

# Jaime Klinger Statement of Faith

## **Statement of Faith:**

I believe in the One Triune God; the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer all of things—seen and unseen.

God is love. Pure, Perfect, Radiant Love. This love has always been and this love will always be. God's love is infinite and eternal. God's love is tangible and close. God's love fills my life. Out of love, God created, and continues to create, because love is for sharing.

God created the vast universe and the tiniest particle; God created the lion and the lamb; God created you and me and stamped love on all of creation, intending it to work together as One. All that God has made is good because God is good.

Out of love, God gifted humans with partnership in the ongoing process of creation. God longs to be in relationship with us, to work in and through us, to continue to reveal God's creative wonder to the world. Sometimes we are fully open to this movement of God's spirit, and our lives become a testimony to God's glory, and the kingdom on earth grows. Other times, we forget that our gifts come from God; we think we can do God's job on our own and God's light is diminished. This is "sin."

Sin has existed since the beginning of time, not because of God, but because of the choices we make to live for ourselves—to move away from our center in God, and to make ourselves the center instead. Sin separates us from God, from one another, and from the entire created order. This separation is not something we can fix on our own. Only God's love can mend this brokenness.

Out of love, God comes to us in the person of Jesus, the Redeemer of all things. Jesus was and is the Word of God made flesh, fully human and fully divine. Jesus was sent to set people free from bondage, to show us how to love more fully, and to proclaim that God's kingdom is near! God became one of us in a fragile baby to reveal God's gift of salvation to the world.

Jesus lived in perfect union with God, was tempted in every way but did not sin, and loved and accepted all people. However, the world did not accept him and out of fear and brokenness, crucified him.

On the cross of Christ, it looked like death had won. Thankfully, God's love is greater than death, and out of death, God brings forth new life. Jesus was raised! Sin and death were defeated and we are given new life in Christ. This is "Good News!"

The Holy Spirit is God's abiding presence in all times and places. The Spirit sustains our faith, fans the flames of love within us, and transforms our ordinary hands and feet into the hands and feet of Christ at work in the world. The Holy Spirit binds diverse individuals into One people—the Body of Christ—the church.

The church of Jesus Christ is God's ongoing gift of love to the world. There, followers are called and claimed in the baptismal waters, nourished and fed at Christ's table, strengthened by God's living Word, and sent out to live more holy lives. The church is not perfect, but God is, and God continuously works through it to create, redeem and sustain life until Christ comes again.

JAIME