

Statement of Faith

Gabriel C. Fung

I believe in the everlasting triune God who exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in a community of joyful love. Sovereign and almighty, the glorious perfection of all that is true and good and right, God is the generous Creator, faithful Sustainer, and righteous Ruler of all that is seen and unseen. God is life eternal, abundant, and full. And God is love—immense and immeasurable, self-giving and sacrificial, pure and powerful—this love is who God is, it is what God is, it is what God does.

I believe that human beings, created in God's image, are the ultimate objects of God's great love. But all of us have sinned. We reject and disobey God. We ignore and violate God's commands. We hurt each other. We exploit our world. We replace the Creator with the created and worship something far less than God. Thinking we will be free, instead we find ourselves enslaved to sin. Separated from God, the Giver of Life, we die. We try and we try but we cannot save ourselves.

I believe and trust in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, fully God and fully human, born of Virgin Mary. He is the living Word of God, the ultimate revelation of who God is and what God does. He came preaching good news and pardoning sinners, healing the sick and seeking the lost, calling people to follow him and live in God's kingdom, presence, and power. Sinless and obedient to God, Jesus paid on the cross the penalty of death humanity deserved. He died. He was buried. But on the third day he rose and conquered once for all the power of sin and death. And because Jesus lives, we too can live. This is the gospel of grace, good news of forgiveness and life! It is God's initiative and God's invitation, a gift we simply receive by faith. Through Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life, we are reconciled to God and become the children of God.

I believe that Jesus' followers are bound together as the church, the body of Christ. As God's covenant people, we are nurtured by Word and Sacrament. The Old and New Testaments, penned by God-inspired prophets and apostles, are the written Word of God and authoritative for our faith and practice. What the Word proclaims, the Sacraments enact. In Baptism, we are cleansed and claimed by the grace of God, united with Christ and with his church. In the Lord's Supper, we eat and drink in communion with him: we remember, give thanks, and proclaim his death; we are fed, strengthened, and renewed.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who is the very presence of God and of Jesus. The Spirit lives in all who believe, transforming us to become more like Jesus and empowering us to be his witnesses. For just as God has sent the Son, so Jesus sends the church into the world for mission and ministry: proclaiming the gospel, making disciples, serving others, working for reconciliation, peace, and justice.

I believe that in all of life we belong to God. With gratitude and joy, we live each day in faithful obedience, watching and waiting for Jesus' return as King of kings and Lord of lords. Then all in this world will be put right again. And in the beauty of new heaven and new earth, God will be with us and we will be with God—all to the glory of God, forever and ever. Amen.