

Tim Dyck

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe that God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the one who originates and sustains creation through his power and love. God is all-knowing, all-present, and all-powerful whose nature is kind, good, just, loving, and unchanging. God's power, knowledge and presence are understood by a love that does not coerce, but woos and ceaselessly pursues. In this love, justice is found. The universe reveals God's creativity. God created woman and man in God's image and all of creation, including humanity, was deemed "good" by God. At the beginning, God, humanity, and creation were in harmonious relationship with one another.

But when given the choice, humanity chose to disobey God, seeking to become godlike by gaining the knowledge of good and evil, breaking the relationships between God, humanity, and creation. Because of God's infinite love, this was unacceptable. God instigated a plan for redemption most fully revealed in the sending of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully God. Present at creation with the Spirit and the Father, the second person of the trinity, he is God's self-expression for humanity to see. As foretold, Jesus came to reconcile us to God and each other by taking on humanity's sin. Historically, Jesus lived, worked, was crucified, buried, and physically resurrected breaking death's power. His life is the example of complete communion with God and one another.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, our advocate, counselor, and encourager. The Spirit intercedes for us, leads us in following God, assists in interpreting Scripture and gives gifts to the church to build it up as we join God's mission in the world.

Scripture authoritatively conveys God's loving pursuit of humanity. Because humans are limited in our ability to interpret scripture, we rely on the Spirit to guide us, and the wisdom of those who have gone before us to discern God's message.

The church observes two sacraments. In Baptism, one is united with Christ in his death and resurrection, becoming part of his body, which is the church. The waters of Baptism symbolize our sins washed away. In the Lord's Supper, we take bread and wine to remind us of Christ's body broken and Christ's blood shed for our salvation. Like the Hebrew people who remember God's redemptive acts in Passover, so too we celebrate Jesus' love as he gave his life so humanity could become a new creation.

The church is called to be God's hands and feet in the world to minister to all, particularly those who are marginalized. As God's ambassadors, we are called to love God and neighbor, to witness to the good news of the gospel and to create disciples of Jesus Christ. Thus we are called to help those in need, work with others within our community, and support those working afar to share the Good News.

I look forward to the day when Jesus will return, complete the redemption of the world, restore the world to wholeness and all will be harmonious again.