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Statement of Faith:

God is love.

God's goodness, eternally constant, is bringing about a new creation in this world.

God forms creation and names it good, but all of creation is mutable and finite. Even the Earth itself is constantly changing. We experience the movement of the Earth's crust as earthquakes and atmospheric chaos in the form of unpredictable weather patterns.

In God's image, human beings are created good.

All of creation belongs to God, but the world and the people in it are sinful and broken. We are born into a world that belongs to God, but the presence of pain and suffering in God's creation shows that the world is not in right relationship with God.

Yet, God is not inattentive or indifferent to the world's mournful cries against injustice and loss.

God sent God's son, Jesus Christ, to Earth.

In his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus Christ – fully human and fully divine – reconciled humanity to God and overcame

the power of sin and death. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Christ witnessed to the reign of God and reminded humanity that the ultimate good we can strive for is to love God with

our whole heart, soul, and mind and to love one's neighbor as one's self.

Because sin brings blindness, we cannot truly see God without Christ.

In Christ, humanity has a glimmer of the good news of the reign of God, a glimpse at the possibility of peace without war,

love without hate, light without darkness, goodness without evil, and abounding grace that we could never earn or deserve.

God's Holy Spirit moves in and through creation.

God is all-knowing and ever-present; God is not distant or removed.

The Spirit moves in and through the Church to bring hope to the hopeless, rest to the weary, and faith to the unbelievers.

Though not dependent on the Church, the Spirit works through the Church to bring all of God's children into God's community.

In the two sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the people of the Church are, through the Holy Spirit, able to

celebrate Christ's life, death, and resurrection in community with past, present, and future believers and with God.

In Baptism, we are sealed in the love of God; as each new member is welcomed into the community of believers to love

and serve the Lord, we also remember our commitment to love and serve the Lord. In Communion, we proclaim Christ's

death and resurrection, and as we celebrate that death does not have the final word, it is God in Jesus Christ who invites

us to come.

So, as finite believers, when we confess our belief in Christ, it is a realization of our sinfulness and our need for God's

immeasurable grace and mercy. We cannot save ourselves. Believing does not relieve us of the darkness of this world,

but we understand that we are claimed as God's children in, through, and in spite of our brokenness. The Good News for

all believers is that, though we do not deserve God's love, God loves us still.