

Statement of Faith

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I believe in the Triune God as creator and redeemer, incarnate in Jesus Christ, and in God's Holy Spirit, as testified in Christian Scriptures. The Triune God is present with us today through God's Spirit carrying out God's mission of liberation and reconciliation. The church is called together and tasked with being God's people. The church encourages and guides my faith through its life of worship and co-laboring in God's liberating and justice-making mission in the world.

My faith is a response to the Triune God's gracious and continued initiative in the world. Such a response involves my whole self, and is a commitment of confidence and trust in who God is and God's mission for the world. Jesus Christ is God most fully revealed. God's revelation to the world is always the revealing of God's self. God in Christ and as testified in the Scriptures reveals God as the sovereign and providential creator and redeemer of all. God is providential, caring for the world through God's continued presence of the Spirit. God is sovereign; everything else that proclaims to be almighty is idolatrous. God's providential mission is most clearly revealed in Jesus Christ, who was crucified by the Roman empire. Christ's resurrection and ascension proclaims that God has defeated death, and that the Triune God is a God of life and liberation from the forces of death and domination in this world. The Triune God, incarnate in Jesus Christ and present through the Holy Spirit, continually stirs my faithful response. My faith is not self-sustaining but it takes its life from God's continually gracious presence and mission of liberation and reconciliation in the world.

God, as revealed in Christ, testified in the Scriptures and continually present in the Holy Spirit is a lover and reconciler, who overcomes all injustice and division in the world. God works and acts through the Spirit, calling creation to respond to God's mission of liberation and justice-making. Insofar as the church joyfully responds to God's mission in the world the church can be God's feet and hands, serving and ministering to God's creation. The church is called together by God's Spirit, and joyfully responds to God by being a co-worker in God's mission of liberation of creation from forces of death and domination in this world. My personal faith has been nurtured through the church as a community of faith, hope, love, and witness in response to God's mission.

The sacraments of baptism and communion are central to the church's life. In baptism Christians are engrafted into a new covenant with Jesus Christ. Such a sacrament is a sign and seal of God's justification of creation in the face of sin and separation of God. In communion, Christians participate with Christ and remember his sharing a meal with his disciples, and we anticipate a future feast with Christ made possible by Christ's sacrifice and triumph in his death and resurrection. Communion is not merely a memorial but is a real sign of God's presence with us at table. My faith is inspired by God's Spirit, tasking me with my own individual work as a response to God's loving and liberating presence in the world through God's Spirit.