

Statement of Faith:

REV. PATRICK J. SOUTHAM

Jesus Christ is Lord of the entire world, for God has put everything under Christ's power. My faith stems from God's acceptance of me. I belong not to myself, but to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am grateful to God for these things and more: life, love, salvation, and communion. These gifts are not meant to be kept to myself, but are to be given and shared with everyone I meet.

God created all things visible and invisible. God alone is to be worshiped and served. God took on our flesh through a miraculous conception by the power of the Holy Spirit and birth from the virgin named Mary, for the redemption of humanity. The incarnation means that Jesus is fully human and fully divine, the only 200% person I have ever known.

Jesus' life, preaching and teaching provided the pattern that we as disciples are to follow. Jesus died on a cross, taking upon himself humanity's sin, and rose from the dead after three days. All those who trust in him will have eternal life in a gloriously transformed body, after Jesus returns from heaven someday.

The sixty-six books of the Holy Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit and bear witness to God's loving faithfulness. Jesus Christ reveals God to us, and reveals God's love for all people.

The two sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are visible signs to God's grace, and through these two sacraments we have communion with God. Baptism is a sign and seal of God's loving kindness and signifies the beginning of life in Christ. In the Lord's Supper the Holy Spirit lifts us up into Heaven where we join the Lord at the Lord's Table. The Lord's Supper spiritually feeds us to sustain us and preserve us in that life into which we are adopted.

God calls the church into being to be an instrument of God's will. As such the mission of the church includes, but is not limited to: the proclamation of the Gospel, that God may be revealed for the salvation of all humanity; offering up worship to God; the nurture and building up of the body of Christ, which consists of all believers across all time and in all places; being a prophet witness against evil and injustice; and being an example of God's intention for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Because of evil and sin, human beings have broken the relationship with God, and broken their relationship with each other. The church is called by Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations. With the help and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the church is an instrument that God uses for re-establishing the relationship between God and humanity, and for building and reconciling relationships between people.