

STATEMENT OF FAITH

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God is good, all the time! God provides! Those two statements comprise the deepest core of my personal faith.

I believe in the God of justice, mercy, compassion, and above all love; and I believe that God enters into relationship with humanity. The Trinitarian relationship God established with humanity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – helps us to see and understand a portion of the nature of God: God who creates is also God who redeems, and is also God present in and among us.

God created the universe and everything in it. God created human beings to be in relationship with God, and placed them as caretakers of creation. The first humans, and every human since, turned from God and sinned, severing our relationship with God and with the creation. In spite of our sin, God throughout our history has been constantly at work reconciling humanity to God, restoring the relationship we broke.

God's supreme act of reconciliation is the person of Jesus Christ, completely human and completely God, through whom God entered our history and came to live as one of us. Jesus Christ is the Word of God made flesh, and is God's ultimate act of self-revelation to us. In Jesus, we see most perfectly what God is like, and what God wants us to be. Through Jesus' death, we receive forgiveness of our sins; through his resurrection we receive new life with God.

In the person and work of the Holy Spirit, God continues to be present in and among us. The Holy Spirit is God active in the world, in the church, and in our lives. It is the Holy Spirit who calls us into relationship with God, sustains us in that relationship, and empowers us to continue God's mission of reconciliation in the world.

God has always called a people. The church is a community that God has chosen, called, and empowered – a community of those who trust and believe in God. Though we are sinners, we are called to be bold witnesses to the world. The church's mission is to be, through our words and through our deeds, God's vessel of reconciliation in this broken, hurting world.

The sacraments are signs of the nature of the Church's relationship with God. They are the visible way of proclaiming God's grace and continuing presence in our lives. Through the water of baptism, Jesus grants us participation in his life, his death, and his resurrection. Through the bread and the wine of the Lord's Supper, Jesus grants to us communion with himself and with the Church throughout all its centuries.

The Holy Scriptures are God's inspired, authoritative word to the church. The Bible as the written word of God is the only completely reliable witness Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the living Word of God.

History, as futile, repetitive, and violent as it may appear, has a beginning and is progressing toward an end. The universe, and our lives, have meaning and purpose. God provides the meaning, and God will fulfill the purpose! This is the hope that Christians can offer the world: God is good, all the time; and God provides!