

## *Statement of Faith*

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My faith dwells in the Lord, the creator, redeemer, sustainer of all. God created the world out of nothing and brought forth life and it was good. I believe the origin of humanity resides in the hands of God, yet the fall of humanity derives from our condition. Through the disobedience of Adam and Eve Sin emerged and, in that Sin, we have been alienated from God and therefore from each other. That alienation has corrupted our goodness, we are therefore totally depraved; unable to reach, only ever able to grasp at the Truth revealed by God.

That Truth was revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only Son. I believe the incarnation is the inconceivable reality of the creator entering into creation, the point in which the eternal being became a temporal becoming. I believe that by showing us the light of God's love, the ministry of Jesus reconciled us with one another. I believe that all humanity has been reconciled with God through the death and resurrection of Christ. Christ Jesus died for the sins of the world and bridged the eternal divide between us and God, ultimately eliminating the Sin caused by our alienation from God. This redemptive action is rooted in the unbound mercy and everlasting grace of God.

Going out into the world, Christ gave us two signs of God's love and commitment to creation. I believe in Baptism and the Lord's Supper as the two sacraments of the Presbyterian church. I believe in Baptism we are sealed by God's grace as members of the Church visible. I believe that in this act we are renewed in Christ and gifted with the Holy Spirit. I believe that the Lord's Supper draws us into relationship with the risen Christ and is an act of remembrance for what has been done and what will be done in Christ. The Lord's Supper is also a time when we give our praise to the Lord for the loving acts of God throughout history. That history is recorded in Holy Scripture which is the Word of God for the people of God. The Scriptures reveal the history of God's people and the completion of God's works, past, present, and future.

Our assurance is found in the resurrection of Christ. Therefore, no work done by human hands can earn salvation, and no evil deed done by human recourse can undo salvation. We are saved by the grace of God alone. After the ascension of Christ, the Holy Spirit, which has always been and will always be, graced the disciples with the Spirit of the Lord to go out as conduits of God's Will in the world. The gift of the Holy Spirit continues to act through the church of Christ and all those who profess Christ to be their Savior. I believe that the church has no authentic voice, apart from the voice of the Lord calling out for us to follow and act.