

Statement of Faith

Michael Keith Leach

I believe in a sovereign and triune God who is all knowing and all powerful; a God whose very existence as trinity shows and teaches us how necessary communion with God is. God is a God of relationship and communion in a Holy and wholly way. God wants a relationship with His the people and indeed with all of God's creation and that one day that relationship will be made complete again.

I believe that God has been active in human affairs since the creation and remains involved today. God, the creator of all things loves his children too much to leave them alone and through the person of Jesus Christ, who was and is both fully God and fully human, came to show the world how to live a life that reflects God's love even in the most difficult situation. In the very incarnation of God, Jesus took and still takes on all the sin of humanity feeling all the horrors of our depravity, our sin and shame. Jesus felt and feels our sin but did not participate in it. Jesus came, lived, died and rose again so that humans who believe in him could have everlasting life and that God's children could be reconciled to God. I believe that Jesus died on the cross, not because God willed it but because of evil in humanity which felt it could take the place of God. God allowed Jesus' crucifixion and in Jesus' complete obedience he was killed. I believe that on the third day Jesus was bodily resurrected from the dead and as such once and for all conquered sin and death not only in his life of obedience but in his resurrection.

I believe that the Spirit of God and Jesus, the third person of the trinity that proceeds forth from the Father and the Son and who has always been came to the one, holy, apostolic and catholic Church at Pentecost and empowered the Disciples of Christ to be active for God in the world. I believe that God and Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit is still active in today's world, encouraging and enabling Christians to witness to the miracle that is being a child of God. I believe that the will of the God the father is revealed by the presence of the Holy Spirit in both Scriptures the inspired Word of God and through prayerful seeking and listening. I believe that individual discernment of God's will is essential, but the collective discernment of God's will is a powerful force that God uses to inspire and direct the Church of Jesus Christ.

I believe that all Christians are called out to be witnesses and ministers to the love of Christ in a broken and fallen world. I also believe that all are called and gifted to actively participate in the life of the Church and some are called and gifted by the power of the Spirit to help lead the Church in its mission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. Those called to leadership are equipped and trained to help the Church worship and celebrate the sacraments rightly and thus to help the Church give evidence to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ in deed and word. Through the right practice of the Sacraments, both Baptism and Communion, the Church gives sure witness to the love of God through both a sign of God's redemption and a seal of the action God has and is taking to reconcile humanity to God's self. In practicing these Sacraments as commanded by God we do continue in the work of the Kingdom until Christ comes again, which He has promised. At that time the Kingdom of God that has begun here on earth will be completed.