

Faith Statement  
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God is love, all life is in and from God, and we humans become more fully alive when we demonstrate God's love to creation, through the example of Christ and with the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

God's empowering love enables faith, education and teaching, spiritual practice, corporate worship, prophecy and critique of worldly powers, communion, liberation, renewal, and resurrection. "By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Christian community worships and serves God in shared experiences of life, in personal discipleship, in mutual ministry, and in common ministry in the world."

Through the Word written, proclaimed and embodied in the Sacraments of the church, the Holy Spirit acts to transform, empower, and sustain human lives. (Book of Order, 1.1004) Through the sacraments of Communion and Baptism, I have known God within groups of women to transform the experience of oppression and abuse into an experience of liberation and wholeness.

God's sacrificial love is practiced through mission, charity, hospitality, labor, poverty, justice, death, grief, forgiveness, and peace-making. In Jesus Christ, God entered fully into the human condition in an act of self-revelation and redemption. "By so entering the created world God brought time and space, matter and human life to fulfillment as instruments for knowing and praising their Creator." (Book of Order 1.1002)

I believe that Jesus Christ shows us how to live, shows us that death is not the end of hope, and shows us where to find divinity incarnate: As Jesus spoke in a parable, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did to me." I have seen God in the mothers who carry their children across international borders, seeking food, water and safety in an act of self-sacrifice and desperate love. I have felt God in the hospital room of a dying man as his family prays and waits, sacrificing their hopes to the sorrow of grief and loss.

God's creative love is celebrated through artistic expression; family relationships; scientific pursuit; cultivation of flora and fauna; conservation of finite resources; friendship, pleasure and fun; and exploration of the universe, large and small.

I believe that God creates all life: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." (Psalm 139:13-14)

Wherever people are knitted together, not only as individuals as we live into our full personhood, but as families and communities, there I find God. I experience God in my family's lessons of hospitality and joy in the creation of home, art and community. I have experienced God as my father bakes scones for breakfast and in the quilt my mother made for me as I left home. I have experienced God in the work of my CPE group, in the care and support shown to each individual as we break ourselves open and figure out together how to become our better selves.