

Rev. Dr. Robert W. Bardeen – Statement of Faith

I believe in the living God - God the Creator, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit - eternal and everlasting. Creator of the heavens and the earth, Maker of visible and invisible, Sustainer of all that is, and Ruler of all that will be, God is worthy of our worship and praise. We honor God alone.

I believe Jesus, the only Son of God, is the Lord of all. Made incarnate by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Virgin Mary, Jesus is both fully God and fully human. He offered his life, by God's will, to be the perfect sacrifice on behalf of all humans, throughout all time. His life, death, resurrection, and ascension gives hope to all humanity. Christ now sits as our High Priest, advocating to God on our behalf. We anticipate the day he will return again.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who invites, guides, comforts, convicts, and transforms those who yield, by the grace of God. The Holy Spirit empowers all who believe and desires for us to use the gifts provided.

I believe all are sinners. All fall short of what God requires. It is only through relationship with Jesus Christ that we have salvation and redemption. God, who is good, sees the good in us - calling us the salt of the earth and the light of the world, and desires good to reign instead of sin.

I believe in the gathering of all who have received Christ as Lord and are united together as Christ's Body, the church - of which Jesus is the head. We come together to worship as an expression of our love for the Savior; we fellowship together, we pray with confidence, study scripture, and serve with heart and soul. The church is entrusted with the task of being the hands of Christ - reaching out to the lost, the lonely, and the forsaken. Through compassion and sacrifice, we worship the Lord with true fellowship and devotion. We celebrate life through the remembrance of two sacraments given to the church, the Lord's Supper and Baptism, signs of God's covenant relationship and redeeming love. God claims us in the waters of Baptism, and feeds us with the bread of life and cup of salvation. We are united with Christ's dying and rising, and by grace, we know God's promises.

I believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are given to us by God. They are divinely inspired as trustworthy in all matters of faith and practice. The confessions and creeds of the church give witness to scripture expressed in historical situations - and serve to guide us even today.

I believe the community of believers has mission to do in the world and cannot do so without the transforming power of God's grace. Grace is truly amazing: through grace we are justified, we are saved, and we are held together. And through grace, we can love and work for justice because we have been loved first by God through Christ on the cross.

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