

Teresa Larson: Statement of Faith

1
2
3 I believe God is the omnipresent Creator; in whom all things begin and end, where love
4 and compassion were first made known and bountifully released. God's love began with the
5 story of creation, the very breath of God giving life to all creation and calling it good. Humanity,
6 however, has strayed from God's simple summons of faithfulness in response to God's favor.
7 Thus, evil structures of power and principalities have resulted in complex injustice and sin. Yet,
8 God still chooses to dwell among God's creation, demonstrating abounding love and fierce
9 faithfulness as the foundation of God's character.

10
11 I believe Christ is the Redeemer; God's self becoming flesh and dwelling among God's
12 people, bringing the good news of God's grace and mercy to the world so that all may know
13 eternal and abundant life. God's entrance into this world as the Christ, born as a humble child in
14 a humble stable, sings a prelude to the new covenant of love and compassion for *all* people,
15 including those who are looked over and cast off by the world. Through Christ's death and
16 resurrection, the power of God triumphed over the sins of the world and secured our salvation.
17 Christ bore humanity's sins on the cross, so that we may be dead to sin and alive to all that is
18 good. As a people of faith we can confront our sin, confidently knowing the mercy of God has
19 already been made known to us. It is our responsibility, therefore, to humbly walk alongside all
20 people, sharing the love and grace of Christ with refreshed and creative energy.

21
22 I believe the Holy Spirit is the Sustainer; the very breath of God that moved through
23 creation in the beginning, collecting chaos and establishing order, is still moving through us
24 today. This is the same spirit that was set upon God's people at the first Pentecost, birthing the
25 community we know today as the Church. This Spirit dwells within creation and provides us
26 guidance and courage to live bold lives of faith, and extends continuous invitations to participate
27 in the Spirit's movement toward the coming kingdom of God.

28
29 The Church—the called, covenant community born of God and not by human merit—is
30 called to extend hospitality and compassion to people of every time and place, bringing glory and
31 praise to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. In recognizing the authoritative written Word of
32 God through which Christ is revealed (the Old Testament and New Testament), the Church is
33 called to study, teach, proclaim, and live out the holy wisdom found in these sacred texts. In
34 celebrating the sacraments of baptism and communion, the Church celebrates God's claim on
35 God's people as beloved children who sit at the table together, being nourishing by bread, cup,
36 and fellowship before being sent out into the world. Through the power of the Spirit, the Church
37 is able to live out its purpose to care for the poor and oppressed, to equip disciples to share the
38 Good News, and to live holy, reverent lives as we faithfully await the reign of God's promised
39 kingdom.