

REV. MELANIE MARSH
Statement of Faith

I believe that God is the Creator and source of all things. I believe that we are each created in the spiritual image of God and that we are called throughout our lives to seek a closer union with our Creator and spiritual Source. We live out our connection to God as we serve with humility and compassion our fellow human beings, following the example of Christ to be a humble servant to all people, living in obedience to God.

I believe that Christ is our Redeemer, the bearer of God's forgiveness and perfect example for human life on earth. The Divine Christ entered the world as a human man to live the life that we as imperfect humans cannot. Christ lived a life of absolute obedience to God's command of love. Jesus followed that command wherever it led, even into acts of opposition against the Temple leaders, even unto death. Through the death and resurrection of Christ, God has given us the gift of reconciliation with the One who gave us life and created us as perfect.

I believe the Holy Spirit Sustains our faith and is God at work in the created order. I believe the Holy Spirit is the presence of God within my living being, leading me toward God's will. This Spirit exists in concert with God and Christ together as one holy trinity. It is this Spirit which connects all of creation to one another and to God.

My faith is grounded in my heritage as part of the Reformed tradition. This tradition teaches me that God's grace is a gift, freely given and undeserved, and that my life lived in the example of Christ is an offering I give back to God in response to God's grace. This gift of grace belongs to all humanity through Christ, was acknowledged by my faith family at my Baptism and continually acknowledged in my life through Confirmation and the sacrament of Holy Communion. Through Baptism, we recognize that God creates us, chooses us and claims us from the beginning, long before we choose God, or even know how to ask for God's grace. We celebrate the new life given to us through this grace, and dedicate our lives as offerings back to God. By participating in Holy Communion, we join together in remembering God's covenant of love and fidelity with all people, and Christ's redeeming sacrifice, through life, death, and resurrection.

Our tradition affirms that Scripture is the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ. It speaks to us of how we were chosen by God, and redeemed by Christ, in spite of our brokenness. It is God's message to us of unfailing love, promise, and reconciliation. The Old Testament and the Gospel weave together a narrative which reminds us of God's faithfulness to all creation for all time, through the person of Christ. These scriptures call us to respond to that faithfulness by living lives of love, humility, and kindness, seeking God's justice for all creation, and seeking connection and reconciliation with God and one another.