

I believe in the triune Godhead of the Father, maker and ruler of all of creation, visible and unseen; and of the Son, Jesus Christ, who became incarnate as wholly human and wholly divine for God's redemptive purpose; and of the Holy Spirit who upholds all creation, who guides and sustains Christ's Church, and who brings the Kingdom of God to fruition.

This triune God is transcendent, mysterious, and unknowable except by revelation. In God's lovingkindness, by the work of the Holy Spirit, we can know God through Holy Scripture, the "book of creation," and the person of Jesus Christ. By these, we know of our making in God's image and of our rebellion and estrangement from God and need of salvation. We know that our deliverance is achieved through the sacrificial life and death and victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. We know that out of gratitude, we are meant to love and obey our God. We also know that by our union with Christ in his death and resurrection, God is restoring us to be faithful image-bearers.

God called all of creation "good" and for God's own glory and pleasure, God purposed to redeem all that was created including a restored people to glorify and enjoy fellowship with God now and forever. While the fall's effects are creation-wide, Christ's redemptive work is also creation-wide so that restoration is assured for the whole creation just as it is promised to God's redeemed humanity.

I believe that Gracious God continually woos all people toward worship and service, and despite suffering, doubt, trauma, and grief, toward love and trust. I believe that salvation and well-being come only through Jesus Christ while trusting and rejoicing in the expansively generous grace and faithfulness of God the Creator to all humankind.

The binding of individuals to Christ's dying and rising and the binding of those individuals to Christ and to each other as Christ's Church is a work of the Holy Spirit. A defining work of the Church is its ministry of reconciliation, proclaiming by word and deed the grace of God in Christ, and articulating what is just and redemptive for all creation.

Gratitude is our rightful response to this salvation and is the impetus and the best character of ministry. Gratitude is also the driving affection of our response to God's gift of the sacraments, both baptism and Eucharist. In baptism, we are united with Christ in his dying and rising, and God's grace is sealed for us as past, present, and future meet in our cleansing from sin and incorporation into Christ's body. In the Eucharist, we diverse people of God come to the table together as one, and are nurtured as Christ's body, remembering Christ's atoning work and covenantal promises, and experiencing Christ's presence by the power of the Holy Spirit. Both sacraments fortify and equip us for the ministry of witness to the Gospel and deeds of nurturing others in body and soul as we have been nurtured. In both sacraments, we experience a foretaste of the time promised when all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord.

These are among beliefs I embrace, affirming the Ecumenical Creeds and Reformed Confessions which help the body of Christ to understand sacred Scripture in ongoing dialogue guided by the Holy Spirit. In this faith, with other Christians, I live in trust and hope while awaiting Christ's coming again. May the Lord Jesus Christ come soon!