

Jim Porter Statement of Faith

Statement Of Faith:

I believe in the one triune God, made known as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of all of life.

I believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth. God is love; and out of love, God created the heavens and the earth, and called them good. Moreover, God created humankind in God's image, and calls each one of us God's beloved children, created equally in God's sight. God continually invites us into a life-giving relationship with God and with each other, so that we might live more fully in the light of God's love.

Yet, we are also broken, hurting people, who fall short of God's glory and purpose for our lives. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. To that end, God sent the Son in the world so that we might know God in flesh and blood and know the fullness of God's love and grace. Through the Son, we see the ultimate gift of God's love, are forgiven of our sins, receive the gift of eternal life, and can now live instead in the power and purpose of God at work in the world today.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, fully human and fully divine. Jesus proclaimed the coming of God's kingdom into the world, and ministered to all people, including the poor, the oppressed, and the outcast. In the cross of Christ, we see the height, depth, and breadth of God's love for the world, and in his death and resurrection, Jesus conquered sin and death once and for all. In his resurrection, we see and experience the healing power of God. Today, Jesus, through the work of the Holy Spirit, continues to call each one of us in to an active, intimate relationship with God and into a community of faith for the service of the world.

I believe the Holy Spirit, also fully divine and an equal member of the Trinity. The Spirit continues to witness to power and presence of Christ at work in the world today. The Holy Spirit calls us into relationship with God and one another, enlightening us through God's word, empowering us for the work of ministry, and binding us together in the one holy, apostolic, and universal church.

The sacraments are the sign and seal of God's grace at work in the world. Whenever the sacraments are celebrated, we joyfully proclaim the love and grace of God made known in Christ Jesus. In baptism, before we can even speak for God, I believe that God is speaking for us, calling us God's own. In communion, we proclaim the life, death, and resurrection of Christ until Christ comes again.

I believe that all Christians are called to share in the ministry of Jesus Christ, proclaiming in word and deed the Good News of the gospel to all of the world. As God has sent the Son, God now sends us to continue the work and ministry of Christ in the world today. I believe the gospel breaks down all barriers of culture, race, gender, and social status, and is a message of love, hope, healing, and forgiveness for all humankind.

Jim