

Statement of Faith

I believe

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe and the giver of life. God exists in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God created all people equal. But people view others unequally. Love makes us equal. I believe that love is made possible by God in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ, fully divine and fully human, lived a sinless life and voluntarily atoned for human sins by dying of the cross. Jesus is the lens through which followers see God's intention for his Kingdom. Jesus' example of living in service to others and in a continual relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit gives us God's plan for each of our lives. I believe Jesus is Lord and that God has plans to restore everything.

Jesus' presence continues to his disciples through the Holy Spirit. God's spiritual presence helps us carry out God's purposes on earth. The Spirit comes to transform our lives to do new things in the lives of individuals and the world.

The Old Testament, made up of Israel's scripture, shows us God's character and purpose for humankind. The New Testament, writings from the followers of Jesus, is about him and the new life he gave them and all future generations. The result of these writings is the Bible, a living and active document today as when it was compiled. God's written word teaches God's will for His world by the guidance of the Holy Spirit to all those who encounter it.

The Church is a mystery. How is it indestructible? When one part suffers and all suffer? When one part rejoices all parts rejoice? It consists of people who experience good days and evil days. So how can it exist? God is the answer. As the people of God, we come together to experience the Triune God in worship. We come together to glorify God through the Word and the Sacraments. We experience Christ's Spirit presence in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These acts during worship remind us of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Proclaiming the reign of God, calling disciples, being a blessing to all peoples, and confronting evil continues to be the work of the church in the world.

I believe I am a beloved child of God. I always have been. I always will be. I am totally accepted, forgiven, and there is nothing I could ever do to lose this acceptance. In response to His grace, I want to use my gifts and talents to help make this world the kind of place God wants for His people.

Susie Wright