

## MY STATEMENT OF FAITH

The God that I believe in and worship is eternal, infinite, invisible, omnipotent; one in substance, equal in power and glory and yet distinct in the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

I believe in God the Father, who creates, sustains, rules, and redeems the world in the freedom of sovereign righteousness and love. God is not only the Creator of heaven and earth, but also my awesome Protector who only seeks my obedience, love and worship. I must not commit idolatry. I must worship and glorify God accordingly, not by images, or any other way not appointed in His word.

I believe that God the Son, Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, was fully human and fully God. He is my personal Savior as well as the Redeemer of all. Through his life, his death, and his resurrection, he gives me the salvation and shows me how real God is. I am saved by God's grace and by faith only, not on account of any merit of mine, but on account of Christ's death.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity, sent into the world to bless and empower God's elect. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Advocate in the faith, revealing to us God's character, reminding us of what Jesus taught us, and sealing us in faith.

I believe that God continues to govern creation by His almighty sovereignty. God's self-revelation is complete and clear in the incarnation of Jesus. In addition, God gave us Scripture as a compass in our faith journey on earth. Scripture, though written by humans, is inspired by God for the instruction and building up of the elect, and is our ultimate authority for faith.

I believe that the church is the body of Christ, and the reconciling community called by God to witness to God. We live out our faith in the community where we preach, teach, and pray. The church is also called to proclaim God's Word to the world. The church must share with the world the promise of the eternal life in Christ and God's concern for love, justice, and peace. We are called to witness against the sin of idolatry, and bring people back to the only one true God.

To seal, strengthen, and nourish those of us who are in Christ, God has given the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, visible signs of invisible realities. In the water of baptism we are washed of our sin and sealed in a covenant community. In the taking of the bread and wine of communion, we are nourished with Christ's presence even as we proclaim his death until he comes again. Both Christ's victory over sin at the cross and the hope and power of his resurrection are made real to us in our partaking.

My faith in Jesus impels me to work with other Christians as a steward of God's house to live in simplicity, generosity, honesty, hospitality, compassion, receptivity, and concern for the earth and God's creatures. I must eliminate what I see as evil in society: racism, sexism, ageism, poverty, and classism.

I look forward to Jesus Christ's return when He shows his justice to this world. He will welcome me to see and live with Him forever while the wicked will go to eternal punishment. There will no longer be any kind of sin, death, or sorrow. I will live in God's new heavens and new earth forever.