

Statement of Faith by Edward Bellis

I believe in one Triune God. This one God is three distinct personalities known as the Trinity. I believe that God is the Creator of the universe. The Creator exists apart from this world and is without partiality, who loves goodness and justice, mercy and righteousness. The Creator, who is without limit and infinite, is all knowing, ever present, and all-powerful. The Creator is the giver and sustainer of all life. The Creator continues to create and sustain all things visible and invisible. Humanity is created in God's own image. What is our chief end? We are to glorify God and enjoy God always. However, we fall short of God's intention and are separated from God by Sin.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, sent to dwell among us to free us from Sin and reunite us in right relationship to God. Jesus Christ was, and is, fully human and fully divine. Perfectly following the will of God, Jesus was unjustly judged, condemned, died a horrific death on the cross, and was buried. Yet, death would not hold Him. For on the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead paying the price for our Sin and forever defeated death's sting. Our baptism is the outward sign of the invisible gift of God's grace that engrafts us to Christ's life, death, and resurrection. In the Lord's Supper, we remember Christ's sacrifice for us, and we receive and are nourished in His grace through our spiritual sharing in Christ's body and blood. And, if we are united with Christ, then we are assured of the promise that what God has done in Christ God will do in us. Death no longer holds the last word. For Jesus is our Redeemer and is seated at the right hand of God interceding on our behalf. He will come again.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who comforts and reconciles us with God and with others. As the Spirit descended on the disciples giving birth to the church, that same Spirit of God continues to renew, inspire, and guide us in our life. The Spirit transforms our heart and mind bringing us ever closer to our intended relationship with God and with others.

I believe the Holy Scriptures reveals God's work in the world and specifically with humanity. By putting on the spectacles of faith, our vision is corrected through God's Word, Holy Scripture, and reveals God's intention for us to live with God and one another. I believe the Church is Christ's body and God calls us together as His community to worship and praise the one Triune God. Jesus Christ is our Lord and our Savior and our God, who alone is the Head of the Church.

I believe the Church is "the congregation of saints in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments rightly administered." As the Church we are called to participate in the work and worship life of the church, and in its Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Through the proper administration of the sacraments, we are claimed, sustained and nurtured as the body of our Lord by "preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel." All praise and thanksgiving be to our glorious God who in everything is "working for good with those who love (God), who are called according to (God's) purpose."