

Statement of Faith
Rev. Dr. Tracey Davenport

I believe in the One Triune God, who alone is worthy of worship.

I love Jesus. I have loved him ever since I learned that he loved me by singing *Jesus Loves Me* with the motions when I was three. I love his teaching, his miracles, his compassion, his inclusion, and his love. I am amazed by his death which frees us from the power of sin and death and I am overjoyed by his resurrection from the dead. I believe he now sits at the right hand of God and that one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. I believe he is coming again.

I believe in God: the same God who came in the flesh in Jesus Christ. I believe God created the world and all that is in it; that God rules the created order in wisdom and love; that God loves us with an everlasting love; that God chose Abraham and Sarah to begin a people in order to bless the whole world; that when we strayed from God's wisdom and love, God called prophets to bring us back, strongly desiring relationship with us. I believe that nothing in life or death is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I feel the power of God's Holy Spirit, poured out upon all who believe. The Spirit of God lives in me: guiding, challenging, correcting, and comforting me. The Spirit of God is active in the church and in the world, blowing where it will, bringing life out of death, enthusiasm out of apathy, hope out of despair, peace out of chaos, and courage out of fear. The Spirit of God is making us into who God is calling us to be.

I am fed, challenged, and constrained by the Scriptures, the written Word of God, which is our rule for faith and life. I know I do not live them perfectly, but if I confess my sin, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive my sin and cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

I am strengthened by the Sacraments, which through faith by the power of the Holy Spirit, impart what they represent: Baptism – the washing away of sin, new birth, dying and rising with Christ, the mark of the New Covenant; Holy Communion: the body and blood of Christ broken and spilled out for me for the forgiveness of sins and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come.

I have pledged to serve the church with all that I am and all that I have. The church, as the Body of Christ, is called to worship the Lord with gladness, to fulfill the Great Commission, to be salt and light in this world, to be ambassadors for Christ, and to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and visit the sick and imprisoned in the name of Jesus Christ, working toward the new heaven and new earth. I believe in the resurrection to eternal life for all who believe and that when I die, I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.