

The Reverend
Allison Smith

Associate Pastor

“The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one.”

John 17: 22-23



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Statement of Faith

God is sovereign, incomprehensible, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. God transcends the limitations of human language and understanding. The Scriptures bear witness to the incomprehensibility of God in the unpronounceable name of הויה. The similarity of this name to the verb “to be” connects God with the essence of existence itself. The trinity witnesses to God’s incomprehensibility as well, nonetheless emphasizing God’s relationship to God’s creation.

God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a wonderful paradox. There is no way for us to comprehend this God who is at once three distinct persons and yet is also perfect unity. God is creator of the universe and all that is in it. God cares for creation as a loving parent would care for their children. God reaches out for relationship with creation by becoming flesh and living as part of creation. God gives over God’s life for the redemption of humanity and all creation and rises again revealing God as Lord who is even now reconciling humanity to Godself. God sustains creation always, guiding us in understanding and wisdom, binding us together in communion with one another and with God, through the sacraments. In the work of Creating, Redeeming, and Sustaining all three persons of the trinity are at work as one God.

As the trinity is one, we are also called to be one Body. Jesus prays in Gethsemane in the gospel of John, “The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one” John 17: 22-23. God’s reconciling work begins with God reaching out to us even before the foundations of the earth. Baptism is the sign and seal of this reaching out, of our belonging in the Body of Christ. In it we participate in Christ’s death and resurrection, we celebrate our inclusion in the new

covenant of God’s grace and we are united with Christ and with one another in the body of Christ. In the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper we are lifted into Christ’s presence, remembering and participating in the covenant instituted by Christ at the Last Supper and celebrating that we are bound together with Christ and one another through the Holy Spirit.

God is revealed to us in the creation and in Scripture. The revelation of God in nature can be profound and powerful yet it is insufficient without the revelation of Scripture. The Scripture is a human witness to God inspired by the Holy Spirit in its composition and illuminated by the Spirit in its hearing. Christ, the Word made flesh, is the culmination of God’s self revelation. Humans inevitably distort God’s revelations and therefore we must constantly seek to test our understanding of Scripture against God’s radical self sacrifice and love revealed in the cross. We must also be aware of our human tendency toward idolatry and avoid making Scripture into an idol.

Humans are created in God’s image and yet we are far from perfection and prone to do what is worst for ourselves and for creation. Despite our deeply flawed state, through the grace and love of God through Jesus Christ we are being redeemed from the power of sin and death. Sin encompasses all that we do that puts us out of right relationship with God; things that are harmful to



others, ourselves and our world. It also includes systemic and societal evils, which are beyond the scope of any one individual but not beyond the scope of God. We have been justified by Christ since before the foundations of the earth, our sins forgiven and we are being sanctified. This is a process that takes more than a lifetime and is not of our own doing, but is only possible through the love and grace of Christ Jesus.

The Church is the body of Christ, which transcends space and time and culture, universal and everlasting. The Church, as an institution, at it’s best, is a communion of individuals drawn together in Jesus Christ to carry out the work of Christ for the world. The call to community is not only a spiritual imperative, but also a human need. The Church fulfills our need for community and empowers us to make change for good in the world through community.

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