

I believe in a God who is love. This God existed before time began and will continue to exist into eternity. God created everything because to do so was good and pleasing to God, and God made humans in God's own divine image. In the beginning, God set everything in harmonious relationship. Through sin, all manner of relationships have come to be broken. However, God's mercies are new every morning, and we are always forgiven and given more opportunities to restore our relationships with creation, our fellow humans, and God.

I believe in a second distinct person who is also the same God, Jesus Christ. Through his life and ministry, he displayed God's abundant love. He called those around him, and those of us who seek to follow him today, to perform acts of mercy ourselves. Through word and example, he showed us that we are to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and comfort those who mourn, just to name a few. He also called his followers to be peacemakers: people who proclaim good news to the poor by working for justice.

I believe in a third distinct person who is also the same God, the Holy Spirit. From the time of creation, through the day of Pentecost, and even today, the Holy Spirit inspires acts of love and mercy and justice. The Spirit gives us courage and wisdom for our lives of faith in action. The Spirit moves in our hearts, urging groups and individuals toward bringing forth the kin-dom of God.

I believe that God is revealed through the Old and New Testaments, especially the gospels, which describe the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Those collections of writings reveal the content of God's character and the long arc of God's story with God's people. God's love, mercy, and justice are at the very heart of Scripture.

I believe that the church is part of the continuation of this story. As believers in God, we strengthen one another for the work that is ours to do. As one body with many parts, we continue to tell and to write the story of our God. We praise and worship God for God's good gifts to us, and we use those gifts to further God's realm among us.

I believe that baptism is a sacramental sign of God's love, mercy, and justice pouring forth. Baptism is a way of claiming the grace that has always been ours. It is also a symbol of joining the worldwide community of followers of Christ.

I believe that the Lord's Supper is a sacramental sign of God's abundant grace offered to us. Our open communion table is a sign that God's love is poured out for all, not for the select few. Our communal meal reminds us that we are one community with one God and one purpose.

I believe that the best way we can serve God is to serve others. We must meet one another's needs, open our hearts to one another's cares, and work for a better world for all people. Only by the work of love, mercy, and justice can we bring about the realm of God on earth.