

Statement of Faith

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I believe in God - the triune God - one essence in three persons. The very nature of our triune God shows us that life is to be an eternal process of relating. The mutual indwelling of the Trinity reveals how our divinely saturated lives should pour in and through each other. We are called to reflect God in this world and to live in community. We are blessed with the opportunity to dance and march, to sing and shout, to laugh and cry together as we move through this life and into the next.

I believe in God the Father who is active and present in our lives. It is God who is in control, who reaches out to us, and who initiates all that is good. God created us out of nothing, relates to us in covenant, lives with us through providence, and envisions for us with election. God gathers us like a mother hen, welcomes us like a prodigal father, and loves us more than we will ever comprehend. Our sovereign God gives us a sovereign promise that we will never be alone. We were created male and female, equal and good, in the image of God. God gives us dominion and free will even though we are tainted by our participation in sin and the allure of evil. I am not perfect. I am totally depraved. There is a chasm between who I am and who I was meant to be. I experience a world filled with pain and death as I await a world in which God will renew, restore, and reconcile all creation.

I believe in God the Son who is Jesus Christ - fully human, fully divine. Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is our prophet who proclaims and embodies grace, our priest who mediates and reconciles us to God, our king who governs and defends peace in its fullest sense. Jesus is God with us. Jesus atones for us and calls to us. Jesus entered into our world and lived a perfect life before he was crucified unjustly and resurrected victoriously. Jesus Christ is my personal and our communal Lord and Savior. I am called to be a part of the body of Christ through participation in the one, holy, catholic, apostolic church where the Word is proclaimed and the sacraments are rightly administered. The church is my home. We live in an in-between time in which Christ has come and Christ will come again. We are living into the fullness of the resurrection, but have not yet experienced the totality of it. Being the church connects us and shapes us as we wait.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit who breathed life into us and continues to breathe new life into us each and every day. The Holy Spirit engrafts us to Christ and upbuilds us as God's people. The Spirit transforms, frees, soothes, consoles, and strengthens. The Spirit works with us, on us, in us and through us for the benefit of all. In the Holy Spirit we experience the gift of faith and develop an intimate connection to the incarnate, written, and proclaimed Word of God. The Holy Spirit enables me to view the world through the scriptures - our unique and authoritative witness. The Holy Spirit empowers me to share the present and eternal dimensions of Christian hope in my thoughts, words, actions, and prayers. The Holy Spirit lifts us into Christ's spiritual real presence during communion, seals within us the beloved redemption of baptism, and empowers us to be holy as we live our lives in gratitude.