

Statement of Faith, Beliefs, and Theological Perspective The Rev. Dr. Ted Pierce

Revelation of God (general and specific)

I believe God, the creator of the universe, chose to be revealed in the world through history, nature, mind, conscience and most importantly through sacred Scripture. The Bible, our rule for faith and practice, is the center of this revelation. Scripture demonstrates how God's love has been revealed to humankind, centering on Jesus Christ. Scripture simply explains that God was revealed in Jesus Christ to call humanity into obedience and repentance. The Spirit of God and the Christian community can illumine and direct readers to the truth and beauty found in Scripture.

Nature of God (God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit)

I believe Scripture shows that God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, seeks a personal relationship with humanity. This personal nature of God is revealed in the mystery of the triune God. Scripture reveals that the Creator sustains the world and also dwelt among us, redeems us in Jesus Christ and comforts and directs the Christian community as the Holy Spirit. The triune God is both merciful and just and seeks to be in covenant with all humanity.

Humanity and the Fall

I believe Scripture teaches that humans were created in the image of God to live in personal relation with the Creator and be stewards of God's good creation. But humankind rebels against God and continually attempts to move the Creator from the center of creation. This act of rebellion and idolatry continues to thrust the entire creation into misery, separation and desolation. All humanity is in need of God's mercy, love and grace.

Salvation

I believe our Creator, being not only a God of justice, but also a God of love and grace, chose not to completely destroy rebellious humanity for our idolatry and refusal to acknowledge God as the sovereign Creator. But God mercifully emptied himself into humanity as Jesus Christ to reconcile us to the Creator. In this act of Christ's life, death on the cross, resurrection and ascension, God completed the Easter Victory over our rebellion and idolatry. Through the love and acts of Jesus Christ humanity no longer needs to live in misery, separation and desolation.

The Covenant Community

I believe the covenant community, or the Church, is the whole community, in heaven and on earth, chosen and called by God for salvation and service. This covenant community and life can be seen by the obedient concern for order in the Church according to Scripture. Dominant among these concerns in the covenant community are the preaching, teaching and studying of the Word of God; corporate and private prayer; service to the poor and outcast; and the administration of the sacraments.

Sacraments

I believe the sacrament of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are a sign and seal of being incorporated into Christ and eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In Baptism we and our children are assured that we are members of the covenant family of God. In the Lord's Supper we receive in faith the bread of life and the cup of salvation for the nourishment of our Christian life. All of God's people are promised to share the cup of Christ together in God's new kingdom.