

I believe in God, maker of all things, ever-reaching communicator of life, grace and love, indwelling sustainer that empowers those who receive to become spiritually transformed givers of holy compassion.

I believe that our clearest understanding of the nature of God is to be found in Holy Scripture, Old and New Testaments. They provide the rich history of God interacting with humanity; the inspiring words of poet, prophet, and evangelist; and the moral and spiritual guidelines for the covenant community. Yet, the essence of Scripture is the self-revelation of God and this is its unifying purpose and theme.

I believe we are given the terms Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to express the fact that this Triune nature is ever-relational, as is referring to God as a nurturing Mother in Hosea, Isaiah, the Psalms, and the Gospels. While God is omnipotent and omniscient, God is richly personal, never detached, distant, nor indifferent. God has a plan for all humanity and creation.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the pre-existent Word of God, within Scripture and undoubtedly beyond it. In Jesus all things were created. He became incarnate through the loving power of God, and by the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of Mary his mother. He was truly fully human and fully divine. In his interactions with disciples and outcasts, the self-righteous and sinners, Jesus loved, healed, and forgave multitudes of needy people. He offered up a sinless life to a sin filled world. For this he was crucified and suffered a death like ours. God's grace was most powerfully proclaimed though, because on the third day after loosening the chains of those condemned in hell, he rose again and made his presence known to the faithful before his entrance into heaven.

I believe that through the Holy Spirit's engaging presence the disciples began to faithfully live out the commission proclaimed by Jesus. They witnessed to the grace of Jesus Christ by living authentically and serving effectively. They baptized those who had received that grace. They taught, healed, and led the church to live as the Body of Christ. In breaking and sharing bread and pouring out and serving to one another the cup, they remembered not only their Savior but celebrated his actual presence, which they all held common within. We continue to this day and into the future, living out the reality of Christ's constant return in the hopes of his final return.

I believe we are called to understand others as we have been understood, welcoming all who desire the rich infilling of the Spirit and the loving presence of Christ our Lord. We are called to love others, because according to Scripture, the confessions, and the One who lives within each of us there is no other way for us to know God. Thus, there is always something new to learn about God and every day is an adventure in rediscovering the depths of our creation.