

**Statement Of Faith:**

I believe in the one Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God the Father is the prime mover of the universe. All humanity was made in the image of God to be in relationship with God. Humanity rebelled against God, violating this relationship by disobedience in the Garden of Eden. Sin continues to rupture that relationship. As the maker of covenants, God covenanted with the patriarchs, with ancient Israel, and with us. These covenants were created for our good. God is interested in the welfare of each and every one of us. We have an active God, who hears our prayers.

The prophets of the Old Testament foretold the coming of the Messiah. Jesus Christ fulfills these prophecies. In this way, God decisively enters into human history through Jesus, as it is written in the Gospels. Christ was born of Mary. Jesus, both fully human and fully divine, is the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world so that humankind can be redeemed. Only a human could offer up the sacrifice, and only God could bear the weight of God's justice for our sins. Christ's sacrifice involved suffering under the Roman magistrate, Pontius Pilate. Christ died on the cross and was buried. He arose on the third day and ascended into heaven. He is our mediator, and we commune with Christ and all communicants, past, present, and future, whenever we "eat this bread and drink this cup." Christ is priest, prophet, and king, the very image of God.

The Holy Spirit is active in the world, inspiring goodness and filling all space even the empty places within humanity left by sin. In this way, God is always at work within us, even when our lives are at the lowest ebb. The Spirit inspired the writings of the scriptures, God's Word. The scriptures are above all human authority. The Spirit inspires the promulgation of the Word to us today. It is the Holy Spirit that calls us to action and is God's activity in the world.

The church is the Body of Christ. It is the mission of the church to spread the Word of God throughout the universe, and to bring comfort and relief to those who are afflicted. Baptism is a sign to ourselves and to the world that we are members of the church. It is a seal on God's covenant with us. The Body of Christ engages in joyous worship of the Triune God through music, liturgy and presentation of the Word. The Body of Christ, through the Spirit, builds up the church and takes care of what God has given us.

God's love for us and creation is complete in time and space. There is no separating us from this love, so we should never abandon hope and should always rely on God. We hold on to this hope looking forward to Christ's return. Thus, we commune with God in our daily life through prayer and should praise the Lord and live in enjoyment of God forever.

*William*