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## Statement of Faith

As I look back on the journey of my life, I can feel God's presence with me though every step. God was there in those moments where I have felt guided and led. God was there in moments of pain, when in desperate need of comfort I have felt some unseen embrace. God was there in moments of joy too, when I have been overwhelmed with gratitude for all I have been so graciously given. All of these moments where I have felt God's presence in my life guide my faith.

This God I so intimately know to be true is almost unfathomable – an infinitely powerful and good Creator whose love, justice, grace, and mercy are beyond measure. I believe that God is our Creator, the one who shaped the heavens and the earth. God created all things in love, for God is love. Beautifully, we are all made in the image of God, and in this image, I believe we are created equal – male and female, every race and every people. This creation was good. However, humanity rebelled against God, tainting the goodness of creation with sin and trapping us in its bonds. In our brokenness, we are incapable of saving ourselves. Yet, God is faithful still, and in infinite love, God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation and to save us.

In grace, our God sent us a Redeemer. I believe that Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God. Taking on human flesh, Jesus lived as God among us. This is known as the Incarnation: Christ is both fully human and fully divine. He has offered humanity salvation, breaking the bonds of sin. Through his ministry, he sought to bring reconciliation between us and God, offering us guidance and healing. He challenged systems of power and oppression, and he instead spent most of his time ministering to those on the margins of society. His challenge to power and his refusal to deny his divinity led those in authority to condemn him. Yet, fulfilling his predictions, Christ rose again from the dead. Through his resurrection, Christ makes it possible for us to overcome sin and death, to be reconciled to God, and to live forever in God's presence. Through him, we hold hope for a redeemed world in which the forces of evil, oppression, and death are vanquished.

Just as God has created and redeemed us, God renews us through the power of the Holy Spirit, our Sustainer. This Spirit guides us and gives us strength. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and the apostles also inspires us today, speaking to us through prayer, our reading of Scripture, and the Word proclaimed. The Spirit claims and nurtures us in the waters of baptism as God's adopted children, and feeds and nourishes us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation throughout our life of faith. We are thus empowered to go out into the brokenness of this world to work for God's justice, freedom, and peace.

This is the hope that I have in my God – my Creator, my Redeemer, and my Sustainer. And in this hope, I long to follow Christ as best as I can in my ministry, in his love and compassion.