

Statement of Faith:

I need the Triune God. I need the Creator, the Divine, the beginning and the end, the Heavenly God. I need the Word made flesh, God with us, the mystery of fully God and fully man – Jesus the Christ. I need the movement, the power, the Comforter promised, the Holy Spirit. I worship the Sovereign God who I understand as the Holy Trinity.

I believe God created all people in God's image and that as children of God we are to honor, respect, esteem, and love every person for it is in the temple of this other person that we see God. God has spoken and still speaks today. The Bible is the inspired Word of God that can and will speak to us, guide our lives, and comfort us along the journey of life. Scripture and Jesus show us a place for our voice in praise, as well as complaint and lamentation in honest and faithful conversation with God. I believe God hears us and answers us, though that answer might be silence, no, not yet, or yes.

I believe that God, by grace, chose me and offered His only Son Jesus the Christ to live and die so that I might have a new and abundant life in relationship with God. I do not consider myself to be extraordinary in this as God, through grace, already chose the world in offering the powerful and saving blood of Jesus Christ to be shed for the redeeming of God's creation. I believe God has called us to be a body of believers, united through Christ, and this to be the Church.

I believe God is at work today in our lives and the world. God has called the Church not only to be reconciled to God, but through the power of the Holy Spirit to be actively involved in proclaiming God's love to the world. This is most beautifully, powerfully, and honestly seen in the unique ministry of the Church in offering the holy sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. I believe the Church is called to love God and to love people; that it is through loving God that others are served and through loving others that God is most glorified.

I believe we live in a broken world that only the divine love of God can heal. As God's love offers healing and comfort I believe there is no condemnation in Christ. Furthermore I believe in the midst of brokenness, great suffering, oppression and pain that somehow even here God's grace knows no bounds and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, prays for us when there are only groans.

All these beliefs I hold humbly, seeking to honor God in the very way that I daily live my life, a faith I know as my own and a gift from God.