

Statement of Faith - Margie L. Osborn

I gratefully acknowledge that I am a child of God created in God's image by God who intends good for all creation. I believe our Creator is the only true God. God reveals God's self in three unique persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet is mysteriously and wholly a community of One. Our Triune God who lives, loves, and redeems in community calls all of creation into order from chaos, into community from isolation, into wholeness from brokenness.

Through free and undeserved grace, God sent Jesus, God's only Son, who is fully human and divine to be the incarnation of God's love and to restore our relationship with God broken by human sin. Jesus was tempted to sin but chose to live a life of faith in perfect obedience to God's will. His life of piety, compassion, justice, and service embodies how we are to live as children of God. I believe Jesus freely consented to die on the cross for my sins and for all sin. In his death, he suffered the awful alienation from God that is the essence of sin. Witnessing to God's sovereign love and power, God raised this Jesus from the dead as proof of God's will for the redemption and renewal of all creation from sin and death. I believe the risen Christ will return again and, through the Holy Spirit, is present now in scripture, the Word preached, prayer, the Sacraments, the church universal, and all people especially the weak, oppressed, and suffering. I believe this Jesus is the promised Christ of the Bible. He is my Savior and the Lord of my life.

I believe in the eternally-present Holy Spirit who is One with God and Jesus Christ and freely at work in the world to bring new life. The Spirit reveals the grace of the risen Christ and unites believers past, present, and future into the one body of Christ, the church. Uniting us, the Spirit also equips each of us with spiritual gifts to use for the well-being of the church. I rejoice that the Spirit frees us to love God, self, and others; teaches, comforts, and prays for us; and transforms us day by day into a clearer reflection of Jesus Christ.

God, our Parent to whom we belong, in whom we trust, and by whom we are utterly loved, seals

us in the waters of baptism in a covenant relationship of love. The Sacrament of Baptism symbolizes our dying and rising with Christ, cleansing from sin, receiving of the Holy Spirit, adoption into the family of God, and the beginning of our journey of faith as Jesus' disciples.

As baptized children of God, the crucified and risen Christ welcomes all believers to commune with him in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In the breaking of bread and the pouring of wine, symbols of Christ's broken body and shed blood, the Spirit makes real Christ's presence in the community of faith as a sign and seal of God's covenant of grace for all who partake. I believe that as we gather in faith around the Lord's Table we receive the nourishment we need to share in Christ's ministry of reconciling love.

I believe God calls all people to respond to God's love and grace with active membership in the church. Through worship, prayer, and reliance upon Holy Scripture – which is authoritative for us as it testifies to God's redemptive activity across history and ultimately in Jesus Christ – the Spirit calls and enables the church to manifest the selfless, liberating, faith and justice-producing servant ministry of Jesus Christ to a confused, threatened, and hopeless world. What Jesus who is God-with-us does he calls we who are the church to do in his name.

In thanks for God's sure grace that precedes repentance and calls us to deeper faith, greater service, and a new future, I celebrate God's faithfulness even as I await the full glory of God's kingdom revealed in Christ which both is and is yet to come. I believe creation's hope rests firmly and only in the love of our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose nature and purpose for us is supremely expressed in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.