

Statement of Faith:

Rev. Kathryn Morgan

I believe in God who created all and continues to create. God, as creator, is intertwined with all of creation and we are called to engage in relationship with God, God's creation and all of God's people. We are called to deepen and strengthen that relationship through prayer, both personal and corporate, spiritual practices and living experiences. God also calls us to work with and learn from people who believe differently than we do. By so doing, we all gain greater understanding of God and each other. We do this best when we are in community. God's community is the church, a very human institution that does its best when living in accord with God's desire. God has made us as part of this creation and we have been given creativity, curiosity, and choice. Sometimes we make choices that work against God, doing harm, causing pain and engaging in practices that bring injustice. Sometimes we find ourselves out of step with God. Yet God chooses to remain in relationship with us. God loves us still and offers us forgiveness and grace. When we are able to acknowledge our missteps we become part of an ongoing transformation through the power of God's grace and we live into that change.

As a further sign of God's love, God sent us Jesus. The Word made flesh is both a mystery and a visible comfort in all of life's joys and hardships. Because of Jesus, we are called to an even deeper relationship of hope and trust in God. Jesus showed us what it means to truly "love God with all our heart, mind and soul" and "to love our neighbors as we love ourselves". If we choose to walk the way of Jesus, we choose to also love God and our neighbors through service and sacrifice.

I trust God in all of life and with my life. I believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the beautiful mystery of life after death where love has the last say. I not only trust God to bring life out of physical death but also out all of the "little deaths" that we encounter in our lives; the death of dreams, the death of relationships, health, jobs. I trust that God will welcome me at the end of my life on this earth, but that first God through Jesus and empowered by God's Spirit, wants me and all people to live fully and abundantly. The Spirit, promised by Jesus and sent by God, enlivens our thoughts, actions and words to more fully show God's love as lived and died and lived again by Jesus. God's light and breath are at work all around us. We are called to be alive, alert, awake, to all that God does and the opportunities that God brings. God teaches us through, scripture, people, science, experience and an infinite variety of ways since God is infinite. We have also been given the gifts of the sacraments, those actions that Jesus did, to remind us that we God's people, chosen from birth for God's love. Our baptism claims us as God's beloved before we have language to respond and adopt us into a community of faith and believers. The gifts of the bread and wine remind us of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the love that was demanded of him which he freely gave. We celebrate these sacraments in community because we remember best when we are together and hold each other accountable as we encounter Christ at the table. To be prepared for God's leading, we look to scripture, which is God-infused. We engage in prayer and discernment and we test the Spirit's leading in community. I believe that the love of God is ongoing and life-long and that there is still much to learn in God's infinite wisdom and beauty.