

Anna George Traynham: Statement of Faith

I believe in the Holy Trinity, the three personed God who is our pattern of community, one in substance, distinct in form, and indivisible in works.

I believe in God, the creator of all that is and ever shall be; who has been active in the world from the beginning of time and continues creation throughout the ages.

I believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God. Jesus was God incarnate, who lived and dwelled among us, teaching by word and example the life and love to which God calls us all.

Jesus chose to submit himself to death by the cross as a part of God's divine plan for history, expressing God's love for humanity even unto self-humiliation and death. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, thereby defeating the powers of sin and effecting a new age of transformation in the world. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the spirit of God present and active throughout history: present in creation, given to the church at Pentecost, and active in the world today. God created the world and all creatures therein as an expression of grace. Humanity strayed from God's intended purpose for creation, falling to the temptations of sin manifest in our world. The human condition is one fallen and in need of redemption.

Through the grace exhibited in Christ's death and resurrection, we are reconciled to God, who freely offers a grace which we are incapable of earning by human merit. God is active in reconciliation, justifying us and bringing us into sanctification that we might work toward living a transformed life.

The church is the assembly of people called out by God for worship, fellowship, and service in the world, consisting of the visible church and the invisible communion of the saints in all ages. We are a church reformed and always reforming, guided by the continual presence of God in the risen Christ through the power of the Spirit. God's love is for all of creation, and the body of Christ in the church is called to share that love with the world.

I believe the sacraments are signs and seals of God's grace among us. In baptism, God claims us as God's own, and the church welcomes us into the community of faith. In communion, we join with our neighbors to proclaim the saving life, death, and resurrection of our Lord until he comes again, nourishing body and spirit through the gifts of bread and wine. The clearest revelation of God in history is in the person of Jesus Christ, God incarnate. God is also known through the revelation of scripture, the inspired word of God written by human beings, which we read and interpret with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We live in a time between the ages; with the resurrection of Christ, a new age has begun. We now work to help the reign of God unfold on earth, knowing that God's creation is not completed and death is not the end. The content of Christian hope is resurrection: the resurrection of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, and the fulfillment of a new heaven and new earth.