

Statement of Faith

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I believe in One Almighty God over all creation who reigns as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I imagine the Trinity to be much like a tapestry, whose threads weave in and through our lives, both individually and communally, God is active and dwells among us. Creator God in Jesus of Nazareth, fully human and fully divine once walked with us, and is now omnipresent through the Holy Spirit. As is reflected in the hymn “Gloria Patri” which highlights the presence of God as “was, is and will be” with the refrain, “as it was in the beginning, is now and forever shall be”.¹

As Creator and Sustainer our God is merciful, sovereign, transcendent, all knowing and omnipresent as Psalm 139:1-5 shares, “O LORD, you have searched me, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in – behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me” (NIV).

I believe Almighty God is present to humanity through the incarnate virgin birth of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. And that by Christ's obedience to the Will of God in His life, ministry, crucifixion, death and through the power of resurrection we are reconciled to God by faith alone. I believe salvation is offered to all creation through the righteousness of God, as a creative and unmerited work of love, grace and mercy which is offered as a gift from God through Christ Jesus.

I believe God's presence through the Holy Spirit moves creatively through our lives providing comfort, strength, power and direction. This creative action of the Holy Spirit touches our hearts and minds through scripture, each other in community, worship, music, song, literary and visual arts and through the Sacraments.

I see the sin of humanity as a movement toward self-centeredness over Christ-centeredness. Sinful perspectives twist God's perfect image of ourselves and others, giving an imperfect image of God's truth. In my experience, movement toward Christ-centeredness begins with repentance, by naming and turning from distorted perspectives to God's love and truth – to and through the Word of God.

The mission of God is participatory, our response to God's love is to participate with the priesthood of believers by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love, God's grace and God's mercy. We choose to participate in the transformation of creation and humanity through outreach to the community both locally and globally and by inviting all people to the Font and to the Table.²

With an ecumenical heart I believe there is unity in the Body of Christ and that there is and will continue to be an increase in the manifestations of the Kingdom of God on earth. I believe the light of God lives within each of us, much like the Quaker belief of an Inward Light, my understanding from John 1:9 is that the true light of God lives within all people. This belief is also reflective of Matthew 25:40b, “...whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me” and the Benedictine way of welcoming all as Christ. As an Oblate associated with the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas the image of Christ within all people is an important aspect of my faith.

¹ The text is taken from *Glory to God*, the hymnal of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013, 581.

² PC USA *Book of Order*. Louisville: The Office of the General Assembly, 2017, F-1.01.