

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in the triune God. The breather of life and the architect of all creation is not subject to time or created agency. God gave humans agency. Human agency led to sin. Sin is the result of creatures living in an environment where natural law occurs. Sin distracts us from God. Sin divides the human family as we forget our covenant with God and with one another. God self – reveals to us in the wholly human wholly divine life of Jesus of Nazareth.

People were awaiting a liberator in the Davidic tradition. If the messiah had come like this, God would have appeared subject to earthly expectations and ideals of success. Jesus enters humanity in a game – changing move. The hope we find in *Emmanuel* is not limited to the Passion. We find Good News in Christ's life and ministry. Christ's witness is not just about his suffering. It is also in his service. Lending breath to the voiceless, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, and inviting all to a community of hospitality, Jesus manifests God's vision for creation. He is the exemplification of the in – breaking of God into the world and the continuance of God's reign in the promise of the Kingdom that has come, is coming, and has yet to come. This Kingdom, revealed in Jesus is not answerable to rules and limitations, but meets death and squelches it in all its forms.

Despite our delusion of distraction and selfishness, the Holy Spirit breaks through and allows us to understand how we can be a partners with God. Through Scripture inspired by Holy Spirit and by our own personal revelations, we are grafted to the Church.

Worship is our most important time together as we seek lives of discipleship. We encounter the divine in community as we use symbols and words to uplift one another on paths of sanctification. We worship God because God deserves to be worshipped. We are compelled to assemble and adore as we seek to live according to God's vision. We are given the sacraments to connect with our brother, Jesus, and with one another. These acts of remembrance and celebration heighten our awareness as we give thanks to God for continued faithfulness. We use common elements as visible signs of invisible grace. At table and font, we confess covenant with God.

Worship points to God. Worship is not God. We are called to glorify the divine in all we do. By using our time and talents, we can bear witness to the God we know in Jesus Christ. All members of the Church are called to be ministers. No matter where we find ourselves, we can bear witness to Christ to those that travel the way with us as we seek to be partners for life and restoration.

By revealing God's self, God expects us to respond not by suffering, but by serving. This service might bring suffering, as it did for Christ, but we still bear witness by Loving, Living, Being, and Telling the Good News. Doing this, we confess the mystery of faith as we prepare for God's plan of cosmic reality – Christ's living, dying, rising, and return.