

Rev. Jennifer Fraser
Statement of Faith

I trust my life and my salvation to the one Triune God who is Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Out of divine love, God authored the whole of creation—all that is seen and unseen. God has not abandoned creation, but continues to abide in, through, and with it in ways that lie far beyond our imagination. Humanity was created in the image of God for relationship with God. But our attraction to sin, our love of power, and our desire for autonomy diverted us from this union and set us on a tragic path. We cannot escape by ourselves. We are lost in a world that has been shattered into innumerable pieces. As in the story of the first man and woman, our sin makes us fearful of God and we hide ourselves among the trees hoping our shame will not be seen. In this defective and empty state, we lash out at one another and we exploit God's creation to quell our endless hunger for substance and meaning, distorting God's image and gift to us.

Yet, like a loving mother who longs to be reunited with her lost child, God has pursued us faithfully throughout history. And like a forgiving and wise father, God provides for us in exile all that is necessary for body and for soul, including bread and community, breath and knowledge, life and purpose. This pursuit and provision can be seen through the people of Israel, whom God led out of slavery in Egypt and set apart to live according to God's law. Out of this people God's eternal Word emerged in the person of Jesus.

In Jesus God's perfect love is revealed to the world. Fully human and fully divine, he walked among us, joining in our experience of sorrow and joy. He was born in humble circumstances, lived among the poor, ate with sinners, healed the sick, and challenged the powerful. Jesus revealed power in the form of a servant, called all to repent, and proclaimed the Kingdom of God. But in our fearfulness and shame we crucified him, rejecting God's Son just as we rejected the Father. Yet in the resurrection Jesus defeated death and sin, freeing all who are drawn to redemption through him.

Through the Holy Spirit God calls us as the Church to bear witness to Christ and to participate in God's reconciling work in the world. This same Spirit binds us together as the body of Christ, a community of ever-widening welcome in which we are blessed so that we may be a blessing for others.

The Holy Spirit makes known the living Word through the Scriptures. Both the Old and New Testament are the inspired and authoritative witness to God's desire for us, guiding and transforming the Church in all aspects of life and faith.

The Church is recognized, not through the purity of its members, but through its practice of gathering around the Word. This is witnessed in the proclamation of the Gospel and in the sacraments. Through baptism we are marked as God's own and in communion we remember God's covenant. These acts restore us to God's authentic and eternal love, leading us toward lives of faithfulness while we await Christ's triumphant return.