

One Woman's Creed

I believe in God,
creator of the universe
dwelling forever beyond time
and space.

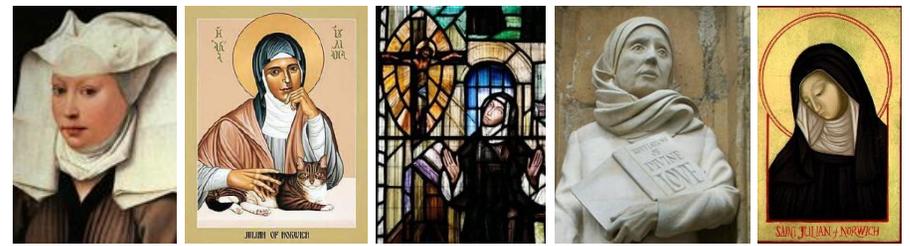
I believe in Jesus Christ who came
to live among us and let us see
what God is like.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
sent from God through Jesus
to be our guide and comforter.

Therefore I believe in love,
in hope, compassion, joy and faith,
and forgiveness and eternal life.

By Frances Somerville (1916-2007)

*Wife of Archbishop David Somerville,
Vancouver, BC*



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The **Anglican Journal** reported that this short creed came as the response to a request from [Madeleine] L'Engle (Newberry Award-winning Episcopal author) who had asked her to 'write me a creed I can say.'

Frances Somerville was born Frances Vivian Smith Gardner in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia on June 5, 1916. She was baptized and confirmed at St. John's, Lunenburg – the same church where her parents were married. She graduated from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia with a BA in English and Psychology in 1939. She went on to garner a Teacher's Diploma in "Voice, Culture and Singing and Public School Music – Voice" from the Maritime Academy of Music, where she later taught.

Always involved in music, she began her performing career as part of the Dalhousie University Glee Club and later went on to perform professionally, both in person and on the radio – with the CBC and Norwegian Royalty as some of her most noted audiences. She performed throughout the 1930's and 1940's. In 1946 she married the Reverend Harold James Best of Woodstock, New Brunswick. The couple moved to British Columbia in 1951.

In 1985 Frances married Archbishop David Somerville, and the two lived in North Vancouver until their deaths. She was an avid writer. She penned an autobiography of Archbishop Somerville called "David: Archbishop and Friend" and was known for her witty poems and heartfelt prayers. Frances died August 16, 2007

Archbishop Somerville, who was elected bishop of New Westminster in 1969, is known in the Anglican Church of Canada as a "quiet radical," having spearheaded the ordination of women to the priesthood and starting a movement to help the poor in Vancouver's downtown eastside.

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