

Statement of Faith
Rev. Dr. Laurie McKnight

I believe in God, our Lord and creator, the Being who existed before life and time and space, who took a formless void and formed life and time and space, and was pleased to create people and breathe life into us for worship and work, stewardship and relationship.

I believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and redeemer, the Son of God and the Son of Man. Jesus was fully human and lived at a specific time in history, yet he is fully divine and lives with us still and reigns in heaven and advocates on our behalf. His human body died, yet he was resurrected and he lives in glory. He has gone on before us and he is preparing a place for us in his kingdom, a kingdom which shall have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath that enlivens and strengthens our faith, that moves us and feeds us and facilitates the experiencing of the seemingly impossible. The Holy Spirit moves as wind around us, freeing tongues to speak and enabling ears to hear, making possible understanding and forgiveness and sacrifice and sacredness. The Holy Spirit descended like a dove upon Jesus at his baptism, providing blessing and seal. The Holy Spirit blesses us still and provides a living seal of the covenant God established with humanity.

I believe that Scripture is God's word to us, today, tomorrow, and through the ages. Divinely inspired, yet written by human hands, it is a living document that reveals hidden mysteries and multiple meanings as both scholars and laity study and interpret it. Scripture spoke to the Jews and Christians of the early church; it speaks to us still.

I believe that the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are celebrations of the community life of Christ's followers. Through one we join with the community of believers in Christ. We become new people in Christ, we become members of a larger body. We become the church. Through the other we are reminded of Christ's presence, life, ministry, and death; and we commune with all the saints, living and dead, and we remember Christ until he comes again in glory.

I believe that the church is a body of people, not a building. All members of the church play a part and are important to the whole body. Christ is the head of the church, leading and directing. Church members are Christ's hands and arms and legs on earth, serving Christ according to his will and example. We were created to live with one another in community being helpmates to one another, supporting one another and bearing one another's burdens. We are called to worship the Lord, and to care for each other.