

Statement of Faith

Alexander Barnes

I believe in the sovereignty of the LORD God—the God of Abraham and Moses, God the Father of Jesus and God the Creator. I believe that God intervenes in this world through acts of Love and has been revealed through history and scripture in particular. I believe the LORD God is the Father Almighty as one person of the triune God, and I believe that the LORD God is a God who loves justice and is one who consistently calls us to live a life in Christ and salvation in Christ.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the one who shows us perfect faith. The ministry of Jesus Christ represents the ideal servant, to be with the sick, broken, poor, and oppressed as well as the rich, the tax collectors, Pharisees and sinners. Jesus Christ was fully revealed in his sacrifice, a sacrifice on behalf of the iniquities that lie within us all. I believe that the ministry and sacrifice of Jesus Christ lie at the center of the reformed tradition. I believe that Jesus Christ, in his perfect understanding of faith, showed us a perfect belief, respect, understanding, and in this way fulfilled the Law of God through its true interpretation as witnessed in the Gospel. I believe that Jesus showed us through his sacrifice what it means to give one's life completely over to God. I believe that the Triune God came to this world the Creator created in the person of Jesus Christ and became as the humblest of all people—washing feet, feeding the poor, and drinking with sinners and tax collectors—just as he had his feet washed and was fed by all those who did not know they were feeding God, but to the least of their fellow human beings.

I believe in the priesthood of all believers. I believe the Church is made up of those who claim common ancestry in Abraham, engrafted into God's covenantal promise, fully participating in this covenant and promise through faith. I believe the Church comprises all who have been baptized in the name of the Trinitarian God.

I believe in the sacrament of Baptism as a sign of God's grace and forgiveness as well as a mark of bringing individuals into the church community as the Body of Christ.

I believe that in communion the church is truly brought together to remember Christ's ministry over a meal—a meal where the spirit descends upon the fellowship of believers and brings this gathering of believers into the presence of the risen Christ, realizing the Body of Christ.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the essence of time and revealed in history, calling and empowering and energizing mere human beings to ministry and love that goes beyond human expectations to make way and demonstrate the coming Kingdom of God. I believe in the Holy Spirit, inspiring the Word of God revealed in Holy Scripture. I believe these scriptures are our authoritative witness to the events surrounding the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe that I am called to proclaim the Word through teaching these scriptures as the living Word of God.