

Statement of Faith

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I believe in the Living God made known in the crucified and risen Christ, the Word made flesh: the one true Holy and Eternal God, who exists in three distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We belong to the Sovereign God, the God of Israel whom Christ called our Father. God is the almighty, creator and sustainer of heaven and earth:: from God, through God and to God are all things. God's eternal power and divine nature are evident in all creation, and heaven and earth are full of God's glory. Christ proclaimed the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand: that our world and all things belong to God; for it is the God who's steadfast love endures forever who holds the last word in, all things.

We are claimed in the crucified and risen Christ, Jesus of Galilee. Jesus is the Son of God, both fully God and fully human. True to God's character Christ emptied himself and took the form of a servant, suffering death on the cross for the redemption of sins. On the third day Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, claiming victory over sin, suffering, evil and death, proving that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Christ sits at the right hand of power, and we live in the hope for the day Christ comes again in the full glory of God.

In Christ Jesus we are called to repentance. It is only by the grace of God poured out in Jesus Christ that we might be made righteous before God. All human beings are sinful and fall short of God's eternal glory, and apart from God we are but dead in our sinfulness. By God's grace we are made righteous before God through faith.

In faith we are guided by the Spirit of God that dwells within us and gives us life, leading us in gratitude to fruits of good works in righteousness, transforming us in Christ rather than conforming us to the world, and activating within each. of us unique gifts for us to offer to the glory of God.

In the Spirit of God we are bound together as one Church, one body of many members; a covenant people of God, in covenant communion with God and with one another. The church shares in God's mission of seeking first the Kingdom of God and proclaiming the good news of the crucified and risen Christ to the nations; as a body called out from the world, in the world but not of the world.

The church is sealed in the covenant of God's grace through the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the sign and seal that we are claimed by God, and of our covenant membership in the body of Christ. Scripture affirms one baptism in the name of the Trinity for the forgiveness of sins. Likewise, the Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of our covenant communion with Christ and with one another. At the Lord's Table, we give thanks for the grace of God poured out in Christ Jesus.

The canon of Holy Scripture is the inspired, authoritative proclamation of the Word of God. It is the testimony of apostles and prophets, witnessing to promises of God poured out in Christ Jesus, and is the measure of our faithfulness. We read scripture open to the illumination and guidance of the Spirit of God, in whom the promises of God are convicted within us.

In hope, we wait for Christ's return when the Kingdom of God is fulfilled, and when the world shall hunger no more nor thirst anymore; when God will wipe away every tear from every eye, and every knee bows down and every tongue confesses that Christ is Lord, to the glory of God.

