



STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in the one Triune God of heaven and earth: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are created in God's own image, and in life and in death we belong to God. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present, and all-loving. God is revealed to us through Scripture and in our world, but we can by no means describe God's glory completely.

I believe that God created us for an intimate relationship with Godself. We were created in God's own image, and we were called very good; yet, sin distorts that image and our relationship with God. Due to this state, we fall short of God's purpose for our lives. Though we try, we are powerless to overcome the effects of sin. Yet, in ultimate love for the world, God the Father sent to us Jesus Christ to save the world.

I believe that Jesus entered into our existence, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus is fully human and fully divine. It is only through Jesus that we can reclaim a true relationship with God. Our forgiveness is offered through Christ's blood, where we are made clean and freed from the dominion of sin. It is only through Christ's help that we can come to love God and our neighbor as ourselves.

I believe that our salvation is wholly dependent upon the sovereign power of God as we are declared justified, not because of any good that we have done, but only because of God's grace extended to us in Jesus Christ, as we are brought into right relation with the Father, who receives us as His adopted children. God chooses us for Himself in grace before the foundation of the world, not because of any merit on our part, but only because of His love and mercy.

I believe the Holy Spirit was sent to dwell and move among us. The Spirit makes real the promise of Jesus to always be with us. The Spirit of God empowers us to serve our God. The Spirit speaks to humanity and makes real God's continued work in our world.

I believe that God is revealed to us through the Holy Scriptures that were written by the human hand, but divinely inspired by God. They are authoritative for the Christian life and serve as the foundation of our Faith.

I believe in one Holy Universal Church. Although we are divided into denominations with different governmental forms and creeds, all followers of Christ are part of the Body of Christ. As a member of the reformed faith,

I believe that the church is reformed and always reforming through the power of the Holy Spirit. I uphold two Sacraments, the Lord's Supper and Baptism, that God has given us as outward signs of an inward grace. At the communion table, we join with believers across time and space in celebrating the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. We proclaim His life, death, and resurrection until He returns to us. Through the waters of baptism, we proclaim God's claim upon our lives and the cleansing power of grace to wash away all that defiles God's creation in us. Though some are called to serve in Christ's church as pastors of Word and Sacrament,

I believe that as believers, called by grace, no part of human life is off limits to the sanctifying claims and work of God. Therefore, we are all called to be ministers of the Word of God and reach out to the world around us with love and the grace that God offers. As believers, we are given the privilege and expectation of being ambassadors for our God to a world that is hurting and in need of God's saving grace. Through the power and work of the Holy Spirit, we are equipped to be witnesses of God's gracious presence to those who are lost. All glory belongs to our God.