

Statement of Faith – Karen C. Chamis

I believe in the Living Word – the Alpha and Omega, the Creator of the Universe who set the planets into motion, separated the seas from dry land and brought order out of chaos. I believe in the One who spoke and breathed life into all of creation and made us in God's spitting image and asked us to tend and care for the world around us.

I believe that soon after our creation, we used words that displayed our willfulness and deceit; words that caused bloodshed and denied culpability and that helped us build towers and idols and all sorts of human endeavors – forgetting the Word that spoke us into being and the words that encouraged us to tend and care. I believe that as a people there were times when we are able to sing of covenant and to offer praise, but that in spite of the matriarch and patriarchs and prophets and judges who tried to teach us, we preferred our own way. We sinned.

And then, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Dwelt among us, fully human and fully divine, and walked among us and healed us and taught us and showed us the way that we should go. And with our words and our fears and sinfulness and arrogance, we crucified the Word made flesh.

But "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

I believe that all we do as Church is in response to that Light. We welcome children of all ages into the community of faith using the ancient words of baptism. We share our words of joys and concerns with one another around the Table that has been set and realize in the sharing of bread and cup that something has changed. These signs and seals are God's love made visible!

I believe that we are sent into the world as the Church with God's Word as the unique and authoritative witness to bring the good news of God's redeeming love.

I believe we do not do these things alone, but with the gift of the Advocate who sanctifies and sustains, and pokes and prods. The Spirit breathes through our worship and our work together and encourages us to remember not just who we are, but Whose we are.