

Glenn Zuber

Statement of Faith

I believe that God as Creator is always loving, personally present, and all-powerful. I trust in this loving God. And I believe that God has chosen to enter into our workaday world to redeem Humanity and unjust social structures. This is the mission of God and the focus of my ministry. Despite God's love for the whole Creation, humanity often responds to God's love and generosity with hostility or indifference. Sometimes Humanity hides from God because they find it hard to believe they are loved. Our human brokenness is reflected in all tendencies toward self-hatred, estrangement from one another, and indifference toward injustice and suffering.

Yet our brokenness is not God's last word for lives. Over the generations, God has chosen individuals and families (Abraham & Sarah, for example) and prophets as his instruments and as covenantal partners to bring back the Human Family to Godself. To bring Humanity back to Godself, God manifested the divine presence in Jesus the Christ. In Jesus Christ, the divine and human come together, two natures unified in one person. Today, the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (also named as Creator, Savior, and Holy Spirit)--as a living, active presence covenants with God's People to redeem Humanity and bring into reality the New Creation.

The herald of this New Creation was and is Jesus Christ. Jesus was the herald of the Kingdom of God (or Reign of God) where the Sermon on the Mount, the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and the proclamation of good news to the poor became a way of life for his disciples in all generations, not just platitudes for admiration. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus takes away our brokenness and bondage to radical selfishness, conditions which prevent us from serving & loving God and neighbor completely. We respond to God's grace through worship, spiritual practices, and helping others.

We encounter God's ongoing story of redemption and the new creation as our own story through the Holy Spirit's work in the scriptures, sacraments, creation, reason, and covenantal community. The Christian scriptures (called the Bible) are the authoritative, life-giving witnesses to God's covenant with Israel as well as God's unique work and presence in the life of Jesus Christ. Through God's gift of faith, we believe this testimony.

Through the weekly proclamation of the Word and celebration of the Sacraments we experience the presence of Jesus Christ communally and individually. The Word gathers the community to hear the Word proclaimed and revealed. The sacraments are both the sign (water, bread) and the thing signified (regeneration, body of Christ) that help us to experience again Jesus Christ. Strengthened by our weekly encounter with Jesus Christ in community and worship, we go into the world to love God and serve our neighbor, confident that we are fully supported and loved as we partner with God to transform the world through love and compassion.