

Statement of Faith – Ted Mattie

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I believe in the Triune God, revealed in Scripture to be our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. God made the world and everything in it. God created men and women to be in relationship with God but through sin, that relationship of fellowship is broken. All human efforts to restore that relationship are ineffective. However, in God's infinite love, God provided the means by which that reconciliation could take place by sending Jesus Christ into the world. Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, our relationship with God is restored. When we accept this gift of God's grace, we receive the promise of life in fellowship with God. This promise is ours not only for the duration of our earthly lives but for eternity! The Holy Spirit, as the third member of the Trinity, sustains us as God's daily presence and guide.

I believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain God's inspired Word to us. Written by humans who were guided by God, the Scriptures reveal the history of God's redemptive love. The theme of God's grace resounds throughout the Scriptures. Through the Scriptures, we learn about God's patient love for people, are confronted by our sinfulness, taught about the redemption offered in Christ, and learn how to live a life in obedience to God.

I believe in the Church as the community of faith on earth. While imperfect in its life together, the Church exists to share the Good News of God through Jesus Christ. As it does so in its words and in its actions, the Church lives out its mission. The Church's call is to serve others and to lead others into a relationship with God.

All Christians are members of the Body of Christ and called to be witnesses to God's love. The Church is present whenever the body of believers is gathered for worship, fellowship, and nurture. The Church is also present when believers are scattered throughout their communities and the world serving others.

The Sacraments are gifts to the Church as visible signs of what God has done through Christ. Through Baptism and the Lord's Supper, we are called to remember and experience God's love.

The ministry of the Church belongs to everyone. Those who call themselves believers are given gifts for ministry by God. These gifts are to be used regularly and joyously to serve others. As disciples, we are called to lead the way in reconciling people to God and to each other.