

Statement of Faith

REV. HANNAH LOVAGLIO

I believe in God, the good and gracious Creator of all things. In creation, God brings order out of chaos. I believe that God is love, and that God's love—life, liberation, hope and healing—breaks through the very real pain, suffering and evil of this world. I believe in God's power to make a way out of no way. I believe that God's love is a gift freely given, extended to each of us before we have a chance to earn it. I believe that God is abundant, and that in God there is enough for all creatures, great and small. I believe that we belong to God in life and in death, that in God we live and move and have our being, and that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

I believe in Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all things. Jesus, the begotten and beloved Son of God, reveals the true nature of God made known in human form. In his life, Jesus shows the way of love through ministry to the forgotten of our world; we are called to follow him in this ministry. In his death, Christ gives his crucified body, betrayed by friends and broken by those in power, and makes the ultimate sacrifice of love. In the resurrection, Christ redeems all things; life overcomes death and the world is delivered from sin, which I consider to be all things that are not in right relation with God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Sustainer of all things. The power of Holy Spirit justifies and moves us to respond in gratitude to God. The Spirit unites the church and believers in every time and place, the Spirit is present in the Word proclaimed and the Sacraments administered, and the Spirit presides over all that is Holy and beyond our understanding. I believe the Spirit is present wherever glimpses of God's heavenly reality are made known and is present in the darkest places, where God's absence seems to be the only reality.

I believe in life lived in relation, as modeled in the Trinity, the three-in-oneness of God. The church is one expression of this life lived in and for relation. I believe life lived in relationship—where empathy becomes possible and power is exercised for the other, not for the self—is the best antidote for the reality of sin, personal and structural, in this world. I believe in the calling of the church, even while I recognize that the very human institution of the church holds and exercises power for both good and ill. I believe in the celebration of the Sacraments, through which we find our Christian identity and belonging.

I trust that God works all things for good, that faith allows us to reflect on our lives and see the invisible string of God, always weaving our lives into the grand story of God's love revealed and heaven made known. And still, just as Scripture is a living document, full of mystery, so too are the stories of our lives. Thanks be to God.