

I believe in God – Eternal Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

I believe in the interconnectedness of God's creation, that all existence is woven together by our Divine Creator in a network of mutuality. Our Eternal Ancestor created all things in relationship and proclaimed all to be good. I trust that God has generously and lovingly provided creation with everything needed to flourish and thrive.

I believe Christ came into the world as our Holy Redeemer to proclaim a message of hope for our full restoration as God's beloved. The transcendent God spoke the Word into creation in the humble form of a Jewish baby, born to a young woman with unshakable faith, in a society deeply oppressed by the Roman Empire. A teacher, Jesus taught us to love God and neighbor. A healer, he offered restoration and recognition of human dignity. A prophet, he proclaimed good news to the poor, release to those held captive, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed.¹ Faithful to Abba God in life and in death, Jesus suffered execution on a cross that we might know the depth of God's redemptive love for us and have hope for resurrection and life eternal. Jesus, the anointed Christ Messiah, offers us the possibility of wholeness and unity.

Through the power of the Spirit, Christ's salvific grace draws us to God. I rejoice and give thanks that the Spirit is at work in and all around, sustaining and connecting all creation with the breath of life. The Spirit inspires our faith and empowers our love, drawing us together as the body of Christ, the church.

As a member of the holy catholic and apostolic church, I acknowledge its troubled history and legacy, as it has often been co-opted to rationalize violence and imperialism. I recognize the potential of humankind to do harm in Christ's name, yet find strength in the potential of Christ to use the church for good. Following Christ's lead, the church must reach out to those enduring oppression, discrimination, poverty, illness, imprisonment, isolation, and marginalization. We must challenge, dismantle, and present an alternative to the sinful structures of racism, overconsumption, and militarism.² United by and in Christ, our faith moves us to care for one another and for our planet, the home God created for all beings.

The Holy Spirit inspired generations of witnesses to articulate, preserve, and share their experiences of God in scripture. As the unique and authoritative witness to God's revelation, the Bible helps me grow closer to God through Christ and deepens my compassion for all creation.

Through the sacraments of baptism and communion we live out our faith as a community and experience profound spiritual connection with Christ. Water is essential to life, and the waters of baptism remind us of God's power to create, destroy, liberate, and cleanse. Through baptism, we become one with Christ and with all members of the church—past, present, and future. The Lord's Supper is an invitation from Jesus to further experience unity and wholeness, as we are all invited to the table to partake in the life-giving bread and wine that symbolize Christ's salvific love for us. The sacraments enable us to know and connect with the Trinity through direct sensory experiences that communicate God's presence to us in ways that speak beyond words.

I trust in the transcendent, immanent, and mysterious Divine, and commit myself to the sacred calling to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.³ Praying for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, I turn to follow Christ as Leader, and trust in the Holy Spirit's power to grant us the strength, courage, and compassion to live into our identity as peacemakers – children of God.⁴

¹ Luke 4:18, Isaiah 61:1

² Inspired by "The Three Evils of Society" by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

³ Micah 6:8

⁴ Matthew 5:9