

Statement of Faith

I believe God is big!, unknowable, and yet knowable, mysterious, yet not elusive. I believe that this same God is the one who made the heavens and earth, created time, and called it good. I believe that God has placed God's image upon and within all humanity, and that with each person we meet, we add a little bit more to our understanding of who God is. I believe that God is continually active, care for creation and participating in the events of the world - providence.

I believe God – in God's own self – is relational, three persons in one: living in perfect community (symbiosis). I acknowledge that these persons of God have many names, though we commonly refer to them as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Because God exists in relationship and we bear God's image, I believe all humanity is called to live in relationship and community with God, humanity, and all of creation. Sadly, our relationships are broken because of sin and will remain broken without the intervention of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

I believe that Jesus is, was, and will always be, the perfect manifestation of God in human form. Jesus was fully God and fully human – the revelation of the fullness of God for us in time and space. I believe that Jesus, through his life and work, shows us the way of God's kingdom. He calls us to a relationship with God, our neighbor, and ourselves that puts love first. This Divine Love calls us to work for justice and peace in our world, doing our part to bring the kingdom of God to our corner of the universe with the help of the Holy Spirit.

I believe the Holy Spirit is at work within, among, and around us all for the purposes of Heaven. That she dances through our hearts, lives, and experiences to reveal the Divine One to us. In giving us the gift of faith, we are restored in our relationship to the Divine. We are called by grace through this faith and fitted for the purposes of Heaven. I believe the Holy Spirit helps us to interpret the scriptures for our context, and that with this Still Small Voice God speaks to and into our context.

I believe the Bible tells us of a love story that started in the beginning. This love story is complex; telling about the Divine – Human relationship through stories, poems, parables, letters, and much more. I believe that the Bible is God's Living Word. That together as we read scripture and study the creation, the Holy Spirit shows us about the letter of Heaven and calls us to live the Message of Jesus all for the glory of God.

I believe that the people who have called on the Name of Jesus, Confessing him to be Lord, are the people who make up the church. We are called to be the body of Jesus and therefore continue the work he started. This is one of the beautiful professions of the Reformed Tradition: That Christ is "already, and not yet". Together we join this work knowing that God has already started the process and is not yet finished. Therefore, we have the opportunity to be agents of change for the Kingdom of God.

As the church, we have the opportunity to extend God's (irresistible) grace and hospitality through the sacraments of baptism and communion. In baptism, we claim the covenant God made to Abraham and receive the seal of the Holy Spirit – being set apart for God's kingdom. In communion, we extend and receive the hospitality of God to sit at the table and be fed. In these sacraments, we use tangible things like water and food to communicate the mystery of the visible and invisible grace of God to all.

I believe in the forgiveness of sins once and for all eternity made possible by God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I believe that we are eternal beings – like God – and will spend our eternity somewhere. I believe that death is just the end of this chapter and the beginning of the next chapter. I believe in the resurrection of the body, just as Jesus could eat and was able to be seen, heard, and touched. I do not know what this looks like but acknowledge the mystery of God in it.

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