

## Statement of Faith

Our God is the Triune God revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As one eternal being, they share all power and abilities; as three distinct persons, each has a primary identity.

*The Father* is Creator of the universe, sovereign King, Ruler of the world, everything and everyone in that universe, seen and unseen. When God created the first human beings, they had a relationship of love and trust with their Creator; but since the man and woman chose to disobey, their trusting relationship with God was broken and sin entered the world. Sin has touched every aspect of our lives and it is only by God's rich grace and loving forgiveness that we may have a renewed relationship with God.

*The Son*, our Lord Jesus Christ, born of a woman on earth to show us in concrete human form who God is, came to earth to enable us to renew our relationship with God through his own death on the cross, as payment for our sin. Jesus rose from that death, giving us victory over the power of sin in our life and clearing the path for us to know God personally and to please him. We can come to know God and please him not only by means of Jesus' own example on earth but by his power as well.

*The Holy Spirit* works in our lives every day. The Spirit reveals to us the sin in our lives, giving us power to repent from that sin and live the life God intends us to live in loving obedience to him. The Spirit draws us to God, praying for us and through us when we cannot pray ourselves.

The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are the record of God's loving and powerful actions in the world. They are God's words to us, inspired by the Holy Spirit and written down by people who have listened carefully with their hearts to the Spirit's voice. The Scriptures are essential, central, reliable for what we need to know to grow in our relationship with God. They are the words that enable us to know and carry out the will and work of God.

The Spirit of God draws us together as the community of God's people, the Body of Christ in the world, known as the Church. Through the Church, the world learns of God and experiences God's love. We become part of this community by God's grace. We learn more about God as we worship and follow him together in community. Christ sends the Church, as ambassadors, into the world to proclaim and live as examples the good news of God's love for all, that Christ alone is the way of peace, justice, and reconciliation with each other and with God.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are reminders to us of our covenant relationship with God. Baptism is the sign that we are brought into that covenant by God's initiative, through the washing of water; the Lord's Supper reminds us of God's grace, ours through the death on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we participate in Baptism and the Lord's Supper, we are united with Christ through the real presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

The Son of God returns in triumph at the end of time to rule the nations, and all will recognize and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God.