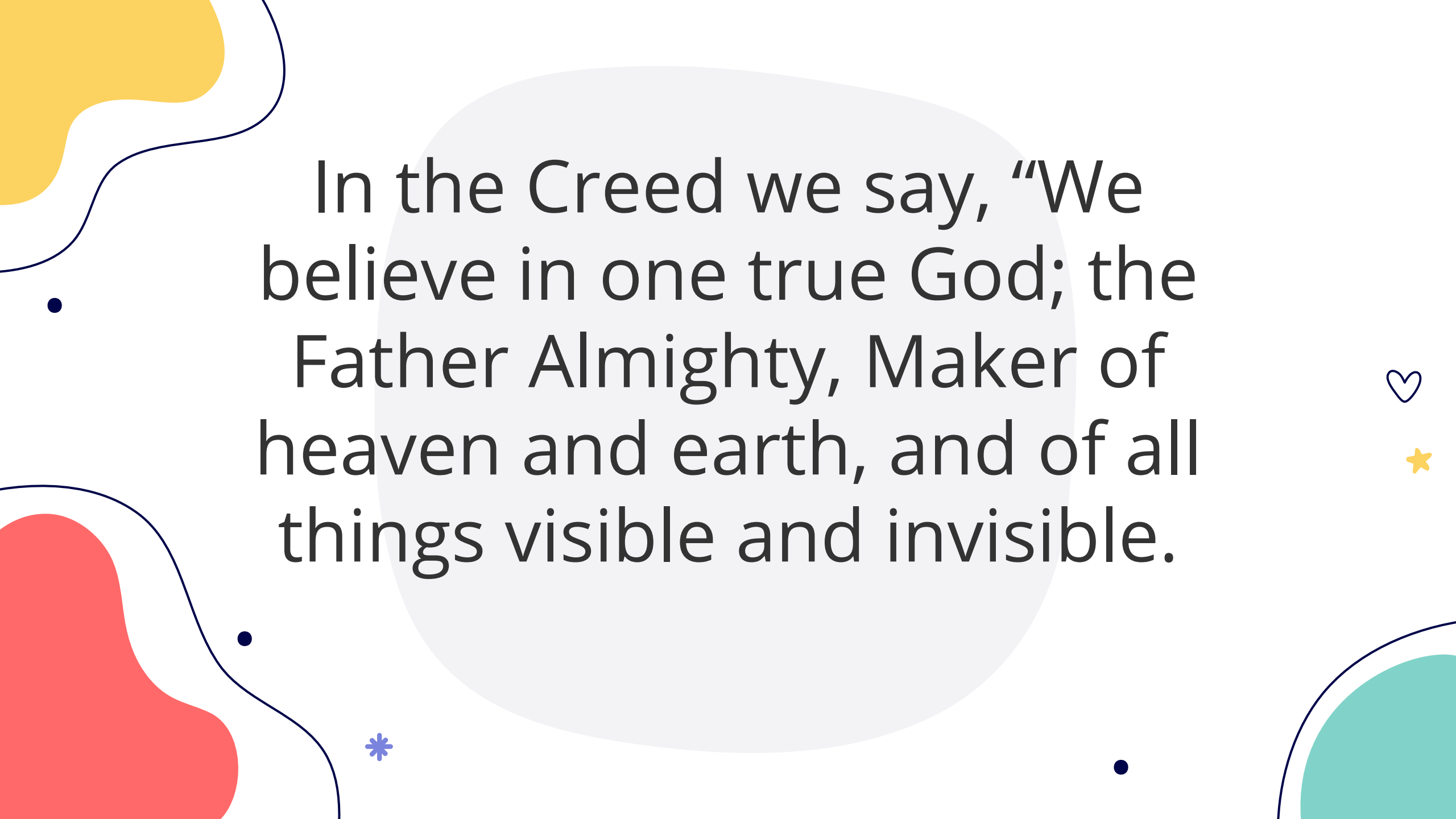
The background features a large, light gray, rounded rectangular shape in the center. To the left, there are abstract shapes in yellow and red with thin black outlines. To the right, there are icons of a heart and a star. Small dark blue dots and a light blue asterisk are scattered around the central text area.

Angels serve God
to carry out His will
and glorify Him.


The Origin of Angels



- Angels are active beings, created by God, with intelligence and free will to serve Him.
- They have no bodily needs or desires and passions, no cares about food, drink, clothes or shelter.
- For, though God created them before man, they are neither aged nor aging, but unchangingly youthful, beautiful and strong.

The background features a large, light gray oval in the center containing the text. To the left, there are abstract shapes in yellow and red with dark blue outlines. To the right, there are small icons of a heart and a star. At the bottom, there are small dark blue dots and a light blue asterisk.

In the Creed we say, “We believe in one true God; the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.



Angels are not all-powerful beings. They have limits, too!

- They do not know the depths of the essence of God (I Cor 2:11).
- They do not know the future that only God knows (Mark 13:32).
- They do not fully understand the mystery of the Redemption yet they wish to (I Peter 1:12).
- They don't know human thoughts (III Kings 8:39).
- And they cannot by themselves perform miracles without the will of God (Ps 71:19).

The background features several abstract elements: a yellow organic shape in the top-left, a red organic shape in the bottom-left, and a teal circular shape in the bottom-right. A thin blue line meanders across the page. Small icons include a black dot in the top-left, a blue asterisk in the bottom-left, a black dot in the bottom-right, a white heart outline, and a yellow star in the middle-right.

The Orders of the Heavenly Bodies

Have you heard this prayer before?

