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Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to **God**. God creates all humanity in God's own image and lives with us in covenant relationship which connects all of life to God.

God is sovereign: above all, in all, for all. God's power is a power of love: full of comfort, full of grace, full of challenge. God is a God of compassion, of justice, of ultimate peace – a God who wills us to choose good over evil. Sin breaks community with God and rejects God's will for all of life. In self-interest we ignore God's voice and freely choose alienation and separation from God and neighbor.

God is known to us in **Jesus Christ**, fully human, fully divine. Jesus lived at one with God, completely overcoming the alienation of sin. In the atonement, humanity as God created it was restored – to live in relationship with God and with one another, loving God with all our being and our neighbor as ourselves.

The Kingdom of God came to earth in Jesus Christ. In acts and words Jesus proclaimed, celebrated and lived that new reality. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. He healed the sick and ate with outcasts. He forgave sinners and called all people to repent and believe. In perfect obedience he continued to proclaim the reality of the Kingdom and kingdom, even to death. But, death did not have the final word. In the risen Christ rests human hope that the kingdom will come in its fullness to this world.

The creative power of God and redemption in Jesus Christ is realized through the ongoing activity of the **Holy Spirit**. Gifted with God's Holy Spirit and grace we are enabled by faith to embrace Christ's message of salvation. Faith calls us to bear the cross of Jesus, to answer Christ's call to discipleship to God's kingdom alone.

The Spirit breathes the **Church** into being with Jesus Christ as its foundation. We are challenged to proclaim in word and in deed the message of salvation and reconciliation with God. The Spirit is evident in the life of the church as the community gathers in praise and prayer with God and moves out into the world to serve.

As the Spirit interprets Scripture today faith comes alive—in study, in prayer, in preaching and worship within the community of believers. Scripture is our source of the creative and redemptive power of God which draws humanity into relationship with God.

In **worship** the church renews its connection to Jesus Christ in the proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments. By the power of the Spirit, God's presence is renewed as we gather together to remember we are claimed by Christ and gifted with grace to continue the journey.

The Church is called to be a visible manifestation of God's grace to all humanity. In and through church we celebrate the good news that has been given in Christ, proclaim Christ's new reality and look with hope to the final triumph of God.