

1 I believe in one God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- three persons united in being-- as revealed through  
2 Jesus Christ and the witness of Holy Scripture. The Father, through the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
3 created all that is, both seen and unseen. Humanity was created uniquely in the image of God to be in communion  
4 with God and one another. God created all things good and put history into motion. God's plan was for humanity  
5 to grow in trust and love in relation to one another and to God, to steward Creation, and to continue creating.

6  
7 God chose to love and to be loved by humanity, which made possible sin—human rejection of God. All people  
8 are born into a world wounded by sin, and are shaped by sin. All people sin; all people fall short of God's glory;  
9 all people reject God's friendship. Our rejection of God has led to broken relationships with one another and the  
10 brokenness of the creation under our care. Life comes from God, and so the ultimate consequence of sin is death.

11  
12 But our rejection of God did not mean God's rejection of us. In our sin, God has pursued us to save us and bring  
13 us back into right relationship. God pursued humanity through God's covenant with Abraham, the law given to  
14 Moses, and the word of the prophets. And, finally, God brought forward the fulfillment of God's plan by  
15 becoming flesh as Jesus Christ.

16  
17 I believe that the eternal Son was incarnated and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus Christ entered into history fully  
18 human and fully God. He lived without sin in perfect relationship with the Father in communion with the Spirit.  
19 Jesus, as God-man, acted as a mediator between us and God—revealing God to us and reconciling us to God.  
20 Jesus revealed God to be love, a love that pursues us in the midst of our sin, forgives us, and rescues us from  
21 death to life. Jesus showed us who God is by healing the blind, setting free those oppressed by demons, humbling  
22 the proud, and exalting the meek; by keeping the party going by turning water into wine; by bringing about a  
23 Kingdom of justice and righteousness, and inviting the most unlikely people to follow him and do the same. The  
24 response of sinful humanity and the powers and principalities of this world was to murder Jesus. The destructive  
25 power of sin was made clear. The sin of the world was cast onto Jesus and he absorbed it. Even when violently  
26 rejected, Jesus revealed God's heart, praying for forgiveness for those who put him on the cross. Not even the  
27 killing of God could separate us from the love of God. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. Through his  
28 resurrection, death was swallowed up in God and sin left in the grave, the sin of the world was transformed into  
29 the forgiveness of God, and the Kingdom of God was inaugurated. The transformation of creation from decay to  
30 glory began. The ascended Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father and reigns over the Kingdom. Jesus remains  
31 our mediator, praying for us and offering us to the Father. It is through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ that we are  
32 saved from sin and death to eternal life and friendship with God.

33  
34 I believe that the Holy Spirit unites us to Christ. The Holy Spirit draws us into God's work of reconciling all  
35 things through Christ. The Holy Spirit calls us to follow Jesus. The Holy Spirit draws us into the Church. The  
36 Holy Spirit equips us as individuals and as the Church to be Christ's visible body in the world.

37  
38 I believe the Church, as instituted by Christ, is called to faithfully witness to the Good News of God's love and  
39 forgiveness revealed in Jesus, and invites all people to repent and follow Jesus as citizens of God's Kingdom. The  
40 Church is sustained in this mission through the ordinary graces of Word and Sacrament. Through the faithful  
41 preaching of Holy Scripture-- which points us to the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ-- the living God is present and  
42 continues to reveal Godself to the Church. Through baptism, the claim of God upon us and our union with Christ  
43 are witnessed and confirmed, and we are welcomed into the community of the Church. Through Communion, we  
44 are reminded regularly that our primary identity is in Christ, and the Lord feeds our souls by giving us a foretaste  
45 of the heavenly banquet, which spurs us to thanksgiving.

46  
47 The Church eagerly awaits the fulfillment of God's promises and the fullness of the Kingdom. We await the glory  
48 of our resurrected bodies. We await the final judgment when God will burn away sin and evil and death. We await  
49 the reconciliation and transformation of all creation. As we wait, we trust in and proclaim God's unfailing love,  
50 and we live into our baptismal identity as those claimed by the Father through the faithfulness of the incarnate  
51 Son in the power of the Holy Spirit.