To Him, Whom the heavenly hosts, the corporeal and incorporeal, glorify; the sun, the moon, and all the stars; the earth, the seas, and the firstborn inscribed in the heavenly Jerusalem; **angels and archangels, celestial virtues, principalities, thrones, dominions, powers, the many-eyed cherubim and the six-winged seraphim** who, covering their faces and feet, fly to one another, chanting holy three times, crying out and saying...





The First Order

These are the angels that are the closest to God, as seen in Isaiah 6.

Seraphim – aflame with the love for God

Cherubim – radiant with the knowledge of God

Thrones – righteous with the justice of God



The Second Order of Angels

Dominions

Colossians 1:16

They send down power for prudent governing and wise management to authorities on the earth set up by God.

Powers

1 Peter 3:22

They help people laboring and those overburdened by troubles and they bear the infirmities of the weak. They also strengthen every man in patience.

Authorities

Colossians 1:16

1 Peter 3:22

They have power to repulse the temptations and help those wrestling with passions and vices to cast out evil thoughts.

SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY HEAVENLY BODILESS POWERS



The Third Order of Heavenly Bodies

- They are the closest to Man.
 - Principalities
 - Archangels
 - Angels





Michael

Gabriel

Uriel

Raphael

* Eastern Orthodox Tradition: Barachiel, Salathiel, Jegudiel

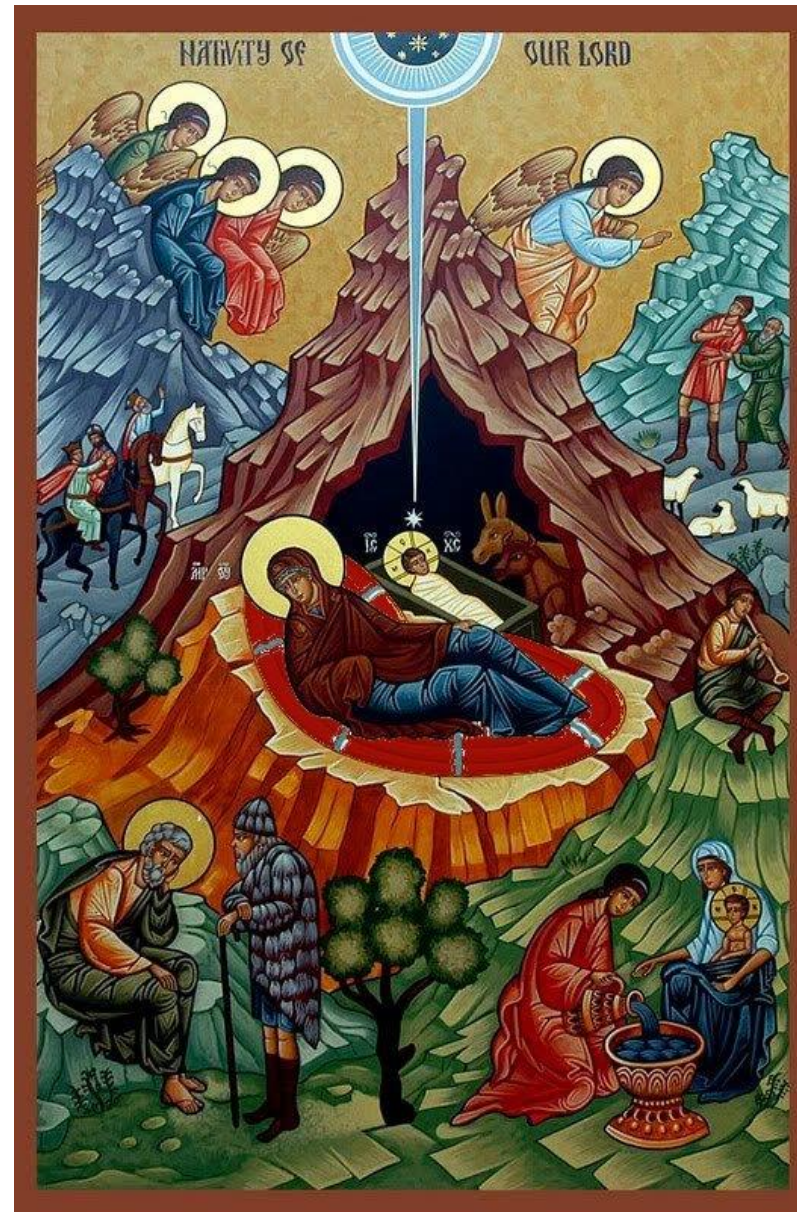


Angels in the Bible!

- From Genesis we know that a Cherubim was placed with a flaming sword at the gates of Paradise after Adam and Eve were expelled.
- Jacob saw angels during his sleep and while awake. (Gen 32:1-2).
- In the time of the New Testament an angel informed Zachariah of the conception of the Forerunner and the Virgin Mary the Theotokos of the birth of Jesus.
- Angels announced the good news to the shepherds at the birth of Jesus and prevented the Magi from returning to Herod.
- ♥ It was angels who informed the Myrrh-bearing Women about His Resurrection.



The devil is a fallen angel, created by God for His service and praise. Together with the devil are his hosts of wicked angelic powers who rebelled against God and seek to hurt and destroy God's good creation.





Guardian Angel

- The Orthodox Church believes that each person is assigned a guardian angel. Christ said, "Take heed that ye despise not ye of these little ones, for I say unto you, that their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven" (Matt 18:10).
- It was originally from the Jews that the Church inherited this belief in the ministry of the Guardian Angels. The Psalmist had declared, "The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them" (Psalms 34:7). And again, "He will give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways" (91:11)