

Statement of Faith

Rev. Amy Lawrence

I believe that in the waters of our baptism we have been named and claimed as children of God. God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who was, is and will always be our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Our greatest joy and purpose is to glorify God with our whole being and to love God with all our heart, mind, and strength.

It was God who in the very beginning breathed over the waters and brought order out of chaos. It was this same Creator who imagined and crafted the world and all that is in it. God declared creation good and placed all of creation in relationship with God's self and with each other. Sin and brokenness was introduced into the world when humanity desired for more and turned away from God. The good news is that our sin and brokenness is not the end of the story. God loves us, encounters us, and offer us healing in the midst of our brokenness. Scripture is filled with stories and instances where God pursues, shelters and delivers God's children. The greatest story contained in our holy scripture is the story of Jesus Christ.

At the heart of our faith is the story of how God came to earth in the form of a vulnerable human so that humanity might fully live into their relationships with one another and with God. Jesus Christ was born into the world fully human and fully divine. Through his ministry and witness Jesus taught us how to radically love, care for, and serve each other. Christ's radical love was exemplified on the cross where he took upon the sins of the world so that we might know healing and wholeness. Christ was crucified and died but death did not have the final say, for after three days Christ arose from the dead. It is in Christ's resurrection that we experience the power of God and life eternal. Christ promised his disciples and us that he would not leave us, but would send the Holy Spirit in his place. It is the Holy Spirit that empowers and strengthens us as we strive to faithfully live a life anchored in and centered on God's steadfast love, mercy and grace.

We live out our Christian faith in community, not in isolation or as lone rangers. We call this community the Church, which is much more than a physical building or a specific group of people in a particular time or place. The Church is comprised of all the saints past, present and future and is commissioned to proclaim the good news of the gospel and make disciples of all the nations. We are marked and claimed for this commission through the sacrament of baptism and we are nourished and united in ministry with Christ through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In these sacraments we celebrate with visible signs the invisible grace that God has extended to all of us. It is with the assurance of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit that we, both individually and communally, are able to love and serve God and our neighbors. Through Christ we are joint heirs and citizens of God's kingdom. Even as we watch and wait for the coming of Christ and the New Jerusalem, we labor here and now to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our Lord.