

I believe God is love. God's very being is relational as God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit participate in this mutual indwelling, this divine dance among themselves. This beautiful relationship overflows into God's creation as our Creator continues to seek relationship with us and our participation in God's creative works.

While we, as sinners, continue to turn away from God, God continues to move towards us. Fully human and fully God, Jesus Christ reveals that God still desires to be in relationship with us. Through his teachings, Jesus reveals how we are to live into that relationship. Through his death, Jesus reveals that God's gracious love for us has no bounds. Through his resurrection, Jesus makes reconciliation possible, something we could not do on our own. This grace is a freely given gift to all of God's people by God through Jesus Christ.

I believe the Holy Spirit is what makes our faith a communal faith, for it binds us in relationship with God, Jesus Christ, and all believers as the one body of Christ, the Church. Through the Spirit, God works to transform us into a new creation and bring the Kingdom of God nearer. The Spirit inspires us to come together with our gifts in order to share the gospel with each other and to build onto each other's faith through teaching, worship, and fellowship. The Spirit also calls us to go out into the world as witnesses to the grace of God through Jesus Christ with the Spirit as our guide.

I believe Scripture is the inspired Word of God, the revelation of God to the Church and the world. Through the Spirit, we read Scripture to know God, and, in turn, to know ourselves. With the actual text and its context in mind, we listen to what Scripture has to say to us today about the grace that has been extended to us and how we are called to participate in God's creative works.

I believe the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper serve as outward signs of God's grace extended to us through Jesus Christ. In Baptism, we are welcomed into relationship with God by letting our sinful lives die and beginning a new life in Christ. Through the Lord's Supper, we remember the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us out of gracious love, and we are empowered as a community to extend that love to the world. When we participate in these Sacraments, God is present and, through the Spirit, we are connected to all Christians who came before us, who are with us now, and who have yet to come. We celebrate the Sacraments as a community also to remember God's invitation to participate in God's mission for a new creation.

We remember that same invitation through our history as the Church. As a confessional church, we believe, through our creeds, confessions, and catechisms, we are able to acknowledge how God has been at work through the Church in the past and how God continues to work through us today. Through the Spirit, we are able to learn from our history in order to continue assisting the coming of God's new creation.