

Richard Aylor – Statement of Faith

I believe in one triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. I believe that God created heaven and earth and all things good. I believe that God created humanity in God's own image, but because of our sin, we fell away from God. We ignored God and sought our own interests. Even though we turned from God, we were not forgotten, and God remained faithful and stayed with us. God showed true love and mercy by liberating the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and making an everlasting covenant with Israel.

I believe that God's only Son, Jesus Christ, was sent to redeem all of humanity. Through Jesus, God entered the world as a human. He brought hope to the poor and all who suffered, taught us how to love God and neighbor, healed the sick and forgotten, announced the forgiveness of sins, and proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom of God. Jesus then made the ultimate self-offering as he was crucified and died on the cross. On the third day, he defeated death and was resurrected. Because of this love shown to us, life on earth was restored, and the sins of humanity were forgiven.

After Christ's resurrection, I believe the Holy Spirit was sent and lives within all Christians. It is through the Holy Spirit that we are called to God's service as the Spirit works through us to guide and comfort us in God's love. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit through Baptism, when we enter into a new covenant with God and are reminded of God's love that was shown by the death of Jesus.

I believe that we are saved by the grace of God. We respond to God's grace by participating in a church community. It is within this community that we worship and serve God. In worship, we actively study and proclaim the Holy Scriptures by preaching, singing, and saying prayers. Even though they were written many years ago, the Holy Spirit gives scripture life today, which is necessary for us to serve God in the world. We participate, as a church community, in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. By participating in this sacrament, we remember and give thanks for Jesus' sacrifice by sharing a meal of bread and wine, as a sign of his body and blood. It is through this wine and bread that we reaffirm our covenant with God, as we hope and pray for the future coming of Christ and the Kingdom. Renewed, we then enter the world as servants and faithful witnesses to God.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church and the church is the body of Christ. Christ has given the church all that is necessary to do mission and share the good news of the Gospel to this world, a world where there is much suffering and need. It is through Christ that the world is given a view of the Kingdom of God, and we are shown how to love one another as God has loved us. We, as followers of Jesus, are called to continue striving toward the Kingdom of God until Christ comes again to reign forever.