

Charles J. T. Svendsen Statement of Faith

I praise God, our Creator:

in love God created the universe through God's eternal Word and Spirit;
by God's power God sustains and directs it.
God has made us sons and daughters,
to share in joy and to live together in peace.

I confess Jesus Christ, God our Redeemer:

in love, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became one of us;
to fulfill his promise to Israel and to reconcile the world with God.
In his life he was obedient to his Father's will;
he forgave sinners, brought hope to the lost,
healed the sick, and set free those who were oppressed.
In his death on the cross he bore the sin of the world;
on the third day he was raised from death by the power of God.
He triumphed over all the powers of evil;
now he reigns in heaven, sharing his risen life with us.

I trust the Holy Spirit, God our Sanctifier:

In love calls the Church into being.
The Holy Spirit unites us to Christ, in whom we are justified.
The Spirit guides our understanding of the Scriptures,
as the Spirit also guided and inspired their writers.
The Spirit sanctifies us in sacraments,
and imparts to the faithful the fullness of Christ.
The Spirit assures us of forgiveness.
The Spirit empowers us to be disciples,
embodying the love of Jesus in the Church and in the world.

We rejoice in the gift of eternal life:

We hope for the coming resurrection, through the resurrection of Christ.
We look for his coming again in power and glory,
to judge the world and to make all things new.
Then all creation shall rejoice in communion with God, through the Son, in the promise of the
Holy Spirit, one God blessed forever.
Amen.

Adapted from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

I was born and reared in a gracious and loving home of Christian faith. My parents were exemplars of what it means to follow Jesus as Redeemer and Head of the Church. I have always believed, as the Heidelberg Catechism reminds us, that "I belong – body and soul, in my life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ." While in college I sensed a call to pastoral ministry. My call has been confirmed in countless ways over the many years. It has been an honor and joy to serve.