

## Statement of Faith - Kyle Nolan

I believe in the God whose story is told in the Scriptures; the One who delivered Jesus from death, having first delivered Israel from bondage; the One in whom and through whom all creation lives and moves and has its being. I believe we are held by a love that we are not required to deserve.

I trust that God was at work through the Church and the councils who discerned God's being and story as Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In dynamic and self-giving relationship, three are united in and as love.

I trust in God the Father, maker of all things seen and unseen, to whom we belong from birth to death, who sent the Son so that the world would be reconciled, entrusting the Son with the announcement and fulfillment of the Father's rule.

I trust in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, fully God and fully human. By his fidelity and obedience to the Father in life and death, he is our example and our guide. He is our fellow sufferer, wounded in solidarity with a wounded creation. He is our representative sacrifice; through him, sin is forgiven and sacrifice undone. In his life, death, and resurrection, we have been reconciled to God and have seen the promise of God's future — the resurrection of the dead, the new creation, and the life everlasting.

I trust in the Holy Spirit, through whom the Father and Son are eternally united. The Spirit invites and empowers us to participate in the life of God here and now, joining in and bearing witness to God's action in the world as members of her Church.

I trust that we die with Christ to our sin in baptism and are raised with Christ to new life, claimed by the Holy Spirit and welcomed into God's family. Celebrating baptism in worship or remembering my own, I am reminded that we belong to one another — this Church, these members, my siblings — and that we are held in God's grace like a child in a pastor's arms.

I trust that the Spirit draws us into God's presence in the Lord's Supper and unites us with the Church in every time and place. Welcomed to the table to share in the same gifts of bread and cup, we encounter a tangible sign of a profound mystery: despite all evidence to the contrary, we are being reconciled. And so, in the repetition of Jesus' words — *body broken, blood poured out, do this in memory of me* — I hear the invitation to continue journeying with this fragile family, in and in spite of itself a sign of God's hope and promise for all creation.

Christ proclaimed the reign of God: challenging the powerful and the powers, preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed, blessing children, healing the sick and comforting the brokenhearted, loving enemies, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. I believe all of us who follow him are to be known by *this* love. Amen.