

Statement of Faith:

I believe I am fallen and need God's help to stand.

I believe in the Trinity as the self-revelation of one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, creator, sustainer, and redeemer. I trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Christ is the Word made flesh to live among us that God's love and grace would be shown to all the world. Christ's birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection eternally transforms everything.

By the Holy Spirit we are called to faith and grafted into Christ. In union with Christ we are to continually seek the Lord, strive to understand God's will, to energetically, purposely and faithfully walk in God's loving, gracious, and forgiving ways.

I understand the scriptures to be, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, the word of God the ultimate rule of faith and life. I believe the confessions of the Presbyterian Church to be authoritative witnesses to the word of God, reliable tools for the instruction and guidance of the faithful and the church.

I believe the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion to have been instituted by Christ as signs of God's real presence and of God's love and work in our lives. They are seals used by the Spirit to confirm our redemption and to identify us as children of God called to the mission of Christ in and for this world.

I support the Presbyterian Church - believing our connectional system upholds the understanding God speaks more clearly through the many than through the one or few. I believe the church is reformed and always reforming - according to the Word of God. We find our life as the Body of Christ through our unity in Christ. I believe diversity is a gift of God but divisiveness is a result of our sin. I fully believe we are called to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love our neighbors. I believe faith-filled love to be what brings us into righteous relationships with God and neighbor. From this I understand sin as the opposite, anything separating us from God or our neighbor and the loving relationships we are called into by Christ.

Like the prodigal son I turn toward home expecting God's judgment and punishment. Instead, by faith in Christ I receive the Father's loving embrace, a forgiving and gracious welcome, a call for celebration, rest for my soul, and eternal life. In this I am called to the work of preaching and praying, learning and teaching, rejoicing and grieving, struggling and joining Christ in the yoke to announce through word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ who truly is Lord and Savior.

My personal prayer is a simple one:

Come Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Take my human mind, my human hands,

My human voice, my very being,

And by Your will do something holy and good with them,

For a lifetime, or, for a single moment as You will.

Lord Jesus, help me to stand that I may stand with and for You.

Amen.